

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IDEA FUNDING

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today I want to address an issue that is of great concern to my home state of Oregon, and to states around the country.

When Congress enacted the predecessor legislation to the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) in 1975, we made a commitment to provide children with disabilities access to a quality public education. The assumption was that education for children with disabilities was, on average, twice as costly as education for nondisabled children. As a result, Congress authorized the federal government to pay up to 40 percent (sometimes termed the IDEA "full-funding" amount) of each state's excess cost of educating children with disabilities. Not once in the past 28 years has Congress lived up to its obligation and states have had to shoulder the brunt of this unfunded mandate.

The state and school districts are forced to pick up the additional costs, putting additional strain on our education funding. The FY 2003 appropriation for Part B of IDEA was \$8.9 billion or 17.6 percent of the "excess cost," leaving states and local school districts with an unfunded federal mandate of over \$10 billion. That is \$10 billion that our states and school districts could be spending to alleviate state budget crises, reduce class sizes, build and modernize schools and implement technology into education.

States across the Nation are dealing with an economic crisis, facing large state budget deficits and making deep cuts to services. In my home state of Oregon, the latest round of budget cuts have hit essential services such as education, and Oregon school districts are facing many tough decisions including shutting down early.

Make no mistakes about what this legislation is about: it is about keeping the promise of funding the mandate the federal government has put on the states and relieving the school funding crises that states across the Nation are facing. In Oregon, this legislation would provide about \$100 million that the federal government is obligated to fund for education, each and every year. With state's budget crisis, threats of a shortened school year and significant layoffs, this money is very important.

It is high time we renew our commitment to our Nation's children and pay the federal government's share of the cost of IDEA. That is why Congresswoman Nancy Johnson and I are introducing legislation that would appropriate money to bring the federal government's share of IDEA funding to the full 40 percent by FY 2008 and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

THE PRESIDENT'S STEEL PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, for years our jobs have been washing away in a flood of cheap, dumped foreign steel. Until the Bush Administration, these calls for help fell on deaf ears. On March 5, 2002, the President imposed tariff relief for a period of three years. One year later, the proof is irrefutable—the President's steel program is working. It is critical to the continuous success of the President's plan that tariff relief remain in effect for its full term.

U.S. steel companies, such as Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation and Weirton Steel Corporation, have made tremendous efforts to remain competitive in the world market. Labor and management have worked together to make brutal decisions. Wages have been cut; the number of workers and managers has been reduced; new efficiencies and technologies have been pursued; bonds have been restructured to reduce interest expense and avoid bankruptcy. Despite these sacrifices and improvements, these steel companies were still suffering from illegally dumped foreign steel.

Since implementation of Section 201 tariff relief, the industry has made significant progress toward restructuring and consolidation, and these efforts will continue. The international talks on overcapacity and subsidies are making real progress. In addition, domestic producers have enjoyed improvements in revenues, operating income, and capacity utilization. A number of companies have returned to profitability, while others have shown significant improvement even though they have not yet become profitable.

There have however been significant surges of imports from certain excluded countries, and, to the extent there is any concern about the program, it is that too many imports could be undermining relief. In fact, imports of flat-rolled steel increased substantially after imposition of Section 201 measures in 2002, as compared to the same period in 2001. Therefore, the Section 201 tariff measures must be fully enforced if our industry is to arrive at a successful conclusion. While recovery will take time, the President's plan has allowed the industry to make a real start.

THE OLD GRANITE LADY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss S. 168, the San Francisco Old Mint Commemorative Coin Act, introduced by Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator BOXER of Cali-

fornia. The proposal would create commemorative coins to help pay for the restoration of the San Francisco Mint known widely as the "Old Granite Lady." I commend Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER for undertaking this commendable effort.

The San Francisco Mint was in service from 1870 to 1937, survived the San Francisco earthquake of 1906, and was utilized until a few years ago as federal offices. Today, modern building codes require that it be reinforced before it can safely be used in an area that is still prone to earthquakes.

I recently read an article in the February 11, 2003 edition of the Numismatic News, which I ask to be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my remarks, written by Bergen County Freeholder and my hometown Fair Lawn, New Jersey Mayor David L. Ganz, proposing modifications to S. 168 to further stimulate interest on the issuance of this coin. His proposals are worthy of consideration. Specifically, Mayor Ganz proposes to have commemorative coinage re-issued using historic coin designs that were widely used in the 19th century, are associated with the San Francisco Mint, and which would offer to coin collectors the affordable opportunity to receive proof specimens—a means to boost sales, increase the surcharge that will be used to help restore the Mint, and provide an exciting collector's opportunity as well.

For example, coin collectors know the tale of the 1870 three dollar gold piece with the "S" for San Francisco Mint mark on the reverse. The coin is unique and was formerly in the Louis Eliasberg collection. It is valued in the millions. There are other proof or uncirculated three dollar gold pieces that are quoted in Numismedia, a coin pricing guide, that sell for thousands of dollars.

The 20-cent piece also has a long history associated with the San Francisco Mint, including the 1875-S coin produced more than a century ago. An uncirculated example of this coin would cost hundreds of dollars. The same is true for the Liberty head nickel and the Barber dime—where the 1894-S, one of only 24 specimens known, is a six-figure rarity and a regular design is hundreds of dollars in pristine, uncirculated condition.

Mr. Ganz calls for special collector coins not intended for circulation, but bearing original designs of a century ago utilizing a contemporary date. They would be produced in proof, as uncirculated pieces, and offered to collectors with a modest surcharge that could raise \$123 million, if the coins sold out, to help restore the Old Granite Lady.

Mr. Ganz's comments merit consideration for many reasons, not the least of which is that he is a respected numismatist. A former member of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee, he is one of the people credited by former Mint director Philip Diehl as being the source and inspiration for America's state quarters—which have given \$5 billion back to the American taxpayer. I have known Mayor Ganz for many years and believe that his ideas merit consideration, and I hope that

• 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.