

will join me in honoring the work that he has done for the city of Philadelphia, here in Congress and the work that he will continue to do on behalf of our country as Ambassador to Italy. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2931, to redesignate the naval facility located in Gricignano d'Aversa, Italy, currently known as the Naples Support Site, as the "Thomas M. Foglietta Support Site."

TRIBUTE TO THE PEREZ COUNCIL
#262, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to Perez Council #262 of the Knights of Columbus as they celebrate their 100th year of promoting the ideals of Columbianism in Passaic, NJ. The entire community has benefitted from the principles of this order, namely charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.

On September 7, 1897, a small group of Catholic laymen met with the Reverend John A. Shepherd to form what would eventually become the Perez Council #262, Knights of Columbus, Passaic, NJ. The founders quickly became pillars of the religious and civic community. The names Ryan, Bowes, Driscoll, Gallagher, Galvin, Whelan, Cogan, and Burgoyne still elicit fond memories from the older gentlemen of the Passaic members of the Knights of Columbus.

Through good times and bad, the Council has provided the moral leadership for the surrounding community. During the Depression era, the Passaic Knights of Columbus lost their home on Hoover Avenue and Washington Place. Yet, their spirit was kept alive by a number of dedicated members, who continued to meet regularly in the building they once called their own. Happily, in March 1947, with the help of His Excellency The Most Reverend Thomas H. McLaughlin, and our Chaplain, the Right Reverend Monsignor William V. Dunn, the Passaic Knights once again found themselves on firm financial footing, with a home of their own.

The Perez Council has much to celebrate, including a long and distinguished record of leadership in the field of religious activity. In 1912, the Council leapt into the fledgling field of the Retreat Movement, sponsoring trips to areas in New York and New Jersey for meditation. They have played a pioneering role in attempting to bridge the gap between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches. In 1956, the Council held its Annual Communion Breakfast in the Parish Hall of the St. Nicholas Ukrainian Church of the Eastern Rite.

The members of the Council have also distinguished themselves in service to our country. During the First World War, sixty-eight brothers were in the Armed Forces. Twenty-eight answered the call during the Second World War. Others served during the Korean War and the conflict in Vietnam. Many brothers continue to serve, giving up their time to assist injured Catholic veterans and help these veterans attend mass in the East Orange Veteran's Hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the entire Passaic area in con-

gratulating Perez Council #262 of the Knights of Columbus on one hundred years of serving the spiritual needs of the community.

RECOGNITION OF THE JAMES L.
GAMBLE FAMILY AS NORTHEAST
EL PASO FAMILY OF THE YEAR
FOR 1996

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the James L. Gamble family as the Northeast El Paso Family of the Year for 1996. Jim and Flo Gamble moved to El Paso in 1967 and have served the El Paso community with unmatched dedication ever since. Although Jim Gamble, Sr., passed away last year, the family has not relented in their pursuit of improving El Paso and the lives of all El Pasoans.

The Gambles have been members of Highland Presbyterian Church for more than 20 years. Jim Gamble, Sr., was a ruling Elder of the Session and chairman of the Worship Committee, which oversees worship services, communion, and supervises the positions of organist and music director. Flo Gamble is employed as secretary of Highland Presbyterian Church and teaches Sunday School to Junior High Youth.

Jim Gamble, Sr., served his country in the U.S. Army for 20 years. After his retirement from the Army, he worked for 14 years for the Federal Bureau of Prisons as physician's assistant at La Tuna Federal Correctional Facility until he retired again to turn his attention to community and civic pursuits with a goal of helping children and young people. He joined the Northgate Optimist Club and served as president, vice president, member of the board of directors, and secretary-treasurer. He was also active in the probe by Providence Memorial Hospital to bring medical facilities to Northeast El Paso. Jim was an ex-president of the Northeast Democratic Party and helped to raise funds for the Reach for a Star Program.

Jim Gamble, Jr., is the current president of the Northgate Optimist Club and has been nominated by his club for Lt. Governor of his district. He works in every area of the club functions, especially with the Reach for a Star Program and the Thanksgiving Dinner for young military men who are away from their families during the holidays. Jim Gamble, Jr., is also a member of the Highland Presbyterian Church and is currently serving as an Elder and works with the Fellowship Committee.

I am proud to recognize the entire Gamble family as the Northeast El Paso Family of the Year for 1996. On behalf of all El Pasoans, I would like to commend the Gambles for providing leadership and dedication in our community. They are shining beacons of hospitality and vitality, shining as bright as our star on the mountain.

CONTRAST BETWEEN TWO
LEADERS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, last month the ruler of Communist China, Jiang Zemin, was welcomed to Washington by President Clinton. During his visit to the United States, Jiang was defiant in his defense of Communist China's appalling record on human rights and its violations of non-proliferation agreements.

