After the war the importance of the Kingsford plant had diminished further, and the facility was closed in 1951. Ford was gone, but an interesting legacy continued. The famous Kingsford-brand charcoal briquets, a by-product of wooden automobile part production, continued to be made in this U.P. community.

As a small city, Mr. Speaker, the population of Kingsford is now about 5,500. Although the community is no longer a part of the Ford family of assembly plants, the transportation revolution wrought by these affordable Ford automobiles on the lives of ordinary Americans meant that tourism would become a new national industry, one that would benefit the Kingsford area. People now can travel from anywhere in the country to visit this area of gently rolling hills with thousands of lakes and hundreds of miles of rivers and streams. Hunting and fishing and the simple enjoyment of the vibrant colors of autumn means that tourism now vies with paper-making as the basic elements of the area's economic well-being.

I am proud of the people of Kingsford and their struggles to survive and even thrive through periods of economic change, and I invite all my colleagues in the U.S. House to join me in paying tribute to this resilient and energetic community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 20, 1998, I requested and was granted a leave of absence from the House of Representatives due to personal illness. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of adoption of the following amendments during consideration of H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act:

The Wicker amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, debated on July 14, that prohibits the use of White House meals or accommodations for political fundraising (greed to by a recorded vote of 391 ayes to 4 noes, Roll No. 301);

The Stearns amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, debated on July 14, that prohibits noncitizens from making contributions to candidates for Federal, state, or local elections (agreed to by a recorded vote of 267 ayes to 131 noes, Roll No. 302);

The Smith of Michigan amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute, as modified, that establishes a prison term for 10 years and a fine not to exceed $1 million as penalties for violation of the foreign contribution ban (agreed to by a voice vote);

The DeLay amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that expresses the Sense of Congress that Federal law clearly demonstrates that ''controlling legal authority'' prohibits the use of Federal property to raise campaign funds (agreed to by a recorded vote of 360 ayes to 36 noes, Roll No. 304);

The McInnis amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that prohibits acceptance or solicitation to obtain access to Air Force One, Marine One, Air Force Two, Marine Two, the White House or the Vice President's residence and institutes a fine or imprisonment for violation for up to one year (agreed to by a recorded vote of 391 ayes to 7 noes, Roll No. 305);

The Hefley amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that requires the national parties to reimburse the Federal government for the use of Air Force One for political fundraising (agreed to by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 177 noes, Roll No. 307);

The Northup amendment to the Shays amendment in the nature of a substitute that prohibits campaign from providing currency to individuals for the purpose of encouraging turnout on the date of election (agreed to by a recorded vote of 284 ayes to 114 noes, Roll No. 308);

The Snowbarger amendment that establishes mandatory imprisonment for not fewer than 1 year and not more than 10 years for criminal conduct (agreed to by a voice vote); and

The Whitfield amendment that bans the coordination of soft money for issue advocacy by presidential candidates receiving public financing (agreed to by a voice vote).

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support for H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act.

I am from a Right to Work state and I know first-hand that employee freedom and prosperity go hand in hand.

Figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that workers in forced union dues states are losing thousands of jobs as well as their freedom.

Just listen to the advantage that Right to Work States have had over forced union dues states between 1997–1996:

Non-agricultural employees in Right to Work states have increased by nearly 70% while the increase in forced union states was 35%.

Manufacturing employment in Right to Work states have increased by almost 15% while there was nearly a 15% decrease in forced union states.

Construction employment in Right to Work states increased by almost 50%, nearly 15% higher than in forced union dues states.

Manufacturing production workers in Right to Work states increased by almost 10%, while decreasing by 20% in forced union dues states.

Manufacturing establishments in Right to Work states increased by 20%, while decreasing by .3% in forced union states.

Personal income in Right to Work states has increased by 405%, 82% higher than in forced union dues states.

Hourly earnings by manufacturing employees in Right to Work states have increased by 135%, 13% higher than forced union dues states.

The average weekly earnings of manufacturing production workers in Right to Work states have increased by 145%,15% higher than in forced union dues states.

Mr. Speaker what do these numbers translate into Jobs. Between 1983 and 1993, Right to Work states created over 500,000 jobs, while forced union states lost almost 900,000.

Mr. Speaker, not only are residents of forced-unionism states paying in lost jobs, they are also paying for the cost of compulsory unionism out of their wallets.

Invariably, compulsory unionism leads to union official-inspired strikes, slowdowns, inefficient work rules, featherbedding, and a ''hate-the-boss'' mentality which substantially increase the cost of goods, services, and state and local taxes.

The result is the ''Right to Work boon.'' The average urban family living in a Right to Work state has an after-tax, cost of living-adjusted household income of $36,540—$2,852 more than a family in a forced-unionism state.

As said by former United States Senator Sam Ervin in his autobiography Preserving the Constitution, ''Right to Work laws remove the motive of the union to subordinate the interests of the employees to its wish, and, thus, leave it free to conduct negotiations for the sole purpose of obtaining an employment contract advantageous to the employees.''

CONCLUSION

Right to Work states offer an economic environment free from much of the Big Labor's imposed ''featherbedding,'' and work rules which reduce the value of employees' wages by driving up production costs. Ultimately, this only serves to reduce the number of jobs in their state.

Mr. Speaker, no one should be forced to join a labor union as a condition of employment, and every American should be given the same economic opportunities shared by most employees in 21 states.

I urge you to schedule a roll-call vote on HR 59, the Nation Right to Work Act.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would also like to thank him for his commitment and hard work on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I have personally received hundreds of petitions from constituents urging a roll-call vote on H.R. 59, and I am proud to be able to speak here tonight in defense of those constituents.

I certainly agree with the gentleman from Virginia. H.R. 59 is about individual liberty.

Members, particularly from the other side of the aisle, and the union officials down the street in their fortress they call the ''Marble House'', built by forced dues, like to purport that the National Right to Work Act is an attempt to silence workers. To the contrary, Mr. Speaker, the National Right to Work Act is about giving workers a voice.

As the gentleman from Virginia stated, this bill does not add one single word to federal law. It simply amends the National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act by striking the forced-dues provisions from federal law. That is it.