

AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR THE IMPEACHMENT OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to support this resolution. I say this not as a Republican, not as a New Yorker, but as a person who loves this great country and all it represents.

Earlier today, the gentleman from New York, Mr. NADLER, stated in essence: "This matter will be the most divisive issue this nation has faced since Vietnam. While I do not question the gentleman from New York's belief that he believes this to be true, I do take exception to the comparison and respectfully disagree. Here is why—during the Vietnam War, as has been the case with every war or military conflict since our Nation's birth, men and women were sent overseas with a willingness to die for freedom, liberty and to defend the rule of law. In the case before us, the President of the United States has been charged with violating the rule of law that so many Americans have died for and are still willing to die for at a moment's notice all over the globe. The same rule of law that we must ensure applies equally to every single American, including the President of the United States.

This matter goes to the very heart and soul of what America is all about. This matter will determine whether we defend the Constitution, or destroy it. I hope and pray that each distinguished Member of this body places America first and that each Member sees through the clouds of rhetoric to uphold the rule of law.

It is the rule of law that unifies this country. It is the rule of law that allows each American the opportunity to enjoy and to pursue what our Founding Fathers and every generation of Americans since have always hoped for—that each American be entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If we, indeed, cherish the notions of personal freedom and individual liberty granted to every single American, then we will seek to vindicate the rule of law and proceed with this matter with all deliberate speed and an unbreakable bond with each other toward fairness, equity and justice for each party involved, including the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, too many Americans have died to defend these principles we hold so sacred. Too many generations of Americans have given so much to wish reluctantly that this matter just disappear. Just as important, Mr. Speaker, with the Almighty blessing, generations of Americans yet unborn will look back to this day and claim this to be one of America's finest hours, not as a sideshow that some are trying to depict this as.

Each Member of this body still must maintain an obligation and responsibility to be bound to our oath of office. The same oath of office voluntarily taken by the President of the United States. Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution.

THE GOOD FRIDAY TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACT

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 9, 1998*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that targets a trade and investment initiative toward Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. My view is that using existing trade and investment tools to stimulate economic hope and opportunity in the Irish region is the best chance we have for ensuring the Good Friday Peace Agreement is fully implemented.

Over the past few months, my thoughts, hopes, and concerns have fixed upon the Irish region. From the peaks of the Good Friday Peace Agreement and election of the first local government in Northern Ireland in over twenty five years, to the valleys of Drumcree, the arson deaths of three young brothers in Ballymoney, and the horrors of the Omagh bomb, my hopes for that troubled land have twisted and turned with events seemingly beyond our ability to impact or entirely understand.

Northern Ireland needs our nation's support and assistance at one of its most critical stages along the path to lasting peace and consensual self government. On the very edge of undertaking their governmental duties and offices as set forth in the Good Friday Peace Agreement, the political leaders face one final fence—the decommissioning issue—that stands between them and the promise of a democratic and prosperous government for both communities. Time is short and a clear sign of support from Congress could help lift the parties over the last hurdle.

As you know, Irish free trade legislation has been slowed by resistance from the European Union, which considers a free trade agreement between the U.S. and Northern Ireland and the Border counties as a threat to their customs union. As member states of the EU, both Ireland and Britain have viewed free trade legislation with some trepidation.

Faced with continued resistance to the Irish free trade legislation, I concluded that a fresh attempt to fashion legislation that could address European reticence while quickly delivering meaningful trade and investment assistance to Northern Ireland was in order.

I have developed legislation that targets existing trade and investment tools such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to assist Northern Ireland's exporters to grow their economy and job base. The legislation also ensures that the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) generates private sector focus and interest in Northern Ireland and the Border area and makes sure that women entrepreneurs have meaningful access to that funding. I have additionally utilized the International Fund for Ireland as a channel to increase funding for projects that will create rapid job growth in the private sector. Finally, I have targeted five projects for funding and support that will provide both immediate and mid-term job generating growth.

While there are few days left before adjournment, I am determined to advance this new bill as far as the legislative schedule and the leadership will allow. I ask for your help, assistance, and cosponsorship. A clear, seri-

ous and solid signal of support to the parties in Northern Ireland is crucial for their continued forward progress. For your information, I have attached an executive summary of the bill and some recent news items which illustrate the need for a reinvigorated effort on our part.

GOOD FRIDAY TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACT

(1) Statement of policy/findings:

a. Economic growth and stabilization of Northern Ireland (NI) and Irish Republic Border Counties (IR) are key to full implementation of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

b. The Omagh bombing is a clear example of a small town that desperately needs immediate relief and assistance for reconstruction. The pace and scale of aid and investment in Omagh and other towns recently bombed—Banbridge, Markethill, and Newtownhamilton—could determine whether the Agreement holds.

c. The International Community, including the European Union and the World Trade Organization (WTO), has a strong record of responding to historic political and economic circumstances. It has fought for and approved WTO waivers, such as transitional measures to take account of German Unification and the Treaty of Lome, that allow necessary international flexibility and cooperation to enhance trade and investment and stabilize economically deprived and politically revitalized regions.

d. The U.S. can continue its crucial role in the peace process by creating and promoting economic growth through trade and investment in the region's severely economically deprived areas. In addition to promoting trade and investment in NI and IR, the U.S. should consider grant assistance to aid communities suffering terrorist attacks.

e. Fair employment practices in Northern Ireland are an essential element for an expanding full employment economy. Congress notes with approval the constant efforts undertaken by the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Commission and Employment Tribunal to achieve this end. Congress is also aware that the Good Friday Peace Agreement established an Anti-discrimination Committee to augment the work done by the Committee and Tribunal. Congress believes their continuing efforts constitute persuasive evidence that economic justice principles contained herein are being effectively safeguarded, secured and promoted for all communities. (Assistance in legislation is contingent on MacBride principles as agreed to in H.R. 1757 conference report).

f. The strengthening of a police force acceptable to both communities in Northern Ireland is essential for the formation and success of a peaceful and prosperous civil society. The Congress notes the Independent Commission on Policing is to report on the policing problems in Northern Ireland. The President, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission, shall report to Congress on a bi-annual basis how the United States can assist in the establishment of an acceptable policing force in Northern Ireland with the highest level of professionalism.

(2) OPIC directive: OPIC shall establish \$300 million in equity funds for infrastructure and business development in NI and IR. Funds should emphasize investment in severely economically deprived counties in NI and IR as well as emphasize the role of women.

a. Women into Business Fund: No less than 20% of the equity fund should be dedicated to encourage investment by women entrepreneurs and should be targeted to ventures headed or owned by women.