

maybe 25 minutes, you know, sitting right across from Marion, she started crying, and then I would start crying.

Unidentified Woman #3: (From "Vermont Fallen") My last words to him . . .

Ms. BENSON: No way did we think we'd be so emotionally involved in the interview.

FRATANGELO: Word spread, and eventually the students, guided by Professor Bill Estill . . .

Professor BILL ESTILL: Go frame by frame.

FRATANGELO: . . . had 50 hours worth of interviews with families all over Vermont. Every interview is heartbreaking.

Mr. CRAIG McGRATH: This is Patty Holmes, whose son Jeffrey was a lance corporal in the Marines, was killed in Iraq.

Ms. PATTY HOLMES: (From "Vermont Fallen") When he had been home in April, I said, 'Jeff, I have to ask you something.' And he goes 'What?' 'I have to ask you for your forgiveness.' And he said 'Why?' And I said, 'Because I wasn't the mother I wanted to be.' All he did was hug me, and he told me he loved me.

FRATANGELO: Patty Holmes, and her husband Scott would have never guessed that simply taking part in this project would help them heal.

Ms. HOLMES: I just felt that nobody knew how I felt, and nobody could possibly understand. And meeting these other families, they understand.

FRATANGELO: Because of a documentary, all the families get together now for dinners, a trip to Washington, mostly for support.

It's as though this—being involved in this gave you permission to sort of let . . .

Mr. SCOTT HOLMES: Let your heart out. Let your heart—let the world know how you feel.

FRATANGELO: And people are listening. The film is being shown at the same high schools the fallen servicemen attended.

While the students at Norwich were documenting the pain of the Vermont families, they themselves were not immune to it. Four of their classmates have been killed in Iraq.

Ms. BENSON: Thank you to both—for I guess, is the second family for some of us.

FRATANGELO: All this talk about loss has made the young filmmakers reflect on their own lives. Steve will join the military after graduation. Amanda's sister is about to be deployed.

Have you had these conversations with your sister?

Ms. BENSON: Not yet.

FRATANGELO: Will you?

Ms. BENSON: Yeah, I think so. But I really, I just—I can't imagine.

FRATANGELO: No one imagined the lessons of this class project.

Mr. STEVE ROBITAILLE: Just unbelievable feeling knowing that you didn't just make a documentary, you know, you changed people's lives, and they changed ours.

FRATANGELO: Changed lives. Twenty-five families sat before cameras to talk about lost loved ones, and a new family emerged. For TODAY, Dawn Fratangelo, NBC News, Northfield, Vermont.

VISIT OF VICE PREMIER WU YI

Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the visit of Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi to Washington. This visit comes at an important time for the U.S.-China relationship and highlights the enormous stakes involved.

As I have said in the past, China's rise offers great opportunity but also

poses serious challenges. It is critical the U.S. do all it can to ensure that China's rise is peaceful and its trade practices fair, and under those conditions, the United States should welcome China's continuing emergence and prosperity.

At the same time, we must remain prepared to respond should China's rise take a problematic turn. This means maintaining our military presence in the Asia-Pacific region, strengthening our alliances, and making clear to both Beijing and Taipei that a unilateral change in the status quo in the Taiwan Strait is unacceptable. Also, though today China's military spending is one-tenth of ours, we must monitor closely China's strategic capabilities while also pushing for greater transparency of its defense activities.

Although we must remain vigilant in monitoring these potential developments, our two nations also should strive to build a relationship that broadens areas of cooperation where we share mutual interests, as we have done to respond to the nonproliferation challenge posed by North Korea. And we should strengthen our ability to manage our differences effectively. While we must never hesitate to be clear and consistent with China where we disagree—whether on protection of intellectual property rights, the manipulation of its currency, human rights, or the right stance on Sudan and Iran—these differences, as a general rule, should not prevent progress in areas where our interests intersect.

Trade and economic issues, the subject of the upcoming Strategic Economic Dialogue, are one crucial example of the significant opportunities and challenges China's rise presents.

China is now the third largest economy in the world and is an increasingly formidable commercial competitor. But China also is our fastest growing overseas market, fueling over \$50 billion in U.S. exports that help support thousands of export-related jobs. Many Americans also benefit from inexpensive Chinese products that keep down our cost of living, and China is an important link in the global supply chain that benefits U.S. commercial interests.

