

Ultimately, Congress deferred further consideration of the bill, and it was eventually rewritten to narrow the chances of sanctions and broaden the presidential waiver. A report sent out from Wexler's office to coalition members in February boasted that "USA*Engage is widely credited for the failure of [Wolf-Specter] to come to a vote in 1997."

STEP 5—WRITE YOUR OWN BILL

Now, having at least temporarily dispatched Wolf-Specter, USA*Engage was ready to put together its very own sanctions "reform" bill. The coalition quickly signed up two Hoosier friends in Congress to sponsor the legislation: Republican Sen. Richard Lugar, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton, the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

When initially asked about her company's role in moving the legislation forward, Wexler replies, "We don't lobby." When pressed, she concedes that her firm "worked closely" with members of Congress who worked on the legislation "so I guess we do lobby." However, she says firmly, "That bill was written on the Hill."

But a USA*Engage lobbyist memo suggests that the role Hamilton and Lugar played in sponsoring the legislation was largely ceremonial, and that it was the lobbyists who drafted the bill. In a memo dated September 4, less than two months before the bill's introduction, the Wexler Group's Erika Moritsugu wrote Richard Lehmann, a lobbyist for coalition member IBM, telling him that he would be receiving more information from her as soon as "we work to finalize the bill language." According to the memo, Wexler's people were also planning "a target date for introducing the bill" and even drafting the "Dear Colleague" letters that lawmakers send out to their peers to build support for legislation.

In the memo, Moritsugu also thanked Lehmann for contacting Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.). According to other memos, the Wexler Group sent out requests to coalition members asking them to fax in summaries on their progress finding co-sponsors for the legislation. Wexler used this "Co-Sponsorship Meeting Response Form" to keep track of how far USA*Engage's tentacles had spread throughout Congress. In the case of Lehmann, they went far: Kolbe signed on as a co-sponsor of the House bill.

On October 23, Hamilton introduced the Enhancement of Trade, Security, and Human Rights through Sanctions Reform Act in the House (Lugar followed suit in the Senate early the following month). The bill would protect overseas contracts signed at the time sanctions are imposed and would require that sanctions expire after two years unless specifically reauthorized.

The legislation also makes the process of imposing sanctions a bureaucratic nightmare while specifically exempting restrictions on the use of measures "imposed to remedy unfair trade practices." In other words, says Mark Anderson, a union officer at the Food and Allied Service Trades who closely monitors USA*Engage, "sanctions are just fine if the economic interests of a company are threatened by intellectual property theft or expropriation, but they should not be imposed if a dictatorship is killing its people or depriving workers of their rights."

Meanwhile, the law firm Hogan & Hartson has been scheduling meetings between leading members of USA*Engage and congressional staffers. A series of three internal campaign memos from last fall urged key coalition members to attend engagements set up with a number of Capitol Hill offices, including the Senate Finance Committee.

STEP 6—SEIZE CONTROL

With Congress about to consider the bills, the future looks sunny for USA*Engage. The group mailed out a progress report to member companies stating that the coalition had "surpassed its 1997 goals across the board." Furthermore, USA*Engage's "continuous and aggressive media education effort" has paid rich dividends. According to the report, of the 242 newspaper editorials written on the sanctions issue since USA*Engage's founding last year, 180 had been favorable to the coalition, 36 were neutral, and only 26 were hostile.

The progress report also urged supporters not to let up, mentioning that "member companies are currently deeply involved" in recruiting more co-sponsors for the Hamilton-Lugar legislation, which already boasts 10 senators and 14 House members.

There's also good news for one of USA*Engage's congressional partners. While Hamilton will retire at the end of his term, Lugar will be up for re-election in 2000 and is apparently tapping into USA*Engage's membership lists. A member of the coalition, who asked to remain anonymous, says that after joining USA*Engage he received an invitation charging a \$1,000-a-head fee to a fundraiser for Lugar in March at Washington's exclusive Monocle restaurant.

Along with the sparks that will occur when Congress debates the legislation, coalition members can expect a howl from human rights advocates, such as Simon Billenness of Franklin Research & Development Corp., a progressive investment firm in Boston, who notes the importance economic sanctions played in ending South Africa's apartheid regime. "If USA*Engage had succeeded with these tactics during the apartheid years, Nelson Mandela might still be in prison," he says.

But they can also expect support from sources higher up—and even more important than Billy Graham. The Clinton administration is highly sympathetic to USA*Engage's cause, especially the State Department's sanction review team, headed by Wexler contact Stuart Eizenstat.

As the anti-sanctions laws work their way through Congress, according to the progress report, USA*Engage will assist Eizenstat in dealing with any problems that might arise, such as the weak drug policies in Mexico and Colombia, and the upcoming Nigerian elections—rigged in advance by the country's generals. These cases, the report warns, "may result in a call for sanctions."

Not to worry. Eizenstat's sanctions review committee will have a strong say in such matters and, the report assures, "USA*Engage has encouraged this effort from the outset and will provide private sector input as it unfolds."

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Your bounty of blessings is with us, O God, and Your grace is Your free gift. From our beginnings, Your strong arm has strengthened us, and Your benedictions have given us hope. In response to Your favor toward us, we have not always answered with good works and noble deeds and have sometimes followed our own way of self-centeredness and personal advantage.

Help us, gracious God, to see more clearly the unity we share and teach us to work together for the common good. While every person differs on the particular road we should follow to accomplish our goals, yet let us in solidarity hold high those ideals and traditions and values that we hold dear and make us proud as we honor and respect each other in all we do. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is currently spending Federal tax dollars funding the closed captioning of the Jerry Springer Show. Unbelievable. Since when does this talk show have anything to do with teaching our kids basic math, reading, writing, science, or history? Not only does the Jerry Springer show not improve American education, but over the past few months, it has done seven shows on premarital or adulterous relationships with titles such as "I am Having Your Man's Baby".

They have produced another seven shows on the Ku Klux Klan, such as "I am a Breeder for the Klan" and "Christmas with the Klan". They had eight shows on prostitution, such as "I am a 13 Year Old Prostitute" and "My Wife wants to be a Call Girl".