

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE LIQUIDATION OF ASSETS FROM THE POLISH-AMERICAN ENTERPRISE FUND

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, 9 years ago President Bush requested, and the Congress authorized, the creation of Enterprise Funds for Poland and Hungary, in order to spur economic reform and the growth of private enterprise in these countries.

The Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF) has succeeded in its mission, and is now prepared to return the funds it originally received from the U.S. government.

Because there are so many views inside and outside the government about what should happen to assets of the PAEF, and because the guidance provided by the Congress 9 years ago on the disposition of those assets was neither clear nor explicit, I believe the Congress should authorize, by statute, how the assets of the PAEF are distributed. It is important for Congress to make a decision on this matter because it will establish a precedent for the distribution of assets from other Enterprise Funds in the future.

The text of my August 10, 1998 letter to Secretary Albright and the Department of State's reply of September 11th follow:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RE-
LATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES,

Washington, DC, August 10, 1998.

Hon. MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,
Secretary of State, Department of State,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADELEINE: I write regarding any decision you may reach with respect to the distribution of assets resulting from the liquidation of assets of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF).

The SEED Act of 1989 does not give clear or explicit guidance on how assets from Enterprise Funds should be distributed, once these Funds are liquidated, and I believe Congress should be involved in a decision on how assets from them are distributed.

In particular, in the case of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund, valued at over \$250 million, I believe Congress should authorize by statute how assets from this Fund are distributed. I appreciate that the legislative process can be slow, but I believe a decision reached in this way will best represent a consensus that reflects the views of the entire U.S. government.

The consensus-building process is especially important because a decision on the Polish-American Enterprise Fund will establish a precedent for the distribution of assets from other Enterprise Funds in the future.

I appreciate your attention to this issue.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC, September 11, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
Committee on International Relations,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. HAMILTON: Thank you for your letter of August 10, 1998, to the Secretary, concerning the distribution of funds resulting from any liquidation of assets of the Polish-American Enterprise Fund (PAEF). The Secretary shares your concerns about this important issue, and is aware how any decision reached about the PAEF could establish a precedent for the future distribution of assets from other Enterprise funds.

As you well know, the fact that the PAEF has been so successful poses some unique problems when the issue of its dissolution is raised. Due to the wide interest in the Fund, a number of varied proposals have been given to the Administration regarding how reflow funds should be handled. Administration officials have been consulting with key members of the Congress and their staff (including those of your own), the PAEF Board of Directors, the Polish government and the Polish-American community, to arrive at a satisfactory solution. While a formula acceptable to all concerned has not yet been achieved, we have and will continue to consult with members and staff of the House International Relations Committee as part of this process.

We hope that this information has been helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance in this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

BARBARA LARKIN,
Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs.

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE IS IN CRISIS DUE TO LABOR SHORTAGE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress from the San Joaquin Valley of California, I am proud to represent the two largest agricultural producing counties in the United States. Currently, a severe shortage of labor is raising concern over the economic future of the agriculture community throughout California. Agricultural production is nearly a \$25 billion industry in the State, and California has the largest agricultural economy in the Nation. Right now, farmers are competing for the same scarce labor force as the raisin, table and wine grape harvest is entering its peak and tree fruit growers are also harvesting in California. Simultaneously, apple farmers are beginning to pick their fruit in the State of Washington and are in need of labor. California has not seen a labor shortage of this magnitude since World War II.

The agricultural community has worked with numerous San Joaquin Valley Social Services Departments and Employment Development Departments to provide needed labor from individuals who are unemployed or entering the workforce after receiving welfare. Such actions

have failed to supply adequate labor for harvest.

The agricultural labor situation can be alleviated through action by the Federal Government. Under a reformed agricultural worker program, substantial opportunities will be given to foreign workers who can often earn significantly more in the United States than in their own country. Such reform reduces illegal immigration by creating a streamlined process to temporarily legalize individuals who choose to work in the agricultural sector of the United States.

I am working to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act, authored by Senator GORDON SMITH (R-OR), in the final conference language of the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations measure. The act was approved as an amendment to S. 2260, the Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations bill. It passed by a bipartisan vote of 68-31 in the Senate. Related House legislation did not contain the agricultural worker provision. The Senate measure establishes a national registry within the Department of Labor to track agricultural job seekers. Employers are required to first hire domestic workers from the registry and are able to hire foreign workers if domestic workers are not available. Housing or a housing allowance must be provided by growers, and the prevailing wage rate must be paid. The prevailing wage rate is the mid-point of all wages earned, and it is always higher than the minimum wage.

On behalf of the farmers in the San Joaquin Valley in California, I urge the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary conferees to include the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act in the final bill. I also strongly encourage all Members of the House to support its passage. A stable, reliable and affordable food supply is dependent upon congressional approval of this measure.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE
BELLEVUE CITY SCHOOL DIS-
TRICT ON BEING SELECTED AS
ONE OF "OHIO'S BEST PRAC-
TICES"

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding educational program from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Today, the Bellevue City School District is receiving recognition for its excellence in education by being named as one of "Ohio's Best Practices."

Mr. Speaker, Ohio's BEST, which stands for Building Excellent Schools for Today & the 21st Century, is an education partnership that seeks to identify and celebrate exemplary grassroots educational programs that have

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

proven to be successful in improving the performance of Ohio's students.

The students, parents, teachers, and administrators of the Bellevue City School District and the entire Bellevue, Ohio community have a great deal to be proud of in receiving this prestigious award. Without question, it takes a special group of people and an enormous amount of effort and ingenuity to be selected as one of Ohio's BEST practices.