But none of that constitutes a reason to turn a blind eye to those areas of the economic relationship that are troubling. China ran a trade surplus with the United States of over \$200 billion last year—the largest ever between any two countries—accounting for nearly a third of our total global trade deficit. Neither America nor the world can accept such imbalances, and if they remain, it is inevitable that there will be demands for protection in America and elsewhere.

I believe that the answer to the Chinese economic challenge is not to build walls of protection but to knock down barriers, demand fair treatment for our products and services, and increase our own competitiveness.

Much of the hard work to be done lies at home. We must implement policies

to reduce our budget deficits and increase national savings—in order to reduce our dependence on borrowing to finance our deficits. We must ensure that our companies and workers have the tools they need to compete in the global economy. Among other things, this means stepping up our investments in education, training, and science and technology. We must make sure those Americans whose livelihoods are threatened by our changing economic relationship with China have access to the resources and support they need.

But China must bear a substantial share of the responsibility for restoring greater balance in its economic relations with the United States and the rest of the world. Just as the United States cannot unilaterally restore balance to China's economic relations, the United States alone cannot mute protectionist demands. China must itself act to bring greater balance in its global trade, so that all countries benefit from its growth.

I commend Treasury Secretary Paulson for pursuing a strategic economic dialogue with China, but it must produce meaningful and lasting results. Even as we develop a better understanding of how Chinese leaders view their own economic priorities, we need to confirm that these same leaders understand how the policies they pursue affect the United States and the global economy.

As a principal beneficiary of globalization, China needs to support and strengthen the international economic system as well. For example, it can and should take steps to increase consumption—drawing in more imports and reducing dependence on exports for growth. China needs a modern financial system to achieve this. American companies can help develop such a system but not if the playing field is unfairly tilted toward Chinese companies.

China can and should contribute to bolstering the world's economic system by allowing its currency, the renminbi, to be determined by market forces. Today, Beijing amasses as much as \$20 billion a month in foreign currency, with the effects of keeping the renminbi substantially undervalued and giving China an undue advantage in trade. The recent move to widen the currency trading band is useful, but China must move more quickly toward a market-based currency.

China can and should contribute to the success of globalization by providing stronger protection of intellectual property rights. The fact that 80 percent of the pirated goods seized by U.S. Customs come from China is unacceptable. It suggests just how much work needs to be done in this area.

China can and should contribute to the world's economic health by altering its energy policies—addressing the needs of its people at home while not exacerbating problems abroad. Domestically, China's priority should be to increase energy efficiency. A system

that requires twice as much energy as the United States to produce each dollar of economic growth is problematic.

At the same time, China needs to find cleaner sources of energy. Sixteen of the twenty cities with the worst air in the world are in China, and China is poised to overtake the United States in greenhouse gas emissions in 2 to 3 years. Just this week, a new report found that worldwide carbon dioxide levels have accelerated rapidly since 2000, in part because of China's reliance on coal.

China should rely on international energy markets to provide its oil and gas imports and work with the United States and others to develop common approaches to energy supplies and security. To continue seeking privileged arrangements with countries such as Sudan and Iran—states that commit gross human rights violations and that threaten to develop weapons of mass destruction—is to dramatically complicate efforts of the international community to address these questions and, in effect, to ratify these deeply troubling practices.

I hope Treasury Secretary Paulson can persuade the Chinese to change their practices. We will all be better off with a China whose emergence strengthens the international system rather than disrupts it.

China's economic growth is a good thing for China's 1.3 billion people, and can be a good thing for the United States. China is increasingly a constructive participant in the international system, and that trend should be supported and encouraged. But China cannot expect the United States and its overseas partners to tolerate unfair practices and glaring imbalances triggered by its rise. China needs to take steps that not only benefit its people but sustain the international system from which China itself benefits so greatly.

