

the preservation of the heritage of our community. It is with great pride that I congratulate the staff and members of the Sandy Spring Museum as well as the entire community as they celebrate their achievements and the heritage of their community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following recorded votes due to funeral services for my father. I wish the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following had I been present:

No. 587, H.J. Res. 122: Passage of Continuing Appropriations for FY2000, "aye"; No. 588, Motion regarding House Meeting Hour for November 2, 2000, "aye"; No. 589, H. Con. Res. 397: Passage of resolution voicing concern about serious human rights violations and fundamental freedoms in Central Asia, "aye"; No. 590, H.R. 4577: Passage of Holt motion to instruct conferees on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY 2001, "no"; No. 591, H.R. 4577: Passage of Wu motion to instruct conferees on Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations, FY2001, "no"; No. 592, H.J. Res. 123: Passage of Continuing Appropriations for FY 2000, "aye"; No. 594, S. 2796: Passage of Water Resources Development Act of 2000 Conference Report, "aye".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on November 2, I was away from the House and missed one vote. Had I been present I would have voted as follows: Roll No. 592, Further Continuing Appropriations—"yea."

FINANCIAL TIMES

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member would like to bring the following insightful opinion piece from the November 1, 2000, edition of the Financial Times to the attention of his colleagues. Written by Mr. Jagdish Bhagwati, the Andre Meyer senior fellow in international economics at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, this commentary accurately describes the weak record of the current Administration over the past eight years in achieving needed comprehensive trade liberalization. It then forcefully identifies the disturbing consequences for further liberalization, which is beneficial to the United States and the international trading system, should Mr. GORE win the presidency. I submit the following article into the RECORD.

DISCRIMINATION DISGUISED AS FREE TRADE

A Democratic Victory in the Presidential Election Would Bring Disturbing Consequences for Liberalization, Argues Jagdish Bhagwati

Many card-carrying Democrats among America's trade experts are unable to make up their minds as the day approaches when they must cast their vote for George W. Bush or Al Gore.

When they think of social issues, the Supreme Court vacancies to be filled and spending on liberal programmes, they turn to Mr. Gore. But when they think of the Clinton-Gore administration's record on trade policy and of what Mr. Gore promises to do, they sit up and shudder.

The unpleasant reality is that the outcome of the election has huge implications—disturbing under Mr. Gore and comforting under Mr. Bush—for trade liberalisation and the trading system.

Start with the current administration's record. True, the White House saw through both the Uruguay round of trade talks and the North American Free Trade Agreement. But while the administration fought hard and well—as indeed a Republican administration would have done—both were Republican initiatives that the present administration inherited when they were already at an advanced stage. Furthermore, the real heroes who delivered the majority votes were Republicans.

The Democratic administration's only home-grown success has been with Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China. But the deal was entirely one-sided, with China giving the U.S. everything on market access and the U.S. giving China nothing but entry into the World Trade Organization.

The Democratic team passed off these deals as a great victory for the US and for free trade. But no amount of spin can hide the ineptitude that led to the first ever failure in 1997 by a US administration to get fast-track authority renewed by Congress: Bill Clinton managed to bring only a fifth of House Democrats on board to vote for renewal.

Nor can one forget or forgive the debacle in Seattle last year when a deadly mix of mismanagement and calculated cynicism—pandering to the labour unions with an eye to the elections—dashed hopes of launching a new round of multilateral trade negotiations and brought the WTO into unmerited disrepute.

Underlying these failures, and prospective problems under a Gore presidency, are two legacies of this administration: surrender to the notion that free trade requires "fair trade"; and a capitulation to labour unions that fair trade requires market access to be conditional on a social clause at the WTO on fulfilment of labour standards, now tactically defined as "workers' rights".

The rise of fair trade owes much to the first Clinton-Gore administration's fixation with Japan. Bent on branding Japan as an "unfair trader" and going for high-profile but fruitless confrontations such as the car dispute, the administration made "unfair trade" a favoured tactic in the political domain.

