

I don't believe that the concerns I have listed outweigh the potential good of the bill, so I will vote in support of it today. It is not perfect, but I believe it represents an agreement that is essentially free and fair. Expanded trade is important to this country and the world, but it will only be beneficial to a broad range of people in our nation and in other nations if it is carefully shaped to include basic standards and protect workers' rights and the environment.

CELEBRATING THE COMPLETED
RENOVATION OF THE MONROE
EVENING NEWS BUILDING

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate The Monroe Evening News and its approximately 150 employees, who also own the newspaper, on the successful completion of a year-long renovation of their building.

Serving the people of the Monroe County region for 179 years, this newspaper has advanced its values of integrity, community, and growth while remaining one of the few employee-owned newspapers in the country. The Evening News has been recognized for more than its longevity, winning several prestigious awards including the Annual Award for Communications Excellence in 1996.

The Monroe Evening News has been published from its current location since 1910. Demonstrating an ongoing need to best serve their readers, this renovation, costing \$3,000,000, will be the third renovation to this building. The renovation has reconfigured the entire interior of the building; creating an enhanced main entrance and expanding the customer-service area. While the interior has an updated, contemporary look, the exterior and additions will maintain the historic appearance of the long-standing building.

As The Monroe Evening News opens its newly overhauled offices, I would ask that my colleagues rise and join with me in congratulating a thriving, employee-owned daily newspaper on a successful, fruitful renovation. As The Evening News approaches one hundred years in the same building, let us wish them the best of luck for the next hundred years and beyond.

I ask for unanimous consent to include in the RECORD these remarks from celebrated political columnist Jack Germond, who started his legendary career at The Monroe Evening News:

I am privileged to join John Dingell in congratulating The Evening News, a newspaper that taught me many of the most valuable lessons of journalism when I worked there as a young reporter from 1951 through 1953. The newspaper had standards that were a model, and the publisher, JS Gray, was impervious to pressure. When you wrote a story that was accurate and fair it went into the paper no matter who complained how loudly. There were no sacred cows, not always the case everywhere. Looking back on more than 50 years in the business, I cherish the memories of my time in Monroe.

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR G. REUTHER, JANUARY 1, 1912–JUNE 3, 2004

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Victor G. Reuther was born January 1, 1912, in Wheeling, West Virginia, where his father, Valentine, was well known as President of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly and as an active churchman. Victor was educated in the secondary schools of that state, and along with his brothers, by their father as well. The strong religious influence of Victor's early family life is revealed throughout his life in his continuing interest and activity in relating core ethical values to the broad field of social and economic life. Victor studied economics and sociology at the West Virginia University and at Wayne State University. Years later he was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Laws by both of those universities.

In 1932 Victor joined his brothers Walter and Roy in Detroit for work in the auto industry. Between 1932 and 1935, Victor and his brother Walter, both unemployed, used their meager savings to travel and work their way around the world. They traveled by bicycle through Europe and Asia, lodging with farm families and at hostels, and visited relatives in Germany. They witnessed the beginning of the Nazi government in Germany and the growth of Stalin's despotism in Soviet Russia, where they worked at the Gorky auto factory. Those observations and firsthand experience led them to become strong, pro-democratic leaders for freedom and social justice. On return to the United States, Victor went to work on the assembly line of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company in Detroit where he plunged into the struggle to organize the automobile workers in Michigan and Indiana.

In a break from organizational drives, Victor Reuther and Sophie Goodlavich were married on July 17, 1936, on the campus of the Brookwood Labor College—a rich marriage of shared labor, love, family, friends, and a common commitment to social justice of 60 years.

A member of UAW Local 174, Victor was a strike leader during UAW campaigns in Flint and Detroit. He first came to public attention through his role in the sit-down strike in the winter of 1936–1937 against General Motors in Flint where his voice from the sound truck rallied the strikers and the women who supported them. UAW success in that strike played a key role in establishing the right of workers to bargain with auto industry employers. From that time forward he was closely identified with the dynamic growth of industrial unionism, not only in the automobile industry, but throughout America's basic industries organized by the CIO.

With the onset of World War II, Victor served as Assistant Director of the UAW–CIO War Policy Division, a department created by the UAW–CIO to facilitate speedy and orderly conversion and mobilization of the nation's urgent defense production. In the spring of 1946, Victor Reuther was appointed Director of Education for the UAW. In this role he led a fundamental approach in the development and consolidation of pro-democratic forces in the UAW. In the years following World War II,

Victor assisted in the location of trade unionists and social democrats throughout Europe who had escaped Nazi persecution, bringing them to the attention of Allied occupation forces in the search for leadership in the re-establishment of civil democratic government. He also represented the CIO on the Trade Union Advisory Committee in the conduct of the European Recovery Program—the Marshall Plan.

On May 24, 1949, in an attack identical to that against his brother Walter, Victor was shot by an unknown assailant while reading the evening paper in his living room. He suffered very serious injuries including the loss of his right eye.

Victor Reuther served as European Representative of the CIO, with headquarters in Paris, France, from January 1951 through 1953. His work led to a greatly expanded program of assistance to the free European labor movement. Representing the CIO, he implemented the program of trade union aid for the democratic European unions. Awards bestowed by the governments of Germany and Sweden, noted below, reflect the multiple contributions of Victor Reuther in international leadership and accomplishments in freedom, democracy, and social justice.

With their return to the United States in 1954, the Victor Reuther family made their home in Washington, DC—the family home for the next 50 years. That home not only served the family, but it served as a most hospitable refuge for friends, the extended family, trade union colleagues, social activists and international visitors for all those years.

On his return from Europe, Victor served as Assistant to the President of the National CIO and Director of the CIO's Department for International Affairs. Following the AFL–CIO merger, he served as Administrative Assistant to the President of the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), and as Director, UAW Department of International Affairs. His contributions to international social development programs extended to Asia, Africa, and Latin America as well as in the United States. He worked intensively in India, South Vietnam, Israel and the Mediterranean countries for the purpose of initiating programs designed to deal with food deficits, the need for democratic leadership and skilled manpower requirements. One of these undertakings was the joint effort of the UAW with the Peace Corps under which the union participated in a mechanical training program in the African Republics of Guinea and Gambia and in Bolivia.

Victor Reuther retired from his formal responsibilities in the UAW in 1972, but he always remained a committed member of that union he loved. Throughout the following 28 years he continued to direct his heart, his mind and his voice in advocacy of democratic trade unionism, social justice, and understanding among all people. In his initial years of retirement he researched and wrote *The Brothers Reuther*, and *The Story of the UAW, A Memoir*, a history of family and of the UAW.

In the early 1980s, with the strong encouragement of his wife, Sophie, Victor returned attention to ongoing trade union issues. Joining with other activists he gave active support to the Association for Union Democracy and to Teamsters for a Democratic Union, which won major changes in unions. He maintained close fraternal contact with the Canadian Auto