

The presence of the American Peace Corps volunteers in Fiji has made us in Fiji more aware of the importance of giving something back to society rather than expecting something from society. The fact that the volunteers have come from afar to give of themselves to a society they owe nothing to have made us realize that we are all a part of a global village. Thank you, Peace Corps, for that valuable lesson in the giving of oneself for the advancement of peace in this global community.

We, the people of Fiji, cannot be disheartened by this departure, for were it simply a matter of choice, we the people and the government of Fiji, would always prefer to maintain our personal and close relationship with the Peace Corps. We also sincerely believe that if it weren't for existing circumstances, this longing would be reciprocated by the government and people of the United States of America.

Then she concludes:

To all those Peace Corps volunteers presently serving or who have graced our tropical islands in the past, words simply cannot express the gratitude our people and government would like to extend to you all, especially your having given up a specific time in your lives to spend with us. In retrospect, I can only try and fathom the sense of your leaving behind your land of skyscrapers, freeways and mega-entertainment to come down to a country such as ours with its basic facilities, unfamiliarity, food and inclement weather.

Nevertheless, I can only be grateful for your courage and service towards humanity, for in your caring and hope for a more humane world, you have been great ambassadors of your great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the entire statement of the Deputy Prime Minister, and once again congratulate the Peace Corps, congratulate the volunteers who served, and congratulate our country for having the foresight, and a former President, President Kennedy, for establishing the Peace Corps.

The remarks of the Honorable Taufa Vakatale are as follows:

Honorable Christopher Shays, Peace Corps Director Mark Gearan, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all here tonight on behalf of the government and people of Fiji to farewell from our shores of the United States Peace Corps. Pleasure, of course, not in the Corps' departure, but in your attendance here tonight to share in this rather small gesture of appreciation towards the endurance, grace, self-sacrifice, and unwavering determination the young women and men of the Peace Corps volunteers, brought with them to our islands, and have shared with us over the last 30 years.

The contribution of the Peace Corps towards the socio-economic development of the country, among others in the immediate region, does not need any elaboration other than the fact that the cross-cultural exchanges since have further enriched our already diverse society. When the Peace Corps volunteers first came to Fiji, they were used mainly in teaching in the rural areas. The majority went out to remote rural primacy schools where they lived in thatched bures with no electricity, piped water and other basic facilities. They mingled with the villagers and spoke the language, are the local food and generally participated in all the communal activities such as fish-drives, Mekes, church services, etc.

The Peace Corps volunteers gave the local people a new insight into the English lan-

guage, with the variety of accents, pronunciations and spelling; they gave a new perception of what the white people or Europeans are really like. We learned that they are down-to-earth ordinary people—not a class above locals.

Many Peace Corps volunteers, over the years, have taken part in ceremonial Mekes, one performed with the people of Cakaudrove for Queen Elizabeth II's visit in the early 70's. One notable Peace Corps volunteer was renowned for making wine from local fruit, another helped to establish a museum collection of local artifacts, etc. in a school. Another volunteer who was a teacher in an outlying island helped the islanders to develop a cheap and effective Copra drier. Yet another, Alipate of Koro, turned to music and sang many Fijian songs which have been taped and sold locally. I could go on and on, but suffice it say that they have endeared themselves to the people of Fiji.

While Peace Corps volunteers have given their services in all areas of government, let me just highlight the Corps' contribution to education. In the early days the volunteers were posted to rural schools to help in the teaching of English and Math. We soon found, however, that we were wasting valuable resources and that this was not how we could use them efficiently. Hence they were posted to secondary schools to upgrade and assist in the teaching of math and science and at one stage, in the teaching of economics and accounting. We have not yet produced enough local teachers to replace the volunteers who were especially good in physics, chemistry and math, and my Ministry will certainly feel the gap left by the volunteers when they leave.

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The departure of the Peace Corps exemplifies one of the significant developments now taking place in our global community and which we developing countries will have to address immediately and effectively. That of diminishing assistance from developed countries in the North due to a general shift in foreign policy following the end of the Cold War and as their respective citizens demand improved public services neglected or overlooked prior to 1991.

