

bid farewell to our chief trade counsel, Debbie Lamb, who joined the Finance Committee staff over 10 years ago, in June 1990. Ms. Lamb has played an integral part in every major piece of trade legislation over the past decade—from the NAFTA and the Uruguay Round to our attempts to renew so-called fast-track negotiating authority to the two pieces of trade legislation that we passed this year: The Trade and Development Act of 2000, and now, at last, PNTR for China. Her knowledge and dedication to our committee's work has been exemplary. She is something that is very rare in Washington—a person with great breadth and great depth. The committee and I will miss her deeply as she leaves today to pursue the next phase of a distinctly distinguished career.

EXHIBIT 1

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, September 12, 2000.

Hon. DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MOYNIHAN: I want to commend you for commencing debate on H.R. 4444, which would extend Permanent Normal Trade Relations to the People's Republic of China. This crucial legislation will help ensure our economic prosperity, reinforce our work on human rights, and enhance our national security.

Normalizing our trade relationship with China will allow American workers, farmers, and businesspeople to benefit from increased access to the Chinese market. It will also give us added tools to promote increased openness and change in Chinese society, and increase our ability to work with China across the broad range of our mutual interests.

I want to address two specific areas that I understand may be the subject of debate in the Senate. One is Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). There should be no question that my Administration is firmly committed to Taiwan's accession to the WTO, a point I reiterated in September 8 meeting with President Jiang Zemin. Based on our New York discussions with the Chinese, I am confident we have a common understanding that both China and Taiwan will be invited to accede to the WTO at the same WTO General Council session, and that Taiwan will join the WTO under the language agreed to in 1992, namely as the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (referred to as "Chinese Taipei"). The United States will not accept any other outcome.

The other area is nonproliferation, specifically the proposals embodied in an amendment offered by Senator Fred Thompson. Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them is a key goal of my Administration. However, I believe this amendment is unfair and unnecessary, and would hurt our nonproliferation efforts.

Nonproliferation has been a priority in our dealings with China. We have pressed China successfully to join the Nonproliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and to cease cooperation with Iran's nuclear program. Today, we are seeking further restraints, but these efforts would be subverted—and existing progress could be reversed—by this mandatory sanctions bill which would single out companies based on an unreasonably low standard of suspicion,

instead of proof. It would apply a different standard for some countries than others, undermining our global leadership on nonproliferation. Automatic sanctions, such as cutting off dual-use exports to China, would hurt American workers and companies. Other sanctions, such as restricting access to U.S. capital markets, could harm our economy by undermining confidence in our markets. I believe this legislation would do more harm than good.

The American people are counting on the Congress to pass H.R. 4444. I urge you and your colleagues to complete action on the bill as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.

Mr. ROTH. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Yes, of course.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I only want to echo what my friend and distinguished ranking member has said about Debbie. We have accomplished a lot in the area of trade in recent years, and so much of the credit should go to the staff who have worked so hard and so long. Top among those is Debbie Lamb, who has been available not only to her side, but has been most helpful to the majority as well. Sometimes I think people don't recognize the cooperation that often exists between Members of the two parties. But I think what Debbie has done shows that bipartisanship is still alive. We would not be here celebrating today's vote if not for her splendid contribution.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I say to our chairman, as evidenced by the fact that this measure was reported 19-1 in the Finance Committee.

I thank the Chair. We are at a moment of history and the omens are excellent.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, in keeping with the words of my distinguished colleague about Debbie, I want to say a few words of thanks to all those who worked so hard on this bill.

Of course, first, I have to thank my dear friend, our venerable colleague, and always gracious ranking member of the Finance Committee, PAT MOYNIHAN. It would never have been possible to be here today with the kind of vote I think we are going to enjoy if it had not been for PAT's leadership, for his knowledge and background, and his ability to bring people together. I thank him for his outstanding contributions.

I also thank Senators GRASSLEY, THOMAS, HAGEL, ROBERTS, and ROD GRAMS for helping manage the floor. We were on this legislation something like 11 days. There were times when PAT and I were called from the floor for other duties. It was most helpful to have these other individual colleagues helping manage the floor.

Again, I thank all of Senator MOYNIHAN's committee staff who are just as gracious as the Senator for whom they work. We have already talked about Debbie Lamb. But David Podoff—I want to express my warm thanks to you for bringing your expertise to bear on this legislative process. I agree with Senator MOYNIHAN. This is probably the most important piece of legislation

that will be adopted this year, if not this decade. But again, it could not have happened without people such as Dave.

I would also like to thank Linda Menghetti, and Timothy Hogan, as well as Therese Lee, who I think was such a help as a member of the Senator's personal staff.

Finally, let me thank my own staff. I would like to claim that I have the best staff on the Hill. I certainly have one of the best, if not the very best.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Sir, we have the best staffs.

(Laughter.)

Mr. ROTH. I yield to my distinguished Senator on that point. I stand corrected.

But, again, I really want to thank my personal staff, and my trade staff, whether it is Frank Polk, who is always there when you need him, and Grant Aldonas, Faryar Shirzad, Tim Keeler, J.T. Young, and Carrie Clark from the Finance Committee. I also particularly want to thank John Duncan and Dan Bob from my personal office. Dan is really one of our great experts on Asia, and on international politics in general. I owe him so much for his help during these last 2 weeks. Thank you all for a job well done.

Let me say it is an honor and pleasure to work with the ranking member.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. My honor, sir.

Mr. ROTH. I yield the floor.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Wyoming.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 4516

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding provisions of rule XXII, that immediately following the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the H-1B legislation, the Senate proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516, the legislative branch appropriations bill. I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two managers, with an additional hour under the control of Senator MCCAIN, 1 hour under the control of Senator THOMAS, and 90 minutes under the control of Senator KENNEDY. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate. I add, provided that 30 minutes of the Democrat manager's time be under the control of Senator WELLSTONE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will

now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:16 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. INHOFE).

