

1588, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY04 (rollcall vote 500). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." Additionally, I was unable to vote on Motions to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification and Equity Act (rollcall vote 501) and on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act (rollcall vote 502). Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on each motion.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON OF
AUGUST 28, 1963

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a profound sense of pride that I rise today in support of H. Res. 352, which remembers and honors the March on Washington of August 28, 1963.

Mr. Speaker, our nation recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of this historic demonstration—an event that forever will stand for the proposition of full and equal rights for all Americans. This resolution will serve as a lasting tribute not only to one of the largest peaceful political demonstrations in U.S. history, but will also pay homage to the organizers and participants for their dedication and commitment to the realization of civil and equal rights for all Americans.

Culminating in Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, the March on Washington demonstrated that a collective force dedicated to the principles of non-violent protest could successfully fight prejudice and discrimination against African-Americans and other minorities. Properly commemorating this historic event and those who participated in it will also send a message to our youth that the struggle for civil rights continues. That we must remain resolute in our efforts to realize Dr. King's dream of a nation where one is "judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

Mr. Speaker, again it is my honor and privilege today to lend my wholehearted support to this important piece of legislation—which recognizes the monumental significance of the 1963 March on Washington in the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. I want to thank my colleague, Sanford Bishop for sponsoring this important resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Resolution and to never let the dream of Martin Luther King die. I leave my colleagues with a quote from Dr. King which should serve as a gauge in every action and for every vote we take here in this esteemed body, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

BUSH MANUFACTURING PLAN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, since President Bush assumed the presidency in January

of 2001, American and specifically Michigan manufacturing jobs have been lost because of our trade policies, the lack of effort by our President to open closed markets, and because of the tremendous cost of pension and health care legacy costs. Last week, the Michigan Democratic Delegation sent a letter to the President detailing a fourteen point plan that we felt could help alleviate the dire situation manufacturing finds itself in. Early this week, Commerce Secretary Evans detailed the Administration's plan to save American manufacturing jobs.

I am submitting an article from today's Washington Post, by Steven Pearlstein, which describes our President's efforts at reviving our manufacturing sector as "feeble." America has lost nearly three million jobs since January of 2001. The tax cuts have not worked. War has not worked. And President Bush's plan to save our manufacturing jobs won't work either.

A FEEBLE PLAN TO SAVE U.S.
MANUFACTURING

(By Steven Pearlstein)

After a dozen town meetings, a road trip by three Cabinet officers, months of study and countless meetings of assistant secretaries, the Bush administration has finally brought forth its program to rescue the American manufacturing sector. And it's a bad joke, a melange of tired ideas, empty promises and ideological slogans, and an embarrassment for the White House economic team.

The policy was unveiled in a much-anticipated speech to the Detroit Economic Club by Commerce Secretary Don Evans. Instead of offering his knowledgeable audience a cogent, thoughtful analysis of the problems facing manufacturers, Evans trotted out old Rotary Club canards about high taxes, oppressive regulation and frivolous lawsuits.

While correctly identifying runaway health insurance costs as a problem, he failed to come up with even one serious remedy.

And although Evans grabbed headlines with tough talk about China, the only action to back it up—hold on to your hat now—was a new Unfair Trade Practices Team at Commerce to "track, detect and confront unfair competition," as if there weren't already several hundred bureaucrats doing just that.

Perhaps most laughable was Evans's boast that George W. Bush had single-handedly revived the free-trade agenda—conveniently forgetting that President Bill Clinton expended enormous political capital to push through NAFTA and China's accession to the WTO, ignoring as well the inconvenient fact that his own administration had just sold out American manufacturers at trade talks in Cancun to protect subsidized beet farmers and cotton growers.

So what would a serious commerce secretary concerned about manufacturing have said?

First, she would have leveled with her Detroit audience, warning that there are industries and industry segments that are structurally vulnerable to foreign competition and can't be "saved."

