

development corridors reflect strong public support and the wisdom of local and regional planners.

Hats off to RTD for the sound financial management that has delivered this project and the Downtown Express on time and on budget, and for providing the safe, clean, and efficient travel alternative that has earned its distinction as one of the best transit systems in all America. This is especially remarkable given that RTD's service area of six counties and 39 municipalities encompasses 2,300 square miles and 2 million residents—one of the largest transit districts in the Nation. Unlike most other metropolitan areas which have experienced sagging ridership in recent years, RTD has posted 7 consecutive years of growth and a 5.6 percent increase just last year. Ken Hotard, Chairman of the RTD Board of Directors, the rest of the Board, as well as Peter Cipolla, RTD's General Manager, and the entire RTD staff deserve high commendation for their achievements and commitment to meet the challenges of the future.

BENNETT X-RAY TECHNOLOGIES

HON. GEORGE J. HOCHBRUECKNER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 1994

Mr. HOCHBRUECKNER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 13, 1994, the Advancement for Commerce and Industry [ACI] will hold its annual Business Leadership Award Dinner on Long Island. This year's honoree is Bennett X-Ray Technologies of Copiague, NY.

Bennett X-Ray is one of the Nation's leading manufacturers of radiographic and mammographic equipment. Breast Cancer is a major health concern on Long Island and Bennett's revolutionary new Contour Mammography System has received international acclaim for its innovative design and advanced technology. The contour system consistently images more tissue than existing systems for better chance of detection as well as providing a more comfortable exam for the patient than any other mammography system. In recognition of these important achievements, Bennett recently received a U.S. patent for its system.

Bennett is a 1993 recipient of President Clinton's prestigious E award for excellence in exporting. The E award recognizes selected U.S. companies for their competitive achievements in the world market and for their contribution to the U.S. economy. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo and the Long Island congressional delegation were on hand last fall to present Bennett with that well-deserved award. The Governor has also praised Bennett as a "metaphor for economic development" in New York and throughout the whole country.

The evolution of Bennett from a family-run business in the 1950's to a major international provider of medical equipment in the 1990's is a true testament to the vision and business acumen of Bennett's CEO, Cal Kleinman. I am very proud that Bennett is a Long Island company and is being honored with the ACI Business Leadership award this year and Mr. Speaker I am very proud to salute Bennett for the great strides it has taken in the fight against breast cancer.

AN ACCURATE INTERPRETATION OF THE HYDE AMENDMENT

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 1994

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I note that in response to litigation pending in Federal courts across the Nation, Representative HYDE came to the floor to define his own personal views of the meaning of both the fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 1995 Hyde amendment. According to Representative HYDE, nothing in the Hyde amendment prohibits States from enacting reporting requirements for rape and incest victims even if those State requirements foreclose the ability of women to obtain abortion under Medicaid. Indeed, my colleague goes further to make the claim that the Hyde amendment imposes no affirmative obligations on the States—in his view it is a permission rather than a mandatory requirement.

While my colleague is certainly entitled to his own view, I think it is important to clarify that his comments are not reflective of the language of the amendment itself, law in this area, nor the intent of Congress. In numerous decisions handed down over the last 15 years, Federal courts have found that States are mandated to provide reimbursement through their Medicaid programs for all medically necessary services for which Federal funding is available. Therefore, beginning in 1994, funds for abortion must be made available when a woman's life is endangered and when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. This has been the law since last year's Hyde amendment became law. As Justice Scalia recently noted when denying a stay in a case from Louisiana, the premise underlying court decisions on this question has been:

That Title XIX requires States participating in the Medicaid program to fund abortions—at least "medically necessary ones"—unless federal funding for those procedures is proscribed by the Hyde Amendment.

Justice Scalia continued;

[t]he Courts of Appeals to address this question have uniformly supported that premise. We have already denied certiorari in two of those cases, and it is in my view a certainty that four Justices will not be found to vote for certiorari on the Title XIX question unless and until a conflict in the Circuits appears.

As we enact this year's version of the Hyde amendment, I presume as always that we are enacting language which comports with holdings of the Federal courts in this area.

Moreover, in contrast with versions of the Hyde amendment passed in some prior years, there is nothing in the language of either this year's or last year's Hyde amendment that allows States to enact second physician certification requirements or reporting requirements for rape and incest victims, particularly ones that inhibit the availability of funding for victims of these brutal crimes. For fiscal year 1994, Representative HYDE proposed versions of the Hyde amendment that would have allowed reporting requirements but these were defeated on procedural motions to adopted by this House. Sexual crimes including rape and incest are among the most underreported crimes in the country and State reporting requirements would make it impossible for many

rape and incest victims to obtain both Medicaid funding for abortions and thus the necessary medical care they need. The actions of this House make very clear what was done. I want to ensure that there is no question at all about that.

