

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF BONDED CHILD LABOR ELIMINATION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is an outrage that American workers must compete for jobs with as many as 200 million defenseless children working around the world today without any hope of ever seeing the inside of a classroom. Many of these abused children are making products exported for sale in our shopping malls, sporting goods stores, and oriental rug shops all across America. Even some of our Fourth of July fireworks were most probably made by children in India, China, and elsewhere.

Consider the plight of millions of child laborers, some as young as 4 years old, who are sold into virtual slavery, that is, bonded and indentured laborers, and chained to looms for 14-hours a day hand knotting the oriental rugs that grace the foyers and living rooms of countless homes and offices all across our country.

Exploited children toil in factories, mines, fields, at looms, and even in brothels, sacrificing their youth, health, and innocence for little or no wages.

They are hand-stitching the Nike and Adidas soccer balls that our kids practice with every day. The very same soccer balls that were used at the Atlanta Olympics last year.

They are sewing the blouses and slacks that Kathie Lee Gifford was paid \$7 million a year to promote for Wal-Mart stores until she was embarrassed last year.

They are making Mattel Barbie dolls that little girls all across America play with every day.

Sadly it took Kathie Lee's embarrassment in the national media last year for many Americans to confront this dirty little secret of the global marketplace: millions of Americans are buying soccer balls, toys, and clothing for our own kids that are made by brutally exploited children in many of the foreign countries from which we have growing trade deficits.

This situation is totally unacceptable and there are actions we can take to stop this affront to basic human decency.

That is why I am sponsoring legislation—the Bonded Child Labor Elimination Act—to prohibit the importing of any products made by child slaves.

This bill deals with one of the most outrageous forms of exploitation in international trade today—imports made by bonded children who are sold into slavery, some as young as 3 years old.

It would amend the Tariff Act of 1930 which for decades has banned the importing of products into America that are made by adult prison or forced labor. It would simply extend that ban to products made by bonded child labor.

I firmly believe trade is not an end in itself, but a means toward attaining more economic

justice, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability in the U.S. and the global economy.

To knee-jerk free traders, I say that hundreds of millions of children working in hazardous jobs in back alleys instead of going to school is unacceptable.

That these defenseless, exploited children should be forced to work under brutal conditions that can kill or maim them for life is outrageous.

That most adults turn a blind eye to this cruelty and provide a market for this suffering is inexcusable.

The fact that current trade rules at the GATT and World Trade Organization go to great lengths to protect property rights, while ignoring the rights of working people, especially children, says much more about the heartless priorities and greed of doctrinaire free trade advocates than their logic and ethics.

Inside and outside the halls of Government, we have the power to change this sorry state of affairs. Access to the American marketplace is powerful leverage that should be used to encourage foreign producers and importers to treat defenseless children with dignity and not contempt.

We cannot accept any longer the shameful, outdated trade policies that force American workers to compete with exploited children. Ask yourself this question: what does it say about our country that we have numerous import laws and consumer campaigns to protect endangered plants and animals, but we have no law or consumer campaigns to protect children consigned to practical slavery?

Some teenagers in Vermont have already begun to speak out and demand action in defense of kids overseas who cannot help themselves. I applaud their human rights leadership and hope more of you will report on their efforts and get involved yourselves.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE ON THE DEATH OF MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 1997

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the passing of the beloved Mother Teresa, the Catholic nun who labored and loved the world's poor for over 5 decades. The Prime Minister of India, I.K. Gujral, stated that "The world is mourning." He could not have been more correct. Indeed, people all over the world were deeply saddened on September 5, 1997, and many continue to mourn today.

Mother Teresa was a woman who is truly destined for sainthood. "To God there is nothing small," Mother Teresa once quipped. While Mother Teresa was not an imposing fig-

ure physically, people that knew her personally—those who struggled by her side—commented on the strength, empathy and dignity she radiated. She was a gentle giant that truly did the Lord's work. Mother Teresa performed the work that many people only pay lip-service to. She said: "I see God in every human being. When I wash the leper's wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?"

