

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, last night the House voted on Mr. PARKER of Mississippi's amendment No. 18 to strike certain provisions of the Interior Appropriations bill, H.R. 4193. These provisions direct the Indian Health Service to allocate contract support costs funding on a pro rata basis to all tribal contractors. I voted against that amendment in error. Removal of this provision is vitally important to the Tribes in my district and throughout the Northwest which are working to identify thoughtful, participatory solutions to an inadequate system of health care provision. I wish the record to reflect my support for the Parker amendment and the tribal self-determination it encourages.

ZLAN, LTD. DEVELOPS MAJOR ADVANCEMENT IN ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one of the new high-tech firms in my district, Zlan, Ltd. of Wylie, TX, has come up with an affordable solution to a major cause of the loss of life and property in this country: electrical fires. Each year thousands of people die or are seriously injured and billions of dollars of property is destroyed because of electrical fires. I am told that Zlan's technology, properly installed in the home, can improve electrical fire safety by as much as one-hundred fold, dramatically reducing electrical fires.

This is not a new problem. As early as 1978, the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee found that "... often the dangerous malfunctions of these systems, which may lead to fire, takes place behind the walls of one's home over a period of time and finally fire erupts without warning. . . . (I)t is essential that industry and government work together to find a solution to this problem."

In 1994 the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) asked Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to identify new technology products for reducing residential electrical fires. George A. Spencer, who is Zlan's founder and CEO, invented an electronic circuit breaker and has spent many years developing and improving this technology. Zlan, Ltd. began demonstrating prototypes of its Digitally Enhanced Circuit Breaker®, to the CPSC and UL. CPSC has indicated substantial interest in this technology.

Last spring Spencer and the Zlan team presented to the CPSC staff an update of their

electronic circuit breaker technology designed to detect arcing faults. Key features include:

Microprocessor controller for state of the art technology.

Arc detection to analyze low and high current problems in wiring.

False trip protection for routine power surges, i.e., motor start-ups, etc.

Auto self-test plus manual test capability.
LED status light for performance assurance and fault identification.

Serial Port options for remote monitoring, test and remote trip capability.

Zlan's Load Center Monitor works with the Digitally Enhanced Circuit Breakers to provide audible and visual indicators of faults, store performance data, identify causes of electrical malfunctions as well as communication capabilities to monitor electrical systems.

Zlan has entered into an agreement with STMicroelectronics, Inc. (ST) to manufacture a custom chip-set using Zlan's Arc Fault Interrupter (AFI) technology that will provide a low cost solution to the circuit breakers manufacturers. Most homes can be upgraded to the new AFI circuit breaker at a cost estimated to be as low as \$800.

This major advancement in electrical fire safety is expected to be on the market in time to meet new electrical building codes now being drafted.

Innovative use of new technology to improve flawed and dated technology has always been the hallmark of American ingenuity. I am extraordinarily pleased that the creative minds at Zlan have chosen to locate and build their business in my district to advance a promising technology that can save lives and give families the opportunity to make their homes safer places to live.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 1998

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, once again, legislation to overturn our current trade relations with the People's Republic of China has reached the House floor. This annual exercise divides our nation over our relationship with the most populous nation in the world. The only thing which has changed is the terminology. We now refer to Most Favored Nation (MFN) trading status as simply Normal Trade Relations (NTR), a more accurate description of this annual trade vote.

I will reluctantly vote against the resolution, Disapproving the Extension of Nondiscriminatory Treatment to the Products of the People's Republic of China (H.J. Res. 121), before us today. I do recognize China's deplorable record on human rights and our moral obligation to speak out for the weak and voiceless in China. However, in reaching my decision, I again asked myself these questions, "In the long run, will revoking China's trade status be good or harmful to the Chinese and the American people, and will it improve human rights in China?" I must conclude that revoking China's trade status would be counterproductive to these objectives.

As I have stated previously, the U.S. can do more to advance the cause of human rights

and foster religious, economic and political freedom if we continue to engage the Chinese in economic cooperation. Social freedom—like freedom of religion—are a direct result of economic liberalization. If we remove all of China's trade privileges, we are not only isolating that country, but we are losing any opportunity to improve the human condition there.

Terminating normal trade relations with China will hurt the American worker and consumer as well. From 1991 to 1997, U.S. exports to China rose 71% from \$7.5 billion to \$12.8 billion. In addition, exports of U.S. goods and services to China and Hong Kong support an estimated 450,000 American jobs. From an agricultural perspective, the American Farm Bureau has called China "the most important growth market for U.S. agriculture in the twenty-first century." The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that China could account for one-third of future growth in U.S. farm exports in the years ahead.

Despite my position on NTR with China, I remain concerned about allegations that the Clinton White House violated existing campaign finance laws by accepting illegal foreign contributions from China. In return, the Clinton administration sacrificed American national security by allowing the Loral Space and Communications Ltd. and another U.S. company to provide China's space industry with specific technological expertise, strengthening its nuclear and missile capabilities. I believe the Congress has an obligation to look into these critical charges, and I support all efforts to continue House and Senate investigations.

In conclusion, if we choose to cut off our ties with China, we end up harming those who need our help the most—the Chinese people. Just as important, we hurt American workers, farmers and businesses which would export to china, now and in the future. I urge my colleagues to vote down H.J. Res. 121.

IN HONOR OF PUERTO RICO ON ITS CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the citizens of Puerto Rico on Constitution Day, July 24, 1998. The people of Puerto Rico established the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the very same reasons our forefathers wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, to establish themselves as a democracy.

The Puerto Rican Constitution ensures basic welfare and human rights for the people, enconces the idea of a government which reflects the will of the people, and pays tribute and loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Puerto Rican culture is a distinctly unique culture. By pledging allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, the people of Puerto Rico celebrate shared beliefs and the co-existence of both cultures. By ratifying their own Constitution, the people of Puerto Rico retain and honor their original heritage while expressing the desire to pursue democracy and happiness for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their contributions to