TRIBUTE TO C. COURTNEY WOOD, EDMOND, OK

HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 1994

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. C. Courtney Wood, who is nearing the completion of his 1-year term as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America [IIAA]. Mr. Wood is a citizen of Edmond, OK, and owner of Courtney Wood & Associates, an independent insurance agency located in Edmond.

The closure of his term as the elected leader of the Nation's largest insurance trade association next week in Orlando will be the crowning accomplishment of Mr. Wood's many years of distinguished service to IIAA, his profession, and most importantly, to his 300,000 colleagues across the country.

His service to the national organization began in 1982 when he was elected to represent his state association, then the Independent Insurance Agents of Oklahoma, on the national association's board of directors. This election followed closely on the heels of his tenure as president of the Greater Oklahoma City local board and then as the top elected leader of the Oklahoma State association.

Courtney was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1987 and served with distinction for 6 years before rising to the presidency. Over his long and distinguished volunteer career with IIAA, Courtney has immersed himself in a number of industry concerns, most notably the creation and development of the association's markets development efforts.

In addition to his dedication to his profession, Courtney has been an active participant in his church and various community organizations including the Edmond Chamber of Commerce, the Young Men's Christian Association, and service as a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Edmond.

I congratulate my fellow Oklahoman and concerned citizen for a job well done. I am confident his selfless service to this association, his professional peers and his fellow citizens of Edmond will continue uninterrupted well into the future.

NAFTA'S MID-TERM REVIEW

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 1994

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives' hyperbolic debate on the merits of the Uruguay Round Trade Agreement on October 5, 1994, resembles its debate the previous year on the merits of the North American Free-Trade Agreement [NAFTA]. While both proponents and oppo-

nents have exaggerated the effects of NAFTA, Nebraska Columnist Cheryl Stubbendieck's article published in the York News Times reveals that Nebraskans have studied the facts and determined that NAFTA has already lived up to its expectations by greatly stimulating U.S. exports of goods and services, and especially agricultural commodities and products, to Mexico and Canada. Hopefully, Members of Congress will also recognize NAFTA's impressive results when they return at the end of the year to vote on the Uruguay Round Trade Agreement.

[From the York News Times, Oct. 6, 1994]

NAFTA AT SIX MONTHS: A POSITIVE REPORT

It's been six months since the North American Free Trade Agreements went into effect and the dire consequences NAFTA opponents had predicted haven't come to pass. What has occurred is just what proponents said: U.S. exports to Mexico have increased.

Overall, U.S. exports have risen by 17 percent during the past six months, to \$24.5 billion. Extended to a full year, exports should reach a record \$48.9 billion in 1994—an increase of \$7.3 billion from 1993.

NAFTA proponents said the agreements would be especially beneficial to agriculture and this has been borne out. Farm exports have risen 11 percent in the first six months, from \$1.93 billion to \$2.16 billion. Again projected to an entire year, that number should reach \$4.1 billion, half a billion dollars more than for 1993.

This year, U.S. exports to Mexico of many ag commodities and products have increased substantially. Feed grains, soybeans, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, soybean oil, sugars and sweeteners, red meats, poultry and fresh fruit have all seen increases in the half year since trade barriers were relaxed or removed.

Higher shipments of corn and soybeans are leading the increase, according to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who spoke to the Midwest Governors Conference in Lincoln in August. Corn exports were up 350 percent; soybeans, 61 percent; poultry, 26 percent; and beef and veal, 52 percent.

According to the Clinton Administration, these increased exports to Mexico—along with increases to Canada, the third partner in NAFTA—will mean up to 100,000 new jobs in the U.S. Opponents of NAFTA had preached that the U.S. would lose jobs to Mexico because of lower wages there. Instead, the competitive advantage the U.S. has for its ag products, particularly, has created jobs here.

The U.S. also has increased the amount of agricultural products it imports from Mexico, by 5.9 percent. For the entire 1994 year, imports should be around \$2.9 billion. When compared with our exports of \$4.1 billion, the U.S. will show a trade surplus of \$1.2 billion in farm products. Compared with last year, we're buying more coffee, tea, snack foods and fruit and vegetable juices from Mexico—although coffee and tea were already duty-free before NAFTA worked its magic on trade barriers.

The six-month report on NAFTA should go a long way to ease the fears of opponents who said the U.S. would lose from the trade agreements. U.S. farmers haven't lost markets, instead they've increased their share. U.S. jobs haven't migrated to Mexico, instead, new jobs have been created here.

The news on NAFTA is positive, but there will likely be better news to come: the expected passage of the long-sought General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade will make NAFTA's effects pale in comparison, according to Espy and others, and will boost the economies of the entire world.