TO AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF
NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-
MENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUB-
LIC OF CHINA—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to vote on the passage of H.R. 4444.

The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to use some of my leader time to conclude discussion on the China PNTR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. First, Mr. President, this is the last day of a very critical and helpful staff member working here with the Senate in the Finance Committee. That person is Debbie Lamb on Senator MOYNIHAN's staff. She has been his chief trade counsel and has been very helpful, obviously, to Senator MOYNIHAN and, before that, to Senator Bentsen.

I remember specifically one night we were negotiating the final contours of a bill between the House and the Senate. I wound up relying on her counsel as we made the final decisions. People may find it somewhat a surprise that the majority leader, a Republican, would be relying on the counsel on the other side of the aisle, but it does work that way and it attests to her credibility and expertise. She has done a wonderful job. We wish her the very best.

In that connection, too, I want to recognize the outstanding work that has been done by Senator MOYNIHAN and by Chairman ROTH. Here he is, sitting right behind me. They have been patient; they have been willing to spend hours here in the Senate. They waited weeks to get their opportunity to have it considered in the Senate. There was no effort made to cut off a full debate. I think every Senator believes he or she had the opportunity they needed to make their case, state their positions, and raise their concerns or why they supported it.

Also, we had numerous amendments, and all of them failed. Some of them were very attractive. In fact, I felt very strongly about a couple of them, obviously. But they waded through all of this and we are going to have a final vote in a moment. I think it is going to be an overwhelming vote. I think it is the right thing to do and I commend Chairman ROTH and Senator MOYNIHAN for their leadership.

When history is written about this session, one of the things I believe it will say is that this is a session of Congress that did spend time and wound up passing some important trade bills

with relation to not only China but the Caribbean and also Africa. A lot of credit goes to the leaders of this committee.

Regardless of one's views on the merits, there is no question about the significance of the measure we consider today. Normalizing trade relations with China will not only have profound effects upon our economic well-being, but it will undoubtedly have significant implications for our relations with China and our national security.

China accounts for a quarter of the world's population. It has one of the largest economies in the world—an economy that has been growing at a remarkable rate of nearly 10 percent per year. China unquestionably is and will be a major factor in the world, especially economically.

There is also no question that China's entry into the World Trade Organization holds great opportunities for the United States. Chief among them are the economic benefits that would flow from the dismantling of Chinese trade barriers—barriers that deny benefits to our workers and businesses.

But many people in this country have legitimate questions. They question whether China will live up to its commitments, whether it will trade fairly in our market, and whether we are ignoring China's human rights abuses and its destabilizing behavior in the world.

These are not questions to be taken lightly. And that is why I have insisted that the Senate not rush to action on this bill, and that those on both sides have a full opportunity to air their views and their amendments.

The Senate has had ample time to consider the agreements reached with China, has held numerous hearings on its potential accession to the WTO, and has engaged in a full and vigorous debate on this issue. That is certainly fitting on an issue of this magnitude.

I know that many of my colleagues, like myself, have struggled with this issue in light of our larger concerns about China and its behavior in the world. We all know that China is a one-party State that denies the most basic rights to its people. We must acknowledge that it deprives its people of religious freedom, that it has flagrantly engaged in weapons proliferation, and that it has repeatedly used unfair trade practices in our market.

While some may argue that we should, I do not believe that we can totally separate these broader issues from the question of our trade relationship with China. But I also believe that we cannot allow our desire for reform in China to blind us not only to the benefits we receive from trade with China, but from the positive effects trade may have within that country.

On balance, I am convinced that expanding our trading relation with China is not only in our economic self interest, but in our broader national interest as well.

There are many misconceptions about the action Congress is taking

with this legislation. Chief among them is the view that we are voting on whether to allow China into the World Trade Organization. The fact is that China will almost certainly enter the WTO, regardless of whether the United States approves this legislation.

What this legislation will decide is whether the commitments of WTO membership are applied bilaterally between the United States and China.

Applying WTO commitments to trade between the United States and China is in our economic interest—and for a simple reason. We already grant China the favorable access to our market required by the WTO. China, however, does not grant similar access to our products. As such, this agreement will expand our access to China's market; it will not expand China's access to ours.

Many of my colleagues have gone through in detail the market-opening concessions China will be forced to make upon entry into the WTO. Let me just highlight some of the major terms that will have a direct impact on our workers and companies:

China will be required to cut tariffs from a current average of almost 25 percent to an average of around 9 percent by 2005—with particularly sharp reductions for farm products and information technology products;

China will be required to provide our companies with full trading and distribution rights—eliminating the need to go through trading companies blessed by the Chinese government;

China will be required to greatly expand access to its market for agricultural goods, ranging from cotton, wheat, soybeans, rice and farm products across the spectrum.

China will for the first time be required to provide real access to financial services providers—allowing U.S. banks, insurers and other providers significant new access.

Why would we walk away from these new and dramatic benefits—particularly when our market is already open to Chinese imports?

Both the farming and manufacturing community in my home state—as in states across the country—have voiced strong support for increased trade with China.

They know that we cannot afford to neglect economic ties with a nation of more than 1 billion people, and a market that already is the sixth largest for U.S. agricultural exports. They know that with expanded trade China is projected to account for more than one third of the growth in U.S. agricultural exports. Whether it is cotton farmers in the delta or poultry producers in central Mississippi, our farmers need China's market.

We also stand to make huge gains in the high tech sector, where the U.S. leads, and where my state is growing in leaps and bounds. Only 2.5 percent of China's population has a computer and only 1 percent has access to the Internet—but these numbers are growing rapidly.