

of age in the international arena. The combination of a relatively stagnant economy and an increasingly competitive global economic environment will force China to rely more heavily on the illegal acquisition of high technology modernization—Arms production and sales are increasingly being used to gain hard currency and expand global political influence. The MSS will be required to produce intelligence to support this assertive role in the global, commercial and political environments—Western democracies such as the U.S. must adjust the focus of their clandestine intelligence and counter-intelligence operations if they are to meet the MSS's forward posture effectively.

The annual report would document significant developments involving China's Ministry of State Security, the Military Intelligence Department of the People's Liberation Army, and other Chinese intelligence entities operating against the United States. The report is specifically intended to cover trends in the following areas: first, political, military, and economic espionage by Chinese intelligence services; second, intelligence activities designed to gain political influence, including activities undertaken or coordinated by the United Front Works Department of the Chinese Communist Party; third, efforts to gain direct or indirect influence through commercial or noncommercial intermediaries subject to control by the People's Republic of China, including enterprises controlled by the People's Liberation Army; and fourth, disinformation and press manipulation by the Government of the People's Republic of China against the United States.

Various agencies from the intelligence and law enforcement communities will be tasked to provide input on Chinese intelligence activities within the United States and elsewhere. Some of the agencies being asked to contribute to the annual report will include the following: Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense, Department of Justice, National Security Agency, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of State, and the Department of the Treasury.

The classified version of the annual report will be provided to both the House and Senate. An unclassified version will be prepared so that the American public can be provided with a general summary of the nature of the Chinese intelligence threat to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very crucial yet very simple. It is not one that requires anything more than a gathering of information for us, but I think it is critical information for us. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 267. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 267.

APPOINTMENT OF DAVID STRAUSS TO BE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the appointment of David Strauss, a fellow Valley City, ND, native and close friend, as Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation [PBGC].

I couldn't be more pleased to see such a good friend named to such an important Government post. Throughout his career, David has been an outstanding public servant deeply devoted to advancing the interests of working families. In this exciting new position, David will continue that work as the Government's top official responsible for protecting the pension security of 42 million American workers and retirees participating in about 50,000 private-sector pension plans.

David comes to the PBGC with extensive management and policy experience as deputy chief of staff to Vice President AL GORE since 1994. In that position, he played a major management role, developed policy options and advised the Vice President on a broad range of economic and domestic policy issues including wage and workplace protection, retirement security, health care, welfare, and trade.

Ensuring that Americans can look forward to a financially secure retirement has emerged as one of the most important public policy issues of the day. As head of the PBGC, David will be a leader in crafting our Nation's response to this retirement security challenge. And with his unique background as a top-notch manager and policymaker, it's hard to imagine someone better suited to this role.

Prior to his position with the Vice President, David served as chief of staff for the late Senator Quentin Burdick of North Dakota and then as staff director of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which Senator Burdick chaired.

Previously, as North Dakota State Executive Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Stabilization and Conservation Service—now the Farm Service Agency—he directed an agency with 53 county offices and 1,200 employees, which administered \$1.3 billion in loans and direct payments to the farmers of North Dakota. During this period, he was recognized with a Special Achievement Award from the Secretary of Agriculture for his managerial skill and for reducing administrative costs despite a workload increase.

David Strauss is a superb choice to head the PBGC and I look forward to working with him on a broad range of retirement security issues. Mr. Speaker, I also submit for the RECORD an article from the Fargo Forum on David's appointment.

[From the Fargo Forum, July 3, 1997]

STRAUSS IN LINE FOR PENSION POSITION

(By Mikkel Pates)

David Strauss, a North Dakota native and deputy chief of staff to Vice President Al Gore, has been picked to be executive director of the government's Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.

Pensions & Investments, the Washington trade paper which broke the story, said the announcement will come any day.

Strauss, 47, was a chief of staff for the late Sen. Quentin Burdick, D-N.D., through most of the 1980's and later for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works for which Burdick was chairman.

He also served briefly as chief of staff for Sens. Jocelyn Burdick, D-N.D., and John Breaux, D-La., before going to his current job in 1994.

Through an aide, Strauss declined to be interviewed about the new post because no official announcement has been made. Sources say the announcement could come later this week or next week.

The PBGC is a non-profit corporation wholly owned by the federal government. The corporation regulates and monitors pension plan insurance programs.

Among other things, it steps in if a pension plan fails and can't pay benefits. It makes up the difference in assets, administers the fund, and distributes the basic benefits.

The agency covers all single-employer and private defined pension plans and some plans between unions and employers. It is administered by a board, of which the Secretary of Labor is chairman, and includes the secretaries of commerce and treasury.

Sources at Pensions & Investments called Strauss a good choice for the job, despite his lack of hands-on experiences in pensions. The post does not require Senate confirmation.

The story quoted Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., also from Valley City, who said the appointment of a top political aide showed the Clinton administration's commitment to retirement income security.

Officials from the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, and business lobbyists all sang his praises.

"David Strauss' appointment will provide the PBGC with the kind of political leadership it has never had," said Mark J. Ugoretz, president of the ERISA Industry Committee, a Washington trade group representing the nation's biggest companies.

ERISA is the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

As Gore's aide, Strauss helped develop White House policy options on a range of economic and domestic policies.

He was involved in working on the Retirement Protection Act, signed by Clinton in December 1994.

In a 1994 interview with The Forum Strauss said that his career hinged to some degree on Gore's future.

"If Al Gore is re-elected vice president and then runs for president in the year 2000, I very much would want to be a part of all of that," he said at the time.

Strauss grew up in Harvey and Valley City, and in the 1970's became one of the state's most successful political strategists.

Among other things, he was executive director of the Democratic-NPL party from 1975 to 1977.

In 1977, he was named North Dakota executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (now the Farm Service Agency).

At the time he was criticized for a lack of farming background for the job.

He later took great pride in winning achievement awards in the agency.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS CENTER, CASPER, WY

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, over a century and a half has now passed since the historic