MARKING THE SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF KHALISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 1994

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the suffering and the perseverance of the Sikh people of Punjab, in northern India. With little notice from the world's media, and little protest from the world's governments, the Sikhs have suffered terrible atrocities at the hands of Indian security forces who have put a stranglehold on the entire province. Rapes, torture, summary executions, and disappearances occur on a daily basis. Since 1984, over 115,000 Sikhs have died at the hands of Indian Government police, paramilitary forces, and death squads.

Out of this suffering, an independence movement was born. On October 7, 1987, 10 years ago today, major Sikh organizations in Punjab and around the world declared the independence of Khalistan—their homeland. I rise today in part to mark this important and solemn day. The fact that this independence movement has persisted for 7 years under the withering oppression of Indian security forces is a tribute to the Sikh people.

I rise also to recognize the work of the Council of Khalistan, based here in Washington, DC, and supported by Sikh communities across the country. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the president of the Council of Khalistan, has worked tirelessly over the last 7 years to bring the suffering of the Sikhs to the attention of the Congress, the administration, and the world community.

It was by the efforts of the Council of Khalistan that on January 24, 1993, Khalistan was accepted into the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, a well respected international body dedicated to advancing the peaceful aspirations of its member nations. Dr. Aulakh's work helped convince Congress to vote last year to censure India for its human rights abuses and cut its aid.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the horrible violations of basic human rights taking place against the Sikhs. According to "Dead Silence: The Legacy of Abuse in Punjab," published by Human Rights Watch/Asia: "Most of those killed (in Punjab) were summarily executed in police custody in staged 'encounters.' These killings became so common, in fact, that the term 'encounter killing' became synonymous with extrajudicial execution." According to one police officer interviewed by the report's authors, "Without exception, any person who is detained at the police station is tortured." Another police officer revealed that "Once I became a police officer, I realized that torture is used routinely. During my 5 years with the Punjab police, I estimate that 4,000 to 5,000 were tortured at my police station alone." There are over 200 police stations in Punjab serving as torture centers.

The Indian Government has also engaged in a campaign of intimidation and harassment against prominent Sikh leaders. Last month, retired Justice Ajit Singh Bains, chairman of the Punjab Human Rights Organization, was prohibited from leaving the country—at the airport—as he was preparing to travel to London

to speak at a human rights conference. This distinguished jurist has been under constant government surveillance. This is the same Justice Bains who testified in 1991 against Indian Government brutality in Khalistan before the congressional human rights caucus.

More recently, Simranjit Singh Mann, a former Member of Parliament, was charged with two counts under the internationally condemned Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act [TADA]. His crime was speaking in behalf of self determination for Khalistan at a Sikh temple. Last year, he was arrested and imprisoned for 52 charges under TADA. The trumped-up charges were dropped only after strenuous objections from the international community.

Mr. Speaker, the torture, the murder, and the rape of the Sikh people must stop. It is time for the oppression to end. I urge all of my colleagues to support my legislation to cut aid to India until its oppressive laws are repealed.

I also want to pay tribute to the strength, pride, and endurance of the Sikh people on the seventh anniversary of the declaration of Khalistan. Like the United States in 1776, the Sikh people are entitled to freedom, democracy, and human rights—which include the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Do those words sound familiar?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert into the RECORD the statement of Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, for whom I have the highest respect and admiration. I would also like to insert a letter to the President, signed by myself and 34 other Members of Congress urging him to take strong action regarding India's brutal treatment of the Sikh people.

[From the Council of Khalistan, News Release, Oct. 7, 1994]

SIKH NATION MARKS SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENT KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, DC.—"Today marks seven years since the Sikh nation boldly severed all ties with India and declared the free, sovereign, independent country of Khalistan," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Since the Sikh nation set its eyes on freedom, we have never looked back. Independence sits clearly on the horizon, and nothing India can do will deter the liberation of Khalistan."

Though Sikhs mourn the murder of over 115,000 of their countrymen by Indian government forces since 1984, the struggle for Khalistan's freedom continues unabated. "All the brutal oppression India has managed to muster has not been enough to crush the movement for Sikh freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "We have made great strides in the past seven years. The U.S. Congress and the international community now know the savage tyranny of the Indian government. Bills are regularly introduced in the U.S. Congress to protest India's occupation of Khalistan. Foreign aid to India has been cut by various donor nations. Everyday the Sikh nation progresses toward the ultimate goal of a free and independent Khalistan. The story of our suffering under Indian occupation has exposed the so-called world's largest democracy as one of the worst violators of human rights in the world. India today stands as an international pariah."

Much of the credit for this success can be attributed to the Council of Khalistan which has worked tirelessly to advance the cause of Sikh freedom. Under the leadership of Dr. Aulakh, the Council of Khalistan has helped to make Khalistan an international issue. On January 24, 1993, Dr. Aulakh led a delegation of Sikhs to the General Assembly of the Un-