Mother Teresa nurtured and cared for the dispossessed, the downtrodden and the poor in India and the rest of the world. She was the Lord's foot-soldier par excellence.

One of my favorite anecdotes about Mother Teresa tells of her cleaning and caring for the infected wounds of an individual in her care, when an onlooker commented that "I would not do that for \$100,000." "Neither would I," she proudly responded. In many respects, Mr. Speaker, this summarizes her life, her mission. Mother Teresa's spirit may have left her body, but her image and memory will remain forever.

I will end my comments by offering a prayer Mother Teresa composed. It is perfect in many ways.

Make us worthy, Lord,
To serve our fellow man,
Throughout the world who live and die
In poverty or hunger.
Give them, through our hands
This day their daily bread,
and by our understanding love,
Give peace and joy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLA IRENE FRIERSON ON HER RETIREMENT FROM MID-CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY HEAD START PROGRAM

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 1997

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions Ella Irene Frierson has made to the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency and to her community.

After 27 years of service with Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency, "Miss Ella" is retiring at the end of this year. She is presently the Head Start Program's assistant director. Previously, she worked in the Head Start Program as a teacher and health coordinator.

Ella has given much to her community, to its families, children, and individuals in need. She currently serves as board member and secretary for the January Street Mission, a religious mission program serving residents of Franklin Heights and January Street public housing. Ella is a member of the Holiday High School Alumni Association and the Criterion Literary and Art Club. Both organizations provide scholarships to local high school seniors. She is also a member of the Mid-Cumberland

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Council on Children and Youth and the Rutherford County Early Childhood Task Force, organizations that advocate improvement in the lives of children and families.

"Sister Frierson" serves the Lord in several capacities at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, the Mothers' Board assistant secretary, church clerk, Ardent Workers Missionary Society teacher, General Mission treasurer, Membership Committee chairman, and senior choir member. She has previously been president, secretary, and treasurer of the mass choir.

Mrs. Frierson is an alumni of Tennessee State University. She has five children and four grandchildren.

We honor Mrs. Frierson today for her service with the Mid-Cumberland Community Action Agency Head Start Program, to the local community and First Baptist Church. She is a positive role model in an era where such models are rare. The citizens of Rutherford County are grateful for the many ways she has touched their lives.

Again, Mrs. Frierson, congratulations on your retirement. May the days to come be filled with the happiness of family and friends. Thank you for all the happiness and joy you have given to us.

THE MUSICAL TALENT OF
ROBERTO TORRES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Mr. Roberto Torres, a constituent from my congressional district and a leading exponent of Cuban music who is to be recognized for his outstanding talents and for all of the stellar contributions work that he has done for south Florida. Roberto Torres is to receive his much deserved recognition by having his star placed on Miami's renowned star walk on SW eighth street this upcoming Saturday, September 13th.

Roberto has blessed the Latin community in the United States with his excellent compositions and beats filled with Latin flavor that take us all back to the rhythms of the island of Cuba. His first hit in the United States was *El Caminante*, but he is most renowned for his hit single *El Caballo Viejo* that every Cuban-American and many a Hispanic have enjoyed and can sing along to regardless of their age. *El Caballo Viejo*, a song that was listened to worldwide, has always been a sure fire guarantee of filling up a dance floor at any Cuban-American celebration.

I applaud Roberto for his outstanding musical talent, his contributions to the music industry and most important, his ability to maintain in our minds the soulful and upbeat sounds of Salsa music. Music is an art that Roberto has mastered and blessed our lives with. His compositions will transcend many a generation and will repeatedly remind us of the yearnings of the Cuban people to live in freedom and democracy.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BRITTANY
GOFF

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 1997

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an award-winning essay written by a constituent of mine on a subject I know is near to your heart—the importance of freedom and democracy.

I'm pleased to announce that Brittany Goff of Pocatello, ID, has been honored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States with a VFW 1997 Voice of Democracy Scholarship Award. Brittany's broadcast script is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices and commitments our forefathers made to ensure that we enjoy the rights and freedoms we have today. With all of today's headlines bemoaning the lack of appreciation America's youth has for civics, it is encouraging to know that those as young as Brittany understand the importance of democracy and freedom.