The labour lobbies have been smart enough to adapt their demands accordingly. For decades they have worried about foreign competition and outflow of investment, especially in labour-intensive goods such as apparel and shoes. Now, they have a great new argument: unless labour standards elsewhere are similar to those in the US, trade is unfair and must be stopped. This way, you get on to higher moral ground. You also do so in the battle over markets. If poor countries accept the demands, their costs should rise and

the competition will be reduced. By contrast, if they do not their exports will be cut off. This is a cynical game where governments that badly need support from the labour unions even as they turn to the "third way" see domestic political gain in caving in to these demands. The Clinton-Gore team—unlikely Tony Blair's British government—is no stranger to this tactic. Last week's announcement of a free trade agreement with Jordan—with labour and environmental standards stipulated in the text—left John Sweeney of the AFL-CIO trade union jubilant and fired up for the election. Charlene Barshefsky, the US trade representative, has called it a "template" for all trade treaties by the US.

Only a significant power would have the hubris or the chutzpah to present a trade agreement with a monarchy essentially dependent on the US, with a minuscule trade volume, as a model for the rest of the world to emulate.

But that Al Gore thinks so is certain. Indeed, his policy statements and the Democratic platform are unambiguous: no trade liberalisation without such preconditions. If so, we can forget the WTO where nothing but a big north-south divide will follow, as it did in Seattle largely as a result of this issue.

And so, under Mr. Gore, Washington will contemplate more templates with inconsequential performers, multilateral trade liberalisation will languish, and the WTO will atrophy as the world is plagued by yet more inherently preferential free trade agreements masquerading as genuine non-discriminatory free trade. Is this what we deserve?

TRIBUTE TO BILL BARRETT OF NEBRASKA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the respected representative of Nebraska's Third Congressional District, the Honorable BILL BARRETT, is retiring from this House at the end of the 106th Congress. BILL has served five productive and distinguished terms in this House. I know that BILL's presence here in Congress will be sorely missed. I wish BILL the best of luck in the coming years. The gain of Lexington, Nebraska is a loss for this body and the American people.

BILL BARRETT was elected in 1990 and his constituents have sent him back every election since, and by resounding margins I might add. As Chairman of the Farm Commodities, Resource Conservation and Credit Agriculture Subcommittee, BILL has served not only the needs of his mainly rural Nebraska constituents, but the needs of farmers across the nation. In 1996 BILL was instrumental in passing the Federal Agriculture Improvement Reform Act or FAIR Act—legislation authorizing the majority of U.S. agricultural programs until 2002. And BILL has been a leader in his efforts to improve education in rural communities across the United States, particularly as a respected Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee. BILL's hard work and dedication on Agricultural matters will be missed, he leaves some very large shoes to fill come January.

Then there is the matter of our resemblance. Some have claimed that BILL and I are

similar in appearance. To compound matters even further, there is a third Member, TOM EWING of Illinois—and TOM is also retiring this year—who is said to share our resemblance. Well, I can't say for certain which of the three of us gets the better end of that comparison, but I do know that I wouldn't mind being confused for BILL BARRETT when it comes to this enthusiasm for smaller, more efficient government. Since helping to bring a Republican majority to Congress in 1994, BILL BARRETT has been a steadfast voice in bringing fiscal responsibility back to the federal budget process. His efforts to ensure a balanced budget and to restrain federal spending over the past ten years have been instrumental in bringing about the budget surplus that we enjoy today. That is something that BILL can be very proud of during this retirement years.

I've known BILL and Elsie since I was first elected to this House in 1992. BILL quickly became a trusted friend, one who could always be counted on to provide clear and useful information, wise insight, and good, solid counsel. To a freshman Member of Congress in 1992, BILL's friendship and wisdom meant a great deal to me. It still does. I place the highest value on that friendship.

I wish BILL and his family heartfelt congratulations on his retirement and I thank him for his many years of public service to America.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and a sense of loss that we ponder the passing of a truly great public servant, Sidney Yates. I had the pleasure of working with Sid during my entire career in the U.S. House of Representatives. During that time, I came to know him as a tireless servant to the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Illinois and the nation as a whole.