In the aftermath of Jiang's visit, I was interested to read the article that appeared on the front page of The Washington Post on November 8, 1997 relating to the democratically elected government of the Republic of China on Taiwan. Having met President Lee Teng-hui, I know of his deep commitment to democratic values and respect for human rights. The contrast between these two leaders could not be greater and I commend this informative article to the attention of my colleagues.

LEADER ASSERTS TAIWAN IS "INDEPENDENT,
SOVEREIGN"

(By Keith B. Richburg)

TAIPEI, TAIWAN, Nov. 7.—Facing pressure to renew high-level talks with China, President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has taken a defiant stand, ruling out concessions to Beijing and stating bluntly that Taiwan "is an independent and sovereign country."

In an interview at the presidential palace Thursday, Lee made it clear he is in no hurry to see Taiwan reunify with China—not until China "becomes free, democratic and has social justice." He said most Taiwanese prefer the status quo and do not consider Taiwan to be a province of China, as Beijing contends.

Lee repeated an offer made in his inaugural address last year to travel to China for a meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin. But he seemed to add a condition: He would go, he said, only if he were allowed to speak freely to average Chinese about Taiwan's experience with democracy.

"I'd like to talk to the people. I'd like to make a speech," he said. "I'd like to speak to young university students."

The hour-long interview provided Lee's first detailed comments to an American newspaper since Jiang and President Clinton met last week in Washington. Lee said he is not worried that the new "strategic partnership" between Washington and Beijing will jeopardize Taiwan's interests or change the island-state's security relationship with the United States.

"Taiwan is a symbol of American idealism," Lee said. "Freedom, democracy and human rights—Taiwan is a symbol."

In the interview and 11 pages of answers to written questions, Lee touched on a variety of topics, from concerns over Taiwanese business growing too dependent on investments in China to confidence that Taiwan will weather the turmoil afflicting East Asian economies. He said it is premature for Taiwan to lift its ban on direct shipping and air links with China. And he said his ruling Nationalist Party "never offered funds, nor has it ever participated in fund-raising activities" to help American political parties in recent elections.

Lee also weighed in on the debate over whether "Asian values" or Western-style liberal democracy is more suited to Asian countries developing their political systems. Lee said the talk of Asian having different values from Westerners is "nonsense."

"Human beings are human beings," he declared.

But it was his comments about Taiwan as an "independent" entity that seemed likely to draw the wrath of Chinese leaders. Lee, speaking in heavily accented English, several times referred to Taiwan as "independent." When asked if he really intended to use a word Beijing considers provocative, he defended his characterization and repeated it.

While this has been Taiwan's position, Lee had kept a relatively low profile since his election in March 1996. Lee said he has been preoccupied with domestic concerns, but he showed no hesitation in speaking in clear, even blunt, tones.

"Taiwan is Taiwan," he said. "We are an independent, sovereign country." At another point, he said, "Taiwan is already independent. There is no need to say so. . . . Maybe they want us to say the ROC [Republic of China government] is a province of China. Twenty-one million people don't agree that Taiwan is a province of China."

China repeatedly has threatened to use force against Taiwan if its leaders formally declare independence. Beijing twice in the last two years has staged missile tests and military exercises in the narrow Taiwan Strait that separates the island and China.

Since becoming the first native Taiwanese president in 1988, and winning the country's first democratic election last year, Lee constantly has played to the island's separatist sentiment. He has sought to raise Taiwan's profile and break its diplomatic isolation, while being careful not to cross the delicate verbal line that would mark a formal declaration of independence.

Against that background, some analysts here were divided over whether Lee's repeated use of the word "independent" marked a shift in his rhetoric or whether he was rephrasing a familiar position that the Taiwan government is a sovereign entity representing all China. But most agreed that his statements showed a significant hardening of his position, demonstrating that for the moment he has no interest in restarting talks with China.

"If he says we are an independent sovereign state, that makes it clear we are independent and not a part of China," said Andrew Yang, secretary general of the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, a think tank.

"It changes a lot. People were really expecting a breakthrough in cross-strait relations.

"He is conveying a very important message to the United States and to the world—that Taiwan is not going to negotiate with China on Beijing's terms; Taiwan has its own agenda; and unless China accepts Taiwan's agenda, there won't be any talks," Yang said. "He has sent a message to Beijing that he must be treated as the leader of a sovereign state."

He added, "It is very clear it seems to me, that there's no room to reopen the talks."

Another academic who follows cross-strait issues, David Auw of the Institute of International Relations, predicted reaction from Beijing may be muted since the Chinese leaders have grown accustomed to Lee's rhetorical flirtations with secessionism and may have determined that they cannot deal with him.

"I think the mainland leadership no longer takes President Lee seriously," Auw said. "It's not the first time he has made confusing remarks. They are starting to question the ability of Lee to have a coherent mainland policy. The majority of scholars and officials on the mainland I talk to say they are willing to wait for the post-Lee era."

Auw and others said Lee may have been reacting to new pressures on Taiwan to restart

high-level talks, which were suspended after Lee's highly publicized 1995 visit to the United States to attend his college reunion. With Hong Kong's so-far successful reversion to Chinese rule under an autonomy formula, and with Jiang's successful visit to Washington, the spotlight has shifted to Taiwan as the largest of the many unresolved trouble spots between the United States and China.

