

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

COMMEMORATION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago Lithuanian American communities across this nation gathered to reflect and celebrate the 84th year commemorating Lithuanian independence. In Southfield, Michigan, this community gathered on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center.

On February 16, 1918 the Lithuanian people proclaimed an independent state ruled by the people, free from German military control. For most of the 20th century, however, authoritarian regimes prevented Lithuanian nationalists from enjoying the fruits of liberty and democracy. In 1990, after five decades of oppression under Soviet control and a relentless passion for freedom and democracy, the Lithuanian people once again proclaimed their independence.

The United States relationship with Lithuania is strong and growing stronger. Today Lithuanian and American leaders, governments and people are able to enjoy a great partnership. A significant goal of this partnership is the commitment to the security of the Baltic region and the promotion of democracy and freedom around the world. To achieve this goal the Republic of Lithuania is making great economic, social and political progress in an effort to secure membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The role of NATO in preserving peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area is essential for all people; Lithuanians must not be the exception.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lithuania, those of Lithuanian ancestry around the world and Lithuanian Americans in celebrating the 84th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 7, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I will support this measure.

The bill before us responds to the urgent needs of hundreds of thousands of people who are out of work and whose unemployment benefits have been or soon will be exhausted. It also provides important provisions that can help speed up the recovery from recession and create jobs.

My only regret is that it has taken so long for us to take up this kind of bill. If we had

done so sooner, fewer people would have reached the end of their benefits and the economic recovery might be moving at a faster rate. So, I hope that the fact the bill must go back to the Senate will not lead to further unnecessary delays.

To show why prompt action is essential, I am attaching a story from this morning's Rocky Mountain News. It reports that Colorado's unemployment rate recently surpassed the national rate for the first time in more than a decade.

We also have a high concentration of high-tech employment—and many provisions of this bill are particularly important for high-tech firms, which is another reason I support it.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Mar. 7, 2002]

JOBLESS PICTURE BLEAK

(By Heather Draper)

Colorado's unemployment rate hit 5.7 percent in January, its highest level since 1993 and surpassing the national jobless rate for the first time in nearly 12 years.

The U.S. employment rate in January was 5.6 percent.

The state's increase from 5.1 percent in December was the second-highest jump in the nation behind New Mexico, which recorded a 0.9-point rise from December, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday.

Colorado's 3-percentage-point increase from its historic low of 2.7 percent in January 2001 was also the nation's second-largest year-over-year increase, behind Oregon's 3.1-point jump.

"It's definitely of concern," said Patty Silverstein, economist with Development Research Partners. "We haven't seen levels like this since the early 1990s. You can't really sugarcoat this."

The state's 5.7 percent seasonally adjusted jobless rate translated to about 135,000 Coloradans out of work in January.

The city and county of Denver's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate hit a whopping 7.4 percent in January, up from 6.1 percent in December and 3.4 percent in January last year, according to the state Labor Department.

About 69,000 metro Denver residents were unemployed in January, 21,200 of those in Denver County alone.

"The last time Colorado's jobless rate was higher than the national rate was March 1990," said Tom Dunn, chief economist for the state legislative council. "We have a higher concentration of high-tech employment here and a lot of travel-related jobs, so Colorado has been hit harder. And I think, Sept. 11 introduced a whole new wrinkle (in the economy)."

Dunn said the recession hit Colorado later than the rest of the nation, so the state will start to recover later.

Economists were surprised by the size of the state's increase, as most were predicting unemployment of about 5.5 percent in January.

"All bets are off now," Silverstein said. "It's hard to say how much higher we might possibly go. The bottom line is that we aren't out of the woods yet."

The unemployment rate is a lagging economic indicator, but "that is still a huge jump," said Tucker Hart Adams, economist with US Bank

"The recession may be officially over, but I think that's kind of irrelevant," Adams said. "The layoffs continue and housing is getting worse. I just don't see any signs of strength locally."

At least one economist was a bit more bullish on the state's economic outlook. "I think the good news is that the U.S. economy has bottomed out," said Sung Won Sohn, Chief economist at Wells Fargo & Co. "Since Colorado's economy depends so much on the U.S. economy, we have to view the U.S. economic outlook as the light at the end of the tunnel."

Job losses were greatest in Colorado's trade sector, with 16,000 fewer jobs in January 2002 than December 2001. Government jobs were down 12,200, and service industry jobs were down 11,400, the labor department said. The only sector to see an overall gain in January was the finance, insurance and real estate sector, which was up 1,100 jobs.

Pueblo had one of the state's highest unemployment rates in January at 8.2 percent, up from 6.5 percent in December 2001 and 4.7 percent in January 2001. Colorado Springs hit 6.8 percent unemployment in January, up from 5.6 percent in December and 3.2 percent a year ago.

The Boulder-Longmont area registered 5.7 percent unemployment in January, up from 4.7 percent in December and more than double its 2.4 percent rate a year ago.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA STAHL

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Jessica Stahl, my constituent from Rockville Centre who has been chosen as a top student finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search (STS), a nationwide competition honoring young people for outstanding work in science and research. Jessica's 10th place prize was the largest awarded to a Long Island finalist this year. She will receive a \$20,000 scholarship prize for finishing in the top ten.

Jessica is a seventeen-year-old senior at South Side High School. Jessica's project was a research project on dance therapy titled "Development of a Movement Analysis Instrument and its Application to Test the Effect of Different Music Styles on Freedom of Body Movement." Jessica wanted to determine if one style of music could produce more expressive and freer movement than others. She developed an original method for quantifying body movements, something no previous researcher had achieved, then found one musical piece that was available in classical, rock, jazz, dance, and reggae styles—Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Jessica believed that the answer could have applications in dance/movement therapy for emotional as well as physical problems. Her results pointed towards reggae as the most liberating.

The awards, presented by Intel Corporation, honor young people for being the nation's

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