She would have warned them that in key industries such as machine tools, survival depends on the consolidation of small, family firms into larger ones that have the clout to deal with large customers, the money to engage in research and development, and the size to realize economies of scale.

She would have acknowledged that the president had been ill advised to cut federal funding for manufacturing research and promised to make amends in the next budget cycle.

She might have floated the idea of a 1 percent tariff on all imports to finance extended unemployment benefits, health insurance and training vouchers for displaced workers, grants to their communities, and financial relief to employers offering early-retirement incentives.

Rather than ranting about regulations that have proven successful in protecting worker safety and public health, she might have said that fair trade requires trading partners to maintain minimal regulatory standards of their own, consistent with their level of economic development.

And she would have acknowledged that while China was making great strides toward developing an open, free-market economy, it wasn't there yet—and that continuing to trade with China as if it were had caused undue harm to American workers and companies. Then she might have announced the immediate imposition of temporary tariffs and quotas on imports of half a dozen key Chinese products, followed by an open invitation to negotiate their removal just as soon as China is ready to get serious about opening its distribution system to U.S. products, protecting U.S. patents and copyrights, and pegging its currency at a reasonable exchange rate.

It is possible to make the case for such an aggressive industrial policy. It is also possible to make a case for doing nothing. But the Bush administration has come up with the worst of both worlds—doing nothing while pretending otherwise and hoping nobody notices until after the next election.

THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION SALUTES
CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week under Public Law 105–225. This marks the 216th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.

Our Constitution has served us well for over 200 years, but it will continue as a strong, vibrant, and vital foundation for freedom only so long as the American people remain dedicated to the basic principles on which it rests. Thus, as the United States continues into its third century of constitutional democracy, let us renew our commitment to, in the words of our Constitution's preamble: "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. . . ." I know that the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution joins with me in urging all Americans to renew their commitment to, and understanding of, our Constitution, particularly during our current time of crisis, when Americans are fighting overseas to defend our liberties here at home.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS
WEEK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be here tonight, and I want to especially thank my good friend, Congresswoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ from New York and applaud my House colleagues for their hard work in bringing us together here to acknowledge the important role small business plays in our economy and thank those small business owners for their many contributions.

I've always said that small business is the backbone of our State and national economy. Many small businesses are suffering in these trying financial times. Government contracts and spending are a vital source of revenue for small businesses, and in economically tough times it is vital that all levels of government continue to pay diligent attention to small business in their purchasing and contracts. Small businesses do not have high powered lobbyists, and it is important that we ensure that businesses of all sizes have access to government contracts regardless of their ability to buy influence.

Today I would like to discuss some important federal legislation that I believe will have important and positive implications for small business, job growth, and economic recovery in this country. Two of the top priorities for the remainder of the 108th Congress are reviving the struggling U.S. economy and reauthorizing the federal highway and transit programs.

I am also pleased to announce a congressional resolution that I have authored which will continue aggressive advocacy on behalf of American firms competing abroad, and specifically encourage small and medium-sized American businesses to explore trade openings and gain access to potentially lucrative markets, such as Iraq.

We all believe that America's small businesses must not be left behind in the globalization process. Although small businesses are the backbone of the American economy, the overseas investment potential of the small business sector remains relatively untapped.

This resolution's objectives are to continue aggressive trade promotion and advocacy on behalf of American firms competing abroad as well as to focus on the next generation of trade issues growing out of the changing global marketplace.

As Congress continues its work, I will be working to make sure that more good news is on the way for small businesses. And I want to assure you that I will continue to strongly support Federal programs that benefit small businesses.

Both our Federal and state government has an obligation to aid, assist and protect the interests of small businesses. The future of America depends on it.

TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL GREAT
MICKEY VERNON

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, September 20, 2003 will be a special day for legendary baseball batting champ Mickey Vernon as his hometown of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania honors their favorite son by unveiling a life size statue of Vernon on the same ball field where he played sandlot ball. The statue will be unveiled at 2:30 p.m. at the Marcus Hook Memorial Field on Market Street.