Sid served with distinction in the House of Representatives for 24 terms. During his tenure, he was a constant champion of the arts and, as Chairman of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, an unswerving advocate for the conservation of our public lands. To many of his colleagues, however, Sid was an inspiring example of dedication, character and integrity. He has been and will continue to be missed in the halls he walked in for so many years.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN S. TAMRAZ

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American who has been honored with the AMVETS Silver Helmet Americanism Award, Lincoln S. Tamraz.

Lincoln S. Tamraz has been an active member of AMVETS for over 50 years. He has held numerous leadership positions, including being elected national commander of

AMVETS. He worked successfully to establish the Assyrian American AMVETS Post No. 5. Mr. Tamraz is serving his second term as national president of the Past Association of National Commanders.

In addition to his extraordinary leadership of AMVETS, Mr. Tamraz has also dedicated himself to spreading the ideals of the American flag. He has been an active member of the AMVETS Flag Day committee where he has assisted with the establishment of the Avenue of Flags, which places flags on the graves of veterans in Illinois cemeteries. He has also tirelessly worked to ensure that Chicago public schools receive an American flag each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Lincoln S. Tamraz and his superb leadership and patriotism of over half a century. I am exceedingly proud to know him and honor him for making our country a better place for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 592, H.J. Res. 123, the 13th Continuing Appropriations Resolution, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH
DISPARITIES RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my House colleagues JOHN LEWIS, BENNIE THOMPSON, CHARLIE NORWOOD, and JESSE JACKSON, Jr. who are champions in this important effort to address the issue of minority health disparities. This is a matter of deep concern to not only African-Americans, but also to Hispanic-Americans, Native-Americans, and other minorities who are clearly underserved by the American health care system.

Despite continuing advances in research and medicine, disparities in American health care are a growing problem. This is evidenced by the fact that minority Americans lag behind in nearly every single measure of health quality. Those measures include life expectancy, health care coverage, access to care, and disease rates. Ethnic minorities and individuals in medically underserved rural communities continue to suffer disproportionately from many diseases such as cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. There have been numerous studies in scientific journals showing the severity of racial and ethnic health disparities and the need for action in order to remedy this grave problem.

For these and countless other reasons, it is time for the Nation to focus on this problem and to work to bring fairness to our minority citizens in the Nation's public and private health care systems. There is no better place

to start this effort than the focal point for Federal health research, the renowned and highly respected National Institutes of Health.

Since 1996, Congress has increased funding for basic medical research at NIH from \$12 billion to over \$18 billion—over a 50 percent increase. These funds support 50,000 scientists working at 2,000 institutions across the United States. I have been proud to support these increases, but I think it is now time that we target some portion of those funds on the Nation's most acute health problems among our minority citizens—and I might add, minority taxpayers.

Let me say that I am delighted to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3250. Among other provisions, this legislation will elevate the existing office of Research on Minority Health at NIH to a National Center for Research on Minority Health. This upgrade to the level of National Center would in itself underscore the importance of this work, and along with expanded research and education, improved data systems and strengthened public awareness, we will be taking a great leap forward in addressing this critical national problem.

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act will increase our knowledge of the nature and causes of health disparities, improve the quality and outcomes of health care services for minority populations, and aid in bringing us closer to our mutual goal of closing the long-standing gap in health care.

I am deeply committed to this legislation, and I urge you to support my colleagues and me in our effort to rectify this inequality in health care.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, on November 1, I missed several votes. Had I been here I would have voted as follows: Roll No. 588, that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 2—"no"; Roll No. 589 to agree to H. Con. Res. 397, Violation of Human Rights in Central Asia—"yea"; Roll No. 590, Holt Motion to Instruct—"yea"; Roll No. 591, Wu Motion to Instruct—"yea".

THE WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWNS
IN MARYLAND

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 3, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, for the third year in a row, the Westfield Shoppingtowns in Maryland have been fulfilling dreams in their local communities.

Westfield Works Wonders is a fundraising event that has helped over 125 Maryland nonprofits raise funds for their organizations. Traditionally held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, tickets to the event are sold by local charities for an exclusive evening of shopping and festivities. One hundred percent of the