In being selected for this honor, the Bellevue City School District displayed its success in designing and implementing effective approaches to improving the educational results of its students. Ohio's BEST schools are chosen based on several criteria including commitment to the cornerstone principles of: (1) high academic standards, (2) world-class teaching and professional development, (3) providing safe, secure schools for better learning environments, and (4) state-of-the-art infrastructures for the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, the future education of our children is paramount to the future of our great nation. Each day, our schools provide our leaders of tomorrow with the skills they need to begin the next century. The Bellevue City School District is working to ensure our children are prepared to face the challenges of today and seize the opportunities of tomorrow. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to one of Ohio's BEST practices—the Bellevue City School District, and in wishing them continued success in the future.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG ELIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4300) to support enhanced drug interdiction efforts in the major transit countries and support a comprehensive supply eradication and crop substitution program in source countries:

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3975, controversial legislation that would impose expensive, highly intrusive criminal background checks on our nation's port employees. It is significant that this bill—with all its ramifications—has never been the subject of a hearing by the Judiciary Committee and to this day is not understood by most of the Members in this chamber.

Today the House accepted by voice vote this controversial legislation as part of H.R. 4300, the Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act. This is no way for the House to conduct the people's business.

At a time when we in Congress are attempting to stem the flow of drugs into our communities and schools, we are engaging in a broad brush rush to judgment about America's port-side workers. The way to accomplish our anti-drug trafficking goals is not by declaring that all longshore workers, including those with 20 or more years of service, are guilty. That is exactly what we are doing if H.R. 3975 is enacted.

No one quarrels with the goal of finding methods to stem the flow of illegal drugs into

this country. No one quarrels with the need to use any and all means to achieve this goal including seeking out those who would use their place of employment to give drug dealers and smugglers a free ride into our cities and towns. And no one quarrels with the notion that if we have a few bad apples working in our ports, let's stop them from helping those who would poison this country with illegal drugs.

But make no mistakes about it. H.R. 3975 does not accomplish this goal and, in fact, would likely have adverse consequences on those who are serious about blocking illegal drugs at our borders and in our ports. It takes little imagination to conclude that if you want to stop the infestation of our citizens with dangerous drugs, then make working men and women employed at the transportation choke points—such as longshore workers—a major part of the solution by enlisting them as partners in this crucial endeavor.

Let's not, because of political convenience, demonize hard working port employees by making all of them subject to expansive criminal background checks with no limit and no protections. By doing so we are passing value judgments about their criminal records or intentions with no justification other than anecdote. Perhaps worst of all we are passing these judgments without even giving all sides an opportunity to express their views before the committee of jurisdiction.

If we have drug problems in a particular port let's do something about them. If drugs are passing through our transportation choke points let's give law enforcement authorities the tools and resources to do their job. But let's not demoralize potential allies in the war on drugs by declaring them a major criminal threat and making them all prove their innocence.

Stopping the use of our nation's ports to ship illegal drugs in the United States is a goal I strongly support. H.R. 3975 does not accomplish that objective. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 3975 as a stand alone bill or as part of any legislation to be considered by this House.

IN HONOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MARCHING BAND

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan Marching Band and their milestone Centennial Season. In the fall of 1898, the Michigan Band first appeared at a football game, with 25 members performing only from the stands. From these humble beginnings the Michigan Band has grown in both size and stature to be widely recognized as the pre-eminent college Michigan Band in the country.

The Band has had a rich history, full of notable events. On January 1, 1948, the Michigan Marching Band was the first Big Ten Conference Band to appear at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Travelling to Los Angeles in 1973, the Michigan Band was the first collegiate band to perform at a Super Bowl. In 1983, the Band was honored as the first recipient of the Louis Sudler Trophy, an award

given annually to a college marching band of particular distinction and excellence.

Longtime Michigan radio announcer Bob Ufer declared that "the four most anticipated words on a football Saturday in Ann Arbor" were "Band take the field!" The spirit and energy the Band brings to each football game is a source of great pride to all Michigan fans. There is nothing that can equal the experience of being at Michigan Stadium and joining "all the Maize and Blue Faithful in a rousing chorus of "The Victors," as the Band marches down the field forming the Block "M".

A source of inspiration for all of the University of Michigan family, we offer the heartiest thanks and congratulations to the Michigan Marching Band as they celebrate their Centennial Season.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE ACT

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Natural Resources Institute Act. This legislation will help find solutions to many of the problems that affect the health of our environment.

The United States is faced with the challenge of protecting the environment, while maintaining economic growth. The use of our Nation's natural resources has resulted in a strong economy, but has left a legacy of fragmented land-use and regions of environmental degradation, including areas in my home State of Idaho. Unfortunately, there has not been a comprehensive and coordinated effort to address these environmental issues or an organized effort to help other communities from making similar mistakes. I believe that many of these problems could be avoided or remediated if the communities faced with land-use decisions had access to sound scientific research.

Mr. Speaker, the Natural Resources Institute, using expertise from national laboratories and universities, will provide communities with access to sound scientific research when making environmental and land-use decisions. In addition, the Natural Resources Institute will coordinate research efforts to solve real-world environmental problems. It will be particularly helpful in addressing problems associated with agriculture, logging, grazing, hydro-power, fishing, mining, recreation, and other natural resource activities.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LAPWORTH

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, John Lapworth is the Cal Ripken of Postal Carriers. Lapworth who is a mail carrier in Cape May County in my district recently received the National Safety Council's Million Mile Club's Safe Driver Award. Lapworth, who works out of the Villas post office branch and lives in Rio Grande, has gone 35 years on the job without