NATIONAL VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, when the Congress passed Public Law 106-50 in 1999, it was impossible to imagine the positive impact it would have on all veterans and, in particular, all those young men and women now returning from active duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. The Veterans Corporation, TVC, is a not-for-profit organization that amplifies business opportunities and the tools our veterans need to start and grow their businesses. Through unparalleled public and private sector business, and strategic partnerships with the U.S. Department of Defense, the Veterans Affairs Administration, the Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor, veterans have the three main ingredients for success: access to capital; access to bonding, and the important educational, mentorship and program case work followup.

Today, more than ever, our Nation's veterans present an opportunity for en-

trepreneurship. Entrepreneurship based on the skills and practiced discipline they embraced as part of their service to our Nation. Membership in TVC remains free to our veterans because the Congress invested wisely in this organization.

In partnership with the Surety and Fidelity Association of America, SFAA, we have a 50-State surety bonding program that includes a comprehensive education curriculum and a three-step process for veterans to secure the bonding they need on government contracts. Bonding is critical to service-disabled veteran entrepreneurs and to the Federal Government if the 3-percent goal, mandated by the President's Executive Order, is to be achieved. TVC's partnership with SFAA provides a complete solution to the mandate by fulfilling the needs for identification and qualification of service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, along with casework followup as veteran entrepreneurs experience growth in their businesses.

Access to capital for both business start-up and infusion growth remains the number one need of veteran entrepreneurs. To address this issue, TVC has formed a strategic partnership with the National Economic Opportunity Fund, NEOF. Through this partnership, TVC is able to assist veterans in obtaining micro-loans of \$500 to \$25,000 through ACCION USA. PNC Bank has also begun accepting referrals from TVC and has already funded one veteran-owned business. In addition, TVC is in the process of finalizing partnerships with several banking institutions to provide veterans with larger loan programs for their increasing business needs.

TVC's leadership has made extraordinary progress in addressing the broad scope of issues facing veteran entrepreneurs. While embracing the existing community networks of the Small Business Development Centers, the Department of Labor's One Stop Centers, and the Procurement Technical Assistance Centers, PTAC, TVC has been able to develop programs that complement and enhance the resources already available to current and aspiring business owners. By doing so, TVC is now providing the programs and services most needed by the veteran community, including access to capital and bonding, and is more effectively meeting the real needs of veteran entrepreneurs.

TVC's strength is in its ability to bring together the best in public and private entities to leverage scarce federal dollars in effectively and efficiently assisting veterans, service-disabled veterans, and members of the National Guard and Reserves, who want to start or promote growth in small businesses. By benefiting from the strong resources already available from national business networks, and by eliminating duplication of efforts through strategic partnerships, TVC has the programming and the capacity

to serve the needs of all veterans in 50 States.

TVC is working for our Nation's veterans and we have an obligation to continue funding programs that respond to all business entrepreneurial needs. We must build a solid transition from active military service to veterans' entrepreneurship. I am confident TVC is that investment.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WE THE PEOPLE HONORABLE MENTION

• **Mr. LUGAR.** Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Hamilton Southeastern High School's We the People class on receiving an Honorable Mention at the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution national competition held April 28 to 30 in Washington, DC. I am pleased that the members of the Hamilton Southeastern High School We the People class were among the 1,200 students from across the country who participated in this important event specifically designed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

I join family, friends, and the entire Hamilton Southeastern High School community in recognizing the hard work and dedication of the following members of the Hamilton Southeastern High School We the People class: Ben Anderson, Lauren Bowser, Austin Brady, Kristin Buckingham, Jesse Hawkins, Kirk Higgins, Chris Hill, Tiernan Kane, Nika Kim, Ryan Landry, Julie Lux, Rachel Morris, Jeff Neuffer, David Ostendorf, Ryan Puckett, Taylor Schueth, Matt Stein, Amy Thomas, Aleks Vitolins, and Edward Wolenty. I also wish to commend Jill Baisinger, the teacher of the class, who committed her time and talent to prepare the students for the national competition.

The success of the Indiana We the People program is also attributed to the hard work of Stan Harris, the State coordinator, and Lisa Hayes, the district coordinator, who are among those responsible for implementing this program in our state.

The We the People national competition is a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students are able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they evaluate and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education through congressional appropriations. I am proud to note that between 2003 and 2006, Indiana had 176,653 students participate in the programs offered through the Center for Civic Education, with 8,439,873 participating nationally.●