

INTRODUCTION OF VISIT USA
LEGISLATION**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, as a cochair of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, I am honored today to introduce the "Value in Supporting International Tourism in the United States Act of 1998" or the "Visit USA Act". My caucus cochair, Rep. MARK FOLEY of Florida, joins me in dropping this important bill.

Why do we need an NTO?

The reason is simple—it makes good economic sense. The travel and tourism industry is one of the Nation's largest employers, providing 16.2 million jobs. It directly employ 7 million people, and indirectly employs an additional 9.2 million Americans. 92 percent of the tourism industry is composed of small- and medium-sized businesses throughout every region of the country.

The industry ranks as the first, second, or third largest employer in 32 States and the District of Columbia, generating a total tourism-related annual payroll of \$127.9 billion.

In my district on the central coast of California, it is the second largest industry, bringing in more than \$2 billion and directly employing close to 26,000 residents.

The industry has become the Nation's third-largest retail sales industry, generating a total of \$489 billion in total expenditures. The industry generated \$71.7 billion in tax revenues for federal, state, and local governments.

While the private sector, States, and localities currently spend more than \$1 billion annually to promote particular destinations within the United States to international visitors, the Federal Government spends zero dollars—zero dollars—promoting the United States as a tourist destination.

In 1997, more than 54 million foreign visitors spent \$98 billion in the United States. Imagine the benefits to our Nation's economy if we were to actively seek foreign visitors.

In 1997, 17.9 million more people visited France than the United States. Yes, 17.9 million more people chose to visit France over the United States. One hundred nations around the world spend hundreds of millions of dollars annually to promote international tourism in their countries. And each year the United States loses more of its market share to nations actively promoting tourism. By dropping this bill, we hope to change this trend.

The Visit USA Act will establish an Intergovernmental Task Force for International Visitor Assistance. The task force will examine signage and make suggestions where necessary to facilitate international visitors' travel in the United States. The task force will address the availability of multilingual travel and tourism information and the means of disseminating such information.

The task force will also examine the feasibility of establishing a toll-free, private-sector operated, telephone number, staffed by multilingual operators, to provide emergency assistance to international tourists.

Additionally, this legislation instructs the Secretary of Commerce to complete, as soon as may be practicable, a satellite system of accounting for the travel and tourism industry.

The satellite system of accounting would provide Congress and the President with objective, thorough data that would help policymakers more accurately gauge the size and scope of the domestic travel and tourism industry and its significant impact on the health of the Nation's economy.

Let me assure my colleagues who were skeptical of the NTO that this bill is not business as usual. The Visit USA Act requires the travel and tourism industry to match every public dollar spent on marketing the United States with private funds and requires the industry to pay the administrative expenses of the NTO.

I encourage my colleagues to review this bill, think about the impact of the tourism industry in their district, and become a cosponsor of the Visit USA Act.

THE WORLD IS WATCHING

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, the world watches while China begins her long march toward superpower status. Regrettably, the view is exceedingly grim for those concerned with the continued abuse of their citizen's most basic human rights.

The current American administration has promised progress in China in return for more open markets. Of course we recognize that this administration, like so many others, is blinded by the vision of China as the next great export market. Further enticing the President is the realization that cheap Chinese imports fuel America's economy by driving inflation down. The sad truth that underlies this economic phenomenon is that Chinese slave labor is the economic engine that drives America's inflation downward.

Will America conclude that such an economic truth is acceptable, or will it conclude instead that cheap goods paid with human blood is far too expensive for our taste. As America decides, the beast slouches toward Bethlehem.

This past week, United Nations Commissioner Mary Robinson visited Communist China. The Washington Post reported that while entering her hotel, the wife of a jailed Chinese political leader was hauled off by Chinese security agents.

During Ms. Robinson's visit, a veteran Chinese democratic activist was arrested for attempting to register a free party in China. In Shanghai, Yao Zhenxian was also arrested for discussing the formation of a party.

A journalist was dragged from his home on September 5 for editing a group of essays on political reform written by government scholars and journalists, according to the Washington Post. Shi Binhai was arrested for nothing more than being a journalist reporting on his country's future.

America remains silent.

