

CHANGE IN CHINA WILL COME
THROUGH ENGAGEMENT**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this body has once again completed its annual debate over retention of MFN, or normal trade status, to China. While the actual fate of MFN was never truly in doubt, during the week or two before the debate, that debate was marked by a wide array of accusations and charges. In the aftermath of this debate, it is understandable that there is some confusion as to the precise nature of our vital interests in China, and how best to pursue those interests.

This Member believes that linkage of trade to human rights does not advance United States vital interests, nor does it promote democracy in China. As an excellent editorial in the Lincoln Journal Star recently noted, "there is a fine line between making our views known to China and trying to, or even thinking we can, impose our will. * * * While we should continue to speak up for the rights of other peoples, including those in Hong Kong, we will have more influence if we simply maintain an open relationship with China in which there is a free flow of people and goods."

Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the July 2, 1997 editorial entitled "Best way to influence China through open relations, trade" in the Lincoln Journal Star and asks that it be submitted as part of the RECORD.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, July 2, 1997]

BEST WAY TO INFLUENCE CHINA THROUGH
OPEN RELATIONS, TRADE

The spectacle that unfolded in Hong Kong this week has provided a good opportunity for Americans to focus attention on China. The more we know about the world's most populous nation, the better we will understand it.

And that's imperative as China develops into a world-class economic power.

In the sweep of history, the return of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule is a welcome event. Hong Kong belongs to China. It is Chinese. The passing of the racist-tinged relic of Western colonialism should be a cause for celebration, not mourning.

The legitimate concerns surrounding this week's historic transfer of power center on protection of Hong Kong's economic and political freedoms. While the former seem relatively secure, the latter may turn out to be not quite as broad as they once were, certainly not as unfettered as we would want them to be. We will have to wait and see.

While we can, and ought to, monitor events as they progress in Hong Kong, we should recognize that the economic forces already unleashed in China are likely to carry it along the path to broader personal freedom. And we need to understand that, try as we might, we cannot dictate the pace of change.

It is fair to expect China to abide by the agreement it negotiated with the British in which it promised to abide by a "one country, two systems" formula that guaranteed a level of autonomy for Hong Kong that would protect its market economy and democratic freedoms. China should be held accountable for keeping its word.

But there is a fine line between making our views known to China and trying to, or even thinking we can, impose our will. We

need to be sensitive to such issues as sovereignty and national pride in making our case, and to China's long-held suspicion that we are embarked on a new form of colonial dominance called American hegemony.

It would be useful if we sometimes tried to step back and see ourselves from other people's eyes. China's leaders may ask how we would like it if they questioned our civil rights record, or the plight of our poor in the midst of vast wealth, in the court of world opinion.

While we should continue to speak up for the rights of other peoples, including those in Hong Kong, we will have more influence if we simply maintain an open relationship with China in which there is a free flow of people and goods.

In the long run, congressional approval of President Clinton's renewal of normal trading relationships with China will do more to positively influence the lives of Chinese citizens than any of our lectures.

It is difficult to keep societies open and repressive at the same time.

And economic freedom begets broader personal and political freedoms.

LET'S NOT REOPEN THE
IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL**HON. RON PACKARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged by the recent actions taken by Attorney General Janet Reno. Friday morning, I read that she unilaterally decided to suspend deportation proceedings for hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants. This decision to disregard the ruling by the Board of Immigration Appeals and attempt to overturn current law through administrative action is simply unacceptable.

Last year, we took strong and decisive action to curtail illegal immigration. Our immigration reform measure specifically raised the bar for those facing deportation because previous law enabled millions of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States permanently. It was an action taken to ensure that only those illegal immigrants who truly face an exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to an immediate relative remain in this country.

Now that we have shut the door on illegal immigration, the Clinton administration wants to reopen it. We have seen through the great failure of the Citizenship USA Program that this administration will do whatever it takes to allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States. This most recent action is just another attempt at granting asylum for illegal immigrants. Illegal immigration is a growing problem and every illegal immigrant should be treated the same under current law.

Mr. Speaker, I have begun circling a letter to send to Attorney General Reno opposing her actions to suspend the deportation proceedings for illegal immigrants. The law is quite clear on this issue and everyone should be held to the standard that Congress set in last year's immigration reform bill. Illegal immigration is an enormous problem that affects every state in the nation. I encourage all of my colleagues to sign on to this important letter.

TRIBUTE TO BORINQUEN PLAZA
SENIOR CENTER**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Borinquen Plaza Senior Center as it celebrates 20 years of existence. The organization is located in New York City in the community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Throughout the years, the Center has been a vital resource and has provided a safe haven for one of our communities most precious assets—our senior citizens.

The Borinquen Plaza Senior Center officially opened in 1977. However, before it was an established organization, it was first an idea born out of the hearts and minds of men and women of various cultures and nationalities. Through their tireless efforts and willingness to dream big, this was born an organization whose ultimate mission is to care for the elders of our communities. Elders are the wise individuals who we also know as our parents and grandparents.

On any given day over 300 seniors pass through the doors of the Borinquen Plaza Senior Center, receiving services ranging from breakfast and lunch to assistance in obtaining entitlement benefits. An additional 200 homebound seniors receive meals delivered directly to their doorsteps as part of the Center's Meals-on-Wheels Program. Furthermore, the Center is one of the few programs that opens its doors on Thanksgiving and Christmas day to provide meals to seniors.

As we move forward into the next century, I am confident that the Borinquen Plaza Senior Center will continue its outstanding work. The Center is a shining example of community service at its best and it will always have a friend and advocate in NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ.

In light of the above, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating the Borinquen Plaza Senior Center on its 20th year anniversary.

SUPPORT THE LIBERTAD
ENFORCEMENT ACT**HON. BILL MCCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the President served notice that he will waive key provisions of the LIBERTAD Act, otherwise known as Helms-Burton. This legislation had three significant provisions. First, it codified all existing Cuban embargo Executive orders and regulations. It denies admission to the United States to aliens involved in the confiscation of United States property or the trafficking of confiscated property in Cuba. Finally, title III of the act allows United States nationals to sue for money damages in U.S. Federal court those persons that traffic in United States property confiscated in Cuba when Castro took over. Essentially, Congress intended to let U.S. corporations and individuals who own property confiscated by Fidel Castro to recover the unjust enrichment from corporations of other countries who have been managing