Mickey Vernon is a hero in my hometown. Marcus Hook is a close-knit, working-class town on the Delaware River. The people of Marcus Hook have community spirit and have much cause for civic pride. One of the unifying bonds in our hometown is our great pride in the career and achievements of Mickey Vernon. In the ballparks of Marcus Hook the name of Mickey Vernon is revered. Even today, more than thirty years after his retirement, kids in Marcus Hook still play ball in the Mickey Vernon Little League.

Mickey Vernon, one of baseball's greatest first basemen of all time has earned a special place in the annals of baseball history. Mickey played 21 years in the big leagues, thirteen of those in our Nation's Capital where he played for the Washington Senators. He was known as a slick-fielding left-handed first baseman with a short, compact lefty swing.

In 1946, Mickey won the first of his two American League batting titles, hitting .353 while banging out a league-leading 51 doubles and knocking in 85 runs. He won a second Silver Bat in 1953, when he again lead the league with a .337 average and 43 doubles. That year, he also smashed 15 home runs and drove in a career-best 115 runs.

For his career, Mickey batted .286, drove in 1,311 runs, and hit 490 doubles. He played in seven All-Star games, and after a time held career records for first basemen in assists, put-outs, chances, and games played. He was durable and consistent, playing 115 or more games for 14 straight years.

It is well known that Mickey Vernon was President Dwight D. Eisenhower's favorite player. On opening day, 1954, with Ike in attendance, Vernon hit a home run in the 10th inning to defeat the New York Yankees. President Eisenhower called Vernon into his box to congratulate him.

Typical of many ballplayers of his era, Mickey lost two years in the prime of his career,

1944-45, because he answered his country's call to service during World War II. When we honor individuals like Mickey Vernon we promote the essence of what is good and wholesome in our Nation. Individuals like Mickey Vernon represent the essence of courage and endurance—the qualities that helped make our Nation great. He is a true American hero in every sense of the word.

Few towns in America can claim to be birthplace of a genuine baseball hero, and the people of Marcus Hook are very proud to call Mickey Vernon one of our own.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mickey Vernon for his outstanding career and his major league contributions to baseball, to his community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Nation with best wishes as well to his wife, Libby.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
ALL SCHEDULES PRESCRIPTION
ELECTRONIC REPORTING
(NASPER) ACT

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, on September 4 my colleague FRANK PALLONE and I introduced the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting (NASPER) Act. This legislation would establish a national electronic data bank for practitioner monitoring of schedule II, III and IV controlled substances.

Our Nation has been fighting a long battle against the scourge of drug abuse and its devastating effects upon our society. The lives that are ruined, the families that are destroyed, and the loss to societal productivity are almost impossible to comprehend.

Unfortunately, one of the fastest growing areas of drug abuse is through the diversion of prescription drugs. This diversion can include such activities as "doctor shopping" where individuals go from doctor to doctor obtaining multiple prescriptions, or through the illegal sales of prescription drugs by doctors and pharmacists, or by prescription forgery.

My own State of Kentucky has been hit particularly hard by the epidemic of oxycontin abuse. In a 2001 hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and State, Rod Maggard, a former police chief in Harzard, KY, testified on the effects of the oxycontin epidemic on our State. He told committee members how the drug had "demoralized our community . . . it bankrupted spiritually, morally, and financially people all over our area." The Associated Press reported how Kentucky was experiencing a crime wave as addicts sought to obtain the drug oxycontin.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that one of the most effective ways we can help prevent prescription drug abuse is by getting information to those who are on the front line in this battle—that is the doctors, themselves. Today, in most States when a patient walks into a doctor's office requesting prescription medication, that doctor has no way of knowing if he is the first physician that patient has seen or the fifth. He simply has to rely on the patient to be honest with him. Now obviously, if this patient is an addict or is trying to scam the doctor, the doctor is not going to be told the truth. And yet