In his book on Robert F. Kennedy, Maxwell Kennedy introduces his work with a quote from his father's daybook. In that collection of quotes, Bobby Kennedy scribbled the following words: "No one can usurp the height but those to whom the miseries of the world are a misery and will not let them rest."

In plain view of the butchering of Buddhist culture in Tibet, we quietly slumber. In clear view of Christian persecution in communist China, America sleeps peacefully. In plain view of the entire world, America slouches towards an economically rewarding relationship with China that, unchecked by Western values given to us first in ancient Greece, could rot our nation's soul.

The whole world is watching. Chicago, 1968. . . . Washington, 1998.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE VIC
FAZIO

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to the fine gentleman from California, Mr. VIC FAZIO. We have been extremely blessed to have such a hard-working, fair leader in the Democratic Caucus and the House of Representatives. He has always tried to assist all Members, no matter what side of the aisle they are on. VIC FAZIO has consistently possessed a keen understanding of what it truly means to be a public servant. Through his dedication to listening to the needs of the American people and unfaltering leadership, VIC FAZIO has served as a strong role model for all current and future Members of the House of Representatives.

Vic, I congratulate you on your retirement, and thank you for setting such a high standard of excellence and integrity.

MODERATE POLITICAL LEADERS
IN BOSNIA DESERVE SUPPORT**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, while the results of the recent elections in Bosnia have been mixed, with the U.S. backed candidate for President of the Republic of Srpska—the Serb controlled part of Bosnia—defeated by a hardline ultranationalist, it is important for us to continue to support moderate political leaders in Srpska and throughout Bosnia Herzegovina. Although the ultranationalists have won the Presidency in Srpska, moderate political parties appear to still retain a plurality of seats in the Srpska parliament, and current Prime Minister Dodik, who has been a staunch supporter of political reform and the Dayton Peace Agreement, could still form a government.

For those who may not know him, Prime Minister Dodik is a courageous individual who has attempted to lead Bosnian Serbs away from the strident nationalism that caused the conflict in the former Yugoslavia toward political reform, ethnic reconciliation, and economic empowerment. During the war in Bosnia, Dodik, at some personal risk, spoke out against Serb persecution of Muslims and Croats. Since becoming Prime Minister in January 1998, Dodik has moved swiftly to implement political and economic reforms that enabled the Bosnian Serbs in many parts of

Srpska to receive the international assistance they were excluded from receiving because of their previous leadership's failure to carry out requirements under the Dayton Peace Agreement. Dodik permitted the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to open an office in Srpska, and encouraged individuals who have been indicted by the Tribunal for war crimes to turn themselves in.

Dodik's future as the head of the government of Srpska now hangs in the balance. If the ultranationalist who won the presidency, Poplasen, is unable to put together a government favorable to his extremist and rejectionist agenda, then new parliamentary elections in Srpska will be required. Some have questioned whether the United States and other western countries are at fault for producing the victory of Poplasen by providing too much support for President Plavsic, and in effect, making her the candidate of the "outsiders" in the minds of the Bosnian Serb electorate. While there may be some degree of truth to this, I believe that other factors such as the malign influence of Serbian President Milosevic had as much to do with the untoward outcome of the election as anything else.

In any event, Prime Minister Dodik has appealed for continued support from the international community. If we want to see moderates such as Dodik succeed in Bosnia, and this is essential to our exit strategy for our troops in Bosnia, I believe that we have no choice but to provide tangible support that Bosnian Serbs perceive as being linked to their support for the Dayton plan. If, on the other hand, the ultranationalists can reassert their grasp on power, we will need to rethink our entire strategy in Bosnia, and whether the creation of a multi-ethnic state that is stable and peaceful is possible to realize.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN GRAYSON ROTHROCK

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning Mr. John Grayson Rothrock was sworn in as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve. John has been a loyal and effective member of my staff and I am proud to share him with the Navy.

John fulfilled a lifelong ambition of serving his country in the U.S. Armed Forces. Surrounded by his mother, father and many friends he swore allegiance to the Constitution and its defense. I know that John does not take this oath lightly, because he is following a proud tradition in his family. His father, a combat veteran from World War II, participated in the ceremony and was able to receive the customary "silver dollar" for the first salute.