I would like to submit that award-winning script into the RECORD at this time.

"DEMOCRACY—ABOVE AND BEYOND"—1996-97
VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

(By Brittany Goff)

America came with a high price tag attached. No one person or groups of people could have paid the price to gain what we now enjoy today. It took many pilgrims, Indians, pioneers, soldiers, and all races of people with mixed ideals to accomplish this enormous feat. There were many tears, sweat, blood, families, friends, and lives sacrificed for the accomplishing a single glory: FREEDOM!!! All of these labors were just a foundation of a great fortress. This firm and unchanging foundation, which we call America's heritage, was the beginning of a wonderful government called—DEMOCRACY!!! After all the trials and sacrifices endured by our fathers it is no wonder why democracy is so strong and pure in its motives.

Democracy is government that is run by the people who live under it. In a democracy people rule either directly through meetings that all may attend or directly through the election of certain representatives to attend to the business.

Imagine the fear and anticipation of the pilgrims as they left their mother country to come to a strange and savage land, leaving everything behind just for a chance to make their own choices and not live under a dictatorship! Little would they know that in 1776 Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence would be accepted on the memorable July fourth and change all of our lives forever. The framers of the Constitution worked primarily to maintain a division of power between federal and state government to preserve an overall balance of federal government.

Democracy accepts all individuals' point of views but traditionally, it is associated with the ideals of liberty and equality. In the United States especially it has been identified with the special concern for the common man, but the equality that is relevant to democracy is the equalizing of liberty, not property or of people. As R.N. Mac Iver said, "True democracy respects not the average man, but the common in man; the moral worth of personality, and its power to achieve independence, integrity, and dignity." From this point of view, democracy declares that any group of people from what-

ever ancestry or status, has a monopoly of wisdom, importance, and virtue. In this sense, democracy's ultimate goal is respect of human personality and potential. It also guarantees personal freedom for all who choose to live under its direction.

This great fortress of democracy was built upon the foundation of our forefathers and their sacrifices. Although America is still young, no other government can challenge such a strong and stable republic. That is because daily thousands of people across America are speaking out and exercising those freedoms which we have inherited. Each time we do this, we add a brick to our fortress; building it higher and higher until no earthquake or thunderstorm can tear it down. Our children will one day climb the ladder leading to the top of our mighty fortress. They will remember the steps it took of laying such a firm foundation, and then they will be able to follow our example by exercising these freedoms. Once they reach the top and look on the others below, they'll know why DEMOCRACY is above and beyond all other forms of government!!!

A TRUST FUND INVESTMENT IN
AMERICA'S FUTURE

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 1997

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call my colleagues' attention to an article published in today's Washington Post, written by Congressman BUD SHUSTER, chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Chairman SHUSTER makes a compelling case not only for the need to invest in our Nation's infrastructure but to do so by utilizing the highway trust fund, into which Americans pay their gas taxes. By unlocking the trust fund, as Chairman SHUSTER notes, we can make our highways and transit systems safer and more efficient.

As we undertake our reauthorization of the Nation's surface transportation program, Chairman SHUSTER's article is necessary reading.

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 15, 1997]

MONEY TO GET AMERICA MOVING

(By Bud Shuster)

The Post can't have it both ways—disdaining the spending of gas-tax dollars to build America's highways ["The Highway Bill," editorial, Sept. 7] while decrying in numerous news stories the growing congestion on the region's highways, the looming crisis of Washington's transit system and the need for a billion-dollar replacement of the Woodrow Wilson bridge. Beyond the Beltway, America is also growing and prospering, but our transportation infrastructure is crumbling.

A 70 percent increase in Asian trade is jamming Seattle's port and snarling traffic at 45 railroad crossings. The antiquated roads of the no-longer sleepy Rio Grande valley are clogged by a 250 percent increase in Mexican-Texan trade. Miami is exploding, with traffic on its main east-west corridor projected to increase by 120 percent and its population projected to increase by 60 percent by the year 2010.

In the past decade, New York has had a 2 percent increase in population but a 27 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled; Illinois, a 3 percent increase in population but a