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To all those Peace Corps Volunteers presently serving or who have graced our tropical islands in the past, words simply cannot express the gratitude our people and government would like to extend to you all, especially your having given up a specific time in your lives to spend here with us. In retrospect, I can only try and fathom the sense of your leaving behind your land of skyscraper, freeway and mega-entertainment to come down to a country such as ours with its basic facilities, unfamiliarities, food and inclement weather.

Nevertheless, I can only be grateful for your courage and service towards humanity,

for in your caring and hope for a more humane world you have been great ambassadors of your great nation. Your contribution to our nation is substantial and is gratefully acknowledged. In appreciation of your 30 years of dedication and devotion toward the progress of our nation let me say, "Vinaka Vakalevu."

The words of Dr. Albert Schweitzer come to mind as I try to find words to thank the American Peace Corps volunteers: "I do not know what your destinies will be. But I know that those amongst you who will be the happiest are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

I know you have come to Fiji to be of service and you have found how to give that service effectively to Fiji. It is thus my hope and the hope of the people and government of Fiji that you have been happy.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 856, UNITED STATES-PUERTO RICO POLITICAL STATUS ACT

Mr. SOLOMON (during the special order of Mr. SHAYS), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-426) on the resolution (H. Res. 376) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 856) to provide a process leading to full self-government for Puerto Rico, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

APPOINTMENT AS PARTICIPANTS TO THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON RETIREMENT SAVINGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of section 517(e)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1131), the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following participants on the part of the House to the National Summit on Retirement Savings.

Without objection, the names of participants will appear in the RECORD.

There was no objection.
Ms. Meredith Bagby, NY
Mr. James E. Bayne, TX
Mr. Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., SC
Ms. Joyce Campbell, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Hilda Cannon, GA
Mr. Christopher W. Clement, AZ
Mr. Benjamin Tanner Domenech, VA
Mr. Clinton A. Demetriou, GA
Mr. Pete du Pont, DE
Mr. Adam Dubitsky, Washington, D.C.

Ms. Lynn D. Dudley, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ric Edelman, VA
Mr. John N. Erlenborn, MD
Ms. Shannon Evans, NV
Mr. Harris W. Fawell, IL
Mr. Peter J. Ferrara, VA
Mr. Ray Gaydos, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Craig Gholston, TX
Mr. Arthur Glatfelter, PA
Mr. Dylan Glenn, GA
Mr. James T. Gordon, GA
Mr. Brian H. Graff, VA
Mr. Matthew Greenwald, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Brent R. Harris, CA
 Mr. Donald K. Hill, GA
 Ms. Amy M. Holmes, Washington, D.C.
 Ms. Karen A. Jordan, AK
 Mr. John Kimpel, MA
 Mrs. Beth Kobliner, NY
 Mr. Gerald Letendre, NH
 Mr. Ronald Lyons, OH
 Mrs. Patricia De L. Marvil, VA
 Mr. Philip Matthews, CT
 Mr. Thomas J. McNerney, CT
 Mr. Kevin M. McRaith, MN
 Ms. Rita D. Metras, NY
 Ms. Lena Moore, Washington, D.C.
 Ms. Dana Muir, MI
 Ms. Heather Nauert, Washington, D.C.
 Mr. Jeffrey M. Pollock, NH
 Ms. Pati Robinson, WA
 Ms. Andrea Batista Schlesinger, NY
 Mr. Eugene Schweikert, SC
 Mr. Charles Schwab, CA
 Ms. Victoria L. Swaja, AZ
 Mr. Richard Thau, NY
 Ms. Sandra R. Turner, FL
 Mrs. Sunny Warren, GA
 Mr. Albert Zapanta, VA
 Mr. Roger Zion, IN

THE EFFECT OF NAFTA ON AMERICAN LIVES AND BUSINESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, 3 months ago, Congress and the White House were locked in a heated battle over fast track, a very contentious issue, debate which we think for now has been set aside and put off until another day.

In the meantime, we have a real opportunity, in the calm after the storm, where we can begin a very thoughtful discussion with the American people about our engagement in the global economy.

I am pleased this evening to be joined by two distinguished colleagues who, together with me and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. MARCY KAPTUR), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALAN BOYD) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. KAREN THURMAN), took a trip through Georgia and Florida to talk to people who were affected by our trade policies. I am joined this evening by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BART STUPAK) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. BILL DELAHUNT).