But Lee denied feeling particular pressure to restart talks with China. He made it clear he intends to continue his diplomatic outreach, traveling abroad and pushing to gain membership for Taiwan in such international bodies as the World Trade Organization.

"No, I don't feel anything," a smiling Lee said, when asked if he felt under pressure. He said he sees no parallel between Hong Kong's handover to China and Taiwan's case, since Hong Kong was a British colony and had no say in its own destiny.

"Taiwan in Taiwan," he said. "They use this to pressure [us]. But I don't feel anything. We are an independent sovereign country."

On July 1, in the first hours after Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule, Chinese Premier Li Peng said Taiwan should consider rejoining China under the same formula, known as "one country, two systems."

But Lee, in the interview, was dismissive. "They say, 'one country, two systems,' I say your system is a Communist system. Taiwan is a free and democratic society. You say Taiwan is a provincial government. I don't think so," Lee said.

Asked if Taiwan is prepared to make any gesture to restart the stalled dialogue with China, Lee replied, "We are waiting for them. We won't give anything to them."

He said the two sides have technical issues to resolve, including smuggling and illegal immigration, which could be addressed with low-level exchanges. But as for broader political dialogue at a higher level, Lee replied, "I don't see any political issues now."

Lee also said he does not feel bound by the timetable of Beijing's leaders, particularly Jiang, who would like to see the "Taiwan problem" resolved within the next decade. "We don't care about this timetable," Lee said. "That's his timetable. Here, it's a democratic society. What do the people think about this problem? We have our own reunification timetable. When China becomes free, democratic and has social justice—in that case, we will have unification."

For all his defiance, though Lee did express concern over a problem that could end up forcing Taiwan's integration with China faster than political leaders on either side of the strait can control: the rush by Taiwan businessmen to invest in the world's fastest-growing economy, and its largest market.

Even as Taiwan drifts further from China culturally, socially and politically economic relations are seeing an unmistakable convergence, similar to the kind of convergence that linked Hong Kong to southern China long before the actual transfer of sovereignty this year. And in Taiwan's case, the economic integration is even more dramatic, considering that Taiwan only lifted its travel ban on citizens going to China in 1987, and the two sides are still technically in a state of hostilities.

According to government figures 16.5 percent of Taiwan's exports go to China, making China the second-largest export market for Taiwanese goods and its largest foreign investment market. Between 1991 and 1996, the sum of Taiwanese investment in China rose to \$14.9 billion about what the United States and Japan invest there.

But much of the Taiwanese investment in China goes through Hong Kong and Macau and is unaccounted for, leading some aca-

demics to estimate its true size as closer to \$30 billion.

Lee, in a written answer to a question on the investment problem, said "excessive investment by Taiwan-based businesses there [in China] may increase the political and economic risks for Taiwan as a whole."

He said China pursues a long-standing "economic united front tactic," meaning Beijing is trying to "gradually increase Taiwan's economic independence on the mainland, and to undermine Taiwan's political bargaining position." Lee said China has "stepped up its economic united front tactics" since its missile tests and military exercises failed to intimidate Taiwan last year.

Lee became most animated near the end of the interview, when dealing with the question of "Asian values" as espoused by some regional leaders, including Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Cheehwa and Singapore's founder and elder statesman, Lee Kuan Yew.

Those leaders, and other proponents of the "Asian values" theory, have suggested that Western-style democratic systems, with their emphasis on individual liberties, are unsuited for Asian countries that value consensus, community and solving problems without confrontation. Critics have said the "Asian values" proponents merely are offering excuses for authoritarian government.

Lee, who oversaw Taiwan's "quiet revolution" from authoritarianism to free-wheeling democracy, dismissed the idea that democracy is unsuited to Asia. "Asian people are people, are human beings," he said. "They have their culture and heritage and tradition—that's different. But you can't say human nature is different."

DISAPPROVING CANCELLATIONS
TRANSMITTED BY PRESIDENT
OCTOBER 6, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2631. This bill is vital in correcting mistakes that were made in the President's line-item veto of the Military Construction Appropriations Act. I would also like to thank Mr. SKEEN for the introduction of this important resolution and Chairman PACKARD and Chairman HEFLEY for their hard work in bringing H.R. 2631 to the floor. Both the National Security and Appropriations Committees worked diligently to provide for the proper defense of our Nation with increasingly limited resources. In doing so, the House has made great strides in areas of quality of life, readiness, and military construction to support our Nation's military in spite of the current administration's national security policy.

The line-item veto power that the 104th Congress passed and the President signed is an important tool that, when used correctly, could serve to reduce our Nation's budget deficit. However, when that power is used carelessly, it not only devalues this budget tool, but as the use in the military construction bill and the defense appropriations bill demonstrates, it threatens to undermine important national security objectives.