I am proud of John and recognize him for hearing the call of duty and answering it with service in the U.S. Navy Reserve. It is a pleasure to have John serve in my office and I join my staff in wishing him the best of fortune in his new undertaking.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and support September 21–27 as National Pollution Prevention Week which is currently being observed in the Second District of Ohio and around the Nation.

Protecting the environment while not adversely affecting a community's business climate is sometimes challenging but it is absolutely necessary. One of the most cost-effective ways to have clean streets, drinkable water, and breathable air is to focus on eliminating pollution before it is created. Clearly, it is much better to eliminate or reduce pollution at its source rather than have to dispose, treat, or release it into the air, water, or land.

Pollution Prevention Week is an excellent opportunity to heighten public awareness of these effective efforts. It can serve to encourage government agencies, the business community, environmental organizations, community groups, and most importantly, the general public, to work toward a cleaner environment and a more competitive, prosperous and sustainable business climate. This is a concept that we can all support, and is one embraced by the Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition and other constituents on Southwest Ohio to achieve these goals to improve the quality of life for everyone.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS M. BARRY

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to an outstanding American and citizen from my home state of Missouri, Mr. Thomas M. Barry, on the occasion of his appointment as President of SBC International's Telkom South Africa operation.

Tom Barry represents the finest attributes of corporate service—his is a true American success story. For over 30 years he progressed through a number of assignments in Southwestern Bell's Missouri division before his appointment as assistant vice-president for external affairs in 1985. The following year Tom was named vice-president for public affairs for the company's five-state operating area. In 1990, he became the president and CEO of Metromedia Paging Services, then an SBC Communications Inc. subsidiary. He became senior vice president for strategic planning for SBC in 1991 and the following year Tom Barry was designated senior vice president for federal relations.

In all of his business before Congress and with my office I have known Tom to be highly qualified to address the complex issues emerging in the telecommunications field. When Congress debated the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Tom demonstrated a unique understanding of the importance of balancing competing concerns, from his company's interest in competitive equities in the tele-

communications industry to the importance of preserving universal telephone service and the need for "e-rate" discounts and telecommunications services for schools and libraries and rural health care centers.

I was pleased to learn that Tom will now turn his talents to addressing the telecommunications needs of the people of South Africa. I have been informed that the telephone penetration level in South Africa is only 10% among historically disadvantaged households, a group that represents 87% of the population.

SBC's Telkom South Africa operations, in conjunction with their partners, have promised to implement an aggressive plan to modernize the existing communications network and expand telecommunications services throughout the country for the benefit of all citizens. Tom Barry's next mission is to bring telecommunications services to more than 20,000 priority customers—including hospitals, schools and community centers—throughout South Africa.

I am happy to join Tom's many friends and colleagues in congratulating him on a job well done in Washington and wishing him every continued success in his new undertaking as President of SBC International's Telkom South Africa office.

IN HONOR OF MARC MILLIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the breakthrough work of Marc Millis, the head engineer for Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Program at NASA's Lewis Research Center.

Since 1990, his tireless work has centered around the idea of how to build space vehicles that bypass the rules of physics and carry humans far into the universe faster than the speed of light. He gathers and explores a variety of ideas from his fellow colleagues and physicists throughout the nation. Although most of the ideas that come from this program are considered, as he puts it, "too far away from fruition for sponsorship," Mr. Millis has strong convictions to continue his research on how we can best explore the vast outer space. To recognize his important work, on August 31, 1998, Newsweek published the following article, "Department of Warp Drives and Wormholes." The text is as follows:

[From Newsweek, Aug. 31, 1998]

DEPARTMENT OF WARP DRIVE AND WORMHOLES

The geeks are getting impatient. Here we are practically in the 21st century, and human beings have never been to another planet. We've never accelerated to unimaginable speeds, warped space-time or manipulated gravity. And that's not good enough for Marc Millis, an aerospace engineer at NASA's Lewis Research Center. When he was a kid he watched "Star Trek" (all baby engineers do) and Jacques Cousteau on TV and wanted to be an explorer. "I assumed by the time I was old enough to get into the field, the rocket technology used by Apollo would be old hat," Millis says.

Would that it were so. NASA is still heaving metal into space with rockets. But there are signs of change—or at least willingness to change. Millis runs a small, meagerly