

first of many government markets to close to foreign competition.

When it comes to information technology, China is a waking giant. With a total information and communications technology marketplace of almost \$100 billion, the Chinese appetite for computers, software and networks has more than doubled since 2000. All things being equal, China's high-tech growth is a good thing. With more than 1 billion people and a rapidly growing economy, China should be a tremendously positive trading partner, and the U.S. information technology industry has championed China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

But to be widely embraced, the door to global trade must swing both ways. Not even considering a piracy rate exceeding 90 percent, China is now considering taking the additional step of rolling back the access that foreign software companies currently enjoy in the Chinese government procurement market.

China is in the process of implementing a "buy Chinese" software procurement policy for government systems, which, if implemented restrictively, will dramatically inhibit foreign involvement in software sales to the Chinese government.

New draft procurement rules would require foreign software firms seeking Chinese government business to either perform 50 percent of the development work in China and assign copyright to a Chinese entity or make substantial R&D and capital investments in China. Even those foreign companies that might meet China's R&D, manufacturing or outsourcing requirements could not compete fairly for government contracts. Any Chinese government entity that wants to procure foreign software eligible for purchase on these grounds would have to apply and obtain a specific waiver.

Equally troubling, China is asserting a larger government role over the operations of the Internet itself.

In a society like China's, one that represses dissent and rewards conformity, Internet access to news and information from countless points of view is nothing less than a threat. This is no doubt why Chinese officials have jailed dozens of citizens for "subversive" Internet-related activity, including issuing warnings about the spread of SARS or advocating greater democracy.

This also explains China's interest in blocking politically incorrect Web sites, collecting data on the Internet use and site visits of individuals, monitoring Internet service providers—even keeping tabs on Internet cafes.

Not exactly an advertisement for a government-run Internet. But at the Working Group on Internet Governance, a group affiliated with the United Nations, China said "the basic principles of the Internet, namely, openness, fairness, and democracy and freedom" are being diminished by the failure of governments to play a more prominent role in Internet governance.

Even though the Internet has flourished in a governance environment that brings together government, the private sector and civil society, China rejects this "trilateralism" because it denies "the due responsibility and role of governments in Internet policy-making."

China wants full access to the U.S. market while attempting to shut down the access that U.S. companies currently have to its market. At the same time, China's government-first stance on Internet governance threatens to throw sand in the gears of Internet proliferation (and the democratizing influence it represents). The U.S. information technology industry wants to continue to support China's role as a major trading partner. But that is possible only when free trade is truly free.

THE BRAVERY OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bravery and courage of the Little Rock Nine as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. At the time, these nine young African-Americans took heroic and dynamic steps toward achieving an integrated educational experience that would enhance their opportunities for a quality education.

Fifty years ago, the idea that white and black students would sit in the same classroom, amongst other places, was unbearable to many. Individuals on both sides of the race line could not fathom the possibility of an integrated educational system. The racism and segregation that dominated the country at the time was also vile and vicious. Fear and intimidation had long been the mark of this country's racial past, evidenced by the lynchings that the Senate recently apologized for not taking action against. For those young men and women to take the brave steps toward equality by presenting themselves as instruments of change must have taken a lot out of them.

Their bravery and courage nonetheless were the steps that have led this country to greater tolerance and understanding. It took heroes, like the Little Rock Nine, to lay the path for the important advances of today. Imagine where this country would be if these individuals had failed to step forward, to demand a desk at an integrated school, and to walk into American history demanding the fulfillment of the American Constitution.

With machine guns at the ready, screaming mobs, and death threats hurled at them, these nine young men and women bravely walked through the mob and into their classrooms. Their actions laid the foundations for a revolution in the American educational system. It called for an equalization of the way schools and communities would operate to ensure that all Americans received an equal opportunity to education and knowledge and that the doors of progress would no longer be closed to future generations of Americans, based on their race.

Today we have cause to applaud these valiant efforts. The Nation has moved significantly towards provided educational opportunities for all of our citizens and given them access to true opportunities of access and influence. There is still much to be done though. States still spend disproportionately more, per student, on white schools than black schools. The facilities of some minority schools lag way behind those of predominately-white schools. Whites often take advantage of private educational systems, draining the resources of public schools. The effect is a continued deficiency in the educational opportunities of our students.

Nonetheless, we have made considerable progress in our movement towards equality. That progress is largely thanks to individuals such as the Little Rock Nine. Without their bravery and courage in the 1950s, this country would still have much work to do in terms of equal opportunity.

I also want to thank my House colleagues for introducing and passing this resolution to recognize and honor those brave nine students. It is a sign that we have accomplished so much in this country.

VENICE, CALIFORNIA TURNS 100

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, there are few communities in the world that are instantly recognizable, that immediately conjure up an image, an identity, a lifestyle. Venice, California is one such place—a place that people dream about in the depths of winter; that promises eternal sunshine, warm beaches, buff and shapely lifeguards; and the soothing, ceaseless wash of the waves.

On July the 4th, as our Nation celebrates its 229th birthday, Venice, California celebrates its 100th. As a resident of Venice, I am proud to join my neighbors and local leaders in acknowledging this remarkable milestone.

Founded in 1905 by real estate entrepreneur Abbot Kinney, Venice was modeled after the canals and boardwalks of its namesake in Italy. Kinney's vision established Venice as an entertainment mecca, attracting visitors from around the world to its amusement park, boardwalk businesses, ocean swimming and street performances.

Since its inception, Venice has been a perennial attraction for artists and free spirits, beatnik writers, and innovative musicians—from Jack Kerouac to the Doors. Venice today remains a hub of artistic expression and cultural diversity with its graffiti art murals, sidewalk musicians, street basketball games, roller skate dancers, bodybuilding competitions, and lively restaurants, shops and cafes.

Venice is not only one of the nation's most unique artistic communities, it is booming with well-informed, politically engaged, civic-minded activists. A visit to the wonderful Farmer's Market on any weekend morning provides ample evidence of the community's wide and varying interests. In addition to a great cup of coffee, fresh baked goods and delicious local produce to feed the body, one can feed the mind at the many booths promoting diverse and important political, environmental and local causes.

The award-winning Venice Family Clinic is the largest free clinic in the country and provides inspiration to the community through life-saving health care for low-income, uninsured and homeless individuals.

Whether through the skills they learn at the Venice Boys & Girls Club or by cultivating their imagination at Venice Arts in Neighborhoods, our children grow up to be productive citizens. Many go on to dedicate themselves to enriching the community through the Venice-Marina Rotary or the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent the diverse Venice community in the United States Congress. Each 4th of July, we celebrate two historic events together: American independence and the founding of our hometown.