Several of us, as I said, during the President's Day recess, got on a bus and went 500 miles. We stopped in some of the great cities of the South. We stopped in Atlanta and Tallahassee. We passed through small towns and countless miles of rural countryside. We visited farms and factories and cattle ranches and auto plants. We drove down bumpy roads. We took a few wrong turns, like we took one very long wrong turn. We stayed in people's

homes along the way. We talked and we argued late into the night, and passed the time with folk songs and laughter. We had some very unforgettable experiences.

How many of us have had the chance to drive through rural Georgia, listening to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS) tell stories of the Freedom Rides which rolled through the same countryside in 1961, or tasted fried alligator tail served by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. KAREN THURMAN) at a cattle ranch in someplace called Wacahoota, Florida, or followed the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALAN BOYD) to the top of the Florida State Capitol building for a birds-eye view of Tallahassee?

But the most important thing that we did on our journey was to listen, listen to people, listen to how these policies had affected their lives. We saw some inspiring success stories, like the Ford Motor Plant in Hatfield, Georgia, which is just outside of Atlanta, where managers and workers have turned a unique partnership into one of the most successful auto plants in the world. They won the J.D. Power Award for Excellence.

We had a very good discussion that lasted over an hour with workers and managers all working together to make a good product, to make a quality product that pays good wages. We heard sad stories, too. We met with workers who lost their jobs at Lucent Technologies, a plant that closed 2 years ago and moved to Mexico.

This is a picture of our bus, with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. BILL DELAHUNT), the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS), and some of the workers. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BART STUPAK) is right here. Some of the workers who had lost their jobs are here.

I remember talking to one woman who was standing in front of this plant. She had worked there 25 years. She quietly told what happened when her livelihood disappeared. Like many people today who lose their jobs because of trade, she got another one, but it only paid \$7.25 an hour, I believe, working at the Target store. She had been making \$15 an hour.

The telephone that she once assembled for Lucent is now made in Reynosa, Mexico. Do you know what they pay folks down there to do that? Less than \$1 an hour. But the price of the telephone, she told us, keeps going up. How did she know? She worked in the Target store now that sells those telephones.

We got on the bus from there and we went down to Columbus, Georgia, where we met with textile and apparel workers from throughout the region. They told us what happened when plants closed in small, rural communities where few opportunities are available for those who lose their jobs. More than 150,000 textile and apparel workers have lost their jobs in the past 2 years alone, 2 years alone.

Farther down the road, we visited with farmers who worked at a tomato packing co-op in Quincy, Florida. The once bustling facility now stands virtually empty. Since NAFTA was passed in 1993 more than half the tomato farmers in Florida have gone out of business. Many of these farms have been owned by the same families for generations. These people are very, very proud of their work, and they know they have nothing to fear from old-fashioned competition, but one after another, they told us of their story and their frustration.

Here they are, dealing with a situation in Mexico where tomatoes are grown with chemicals and pesticides that are illegal here in the United States. They are grown in unsanitary conditions and picked by workers, including children, children who are 11, 10 years of age, who toil for indecent wages. That is what they are up against. These Florida farmers wondered aloud how much longer they can stay in business under these conditions.

So what does a tomato farmer in Quincy have in common with a garment worker in Columbus, Georgia? What connects a cattle rancher outside of Gainesville with these people here, a high-tech telephone worker in Atlanta? There is a thread that connects all of these people and their diverse lives. They have learned something important, something that people in Washington and Wall Street still do not understand. These people know from hard firsthand experience that something is wrong with our trade policy. Those of us who work in Washington have a lot to learn from these folks.

We know, of course, that a single bus trip cannot solve such a complex problem.

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But these issues cannot be addressed without listening to the people who are affected and understanding what has happened to their lives.

We began such a dialogue with our 500-mile journey. This is a long-term debate. It is going to take many years, and we expect to be back on the road again soon to continue this discussion. I hope that others will join us from my party and the Republican Party as we work together to steer this Nation into the future. We can do this if we only find common ground, and we can find common ground if we engage in a dialogue, not only with each other but with the people in the country who are affected by these policies.

I believe, in conclusion, before I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DELAHUNT) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. STUPAK), that what we are advocating is a policy for the future, a trade policy that deals with the issues that our parents and our grandparents and their grandparents struggled with a hundred years ago. Those same issues are being struggled with in countries that we do trade with today,