

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, since the introduction of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in 1977, the U.S. has been firmly committed in its battle against international bribery and corruption. Unfortunately, our policies have left U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage in the international environment, where they frequently lose commercial contracts to foreign firms willing to participate in bribery or other corruption. This situation has cost American companies billions of dollars in lost opportunities over the years.

Now, through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, signed in December 1997 by 33 countries including the United States, we have the opportunity to ensure that other signatory countries commit themselves to outlawing the use of bribery to influence officials or gain business abroad. The convention obligates signatory countries to enact domestic laws to combat foreign bribery.

Because the U.S. already has strong federal anti-bribery laws in place, the implementing legislation submitted by the administration seeks to close loopholes in the statute and otherwise strengthen the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Building upon the legislation submitted to Congress, Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY and I today introduce the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998. I intend to hold hearings in the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, which I am honored to chair, when the Congress reconvenes in September.

The proposal requires several definitional adjustments to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, including coverage of individuals as well as businesses, and officials of international organizations as well as other foreign officials. The bill expands the scope of proscribed activities to include payments to secure "any improper advantage." It also expands the jurisdiction of the law to cover the acts of U.S. citizens taking place wholly outside the United States.

While the amendments to U.S. law required by the convention are relatively modest, the changes required of other signatories will mean, in many cases, a radical departure from past practices. Such a change in attitudes towards corruption will be of enormous benefit to American firms seeking to do business abroad.

With the introduction of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act, we have the opportunity to redress an imbalance and level the playing field for U.S. companies, giving them the chance to compete in a fair and corruption-free environment. These refinements are necessary to emphasize and reinforce America's view that bribery is not only morally reprehensible but that it ultimately creates a destabilized international trading climate.

If the U.S. is to continue to demonstrate its firm commitment to fair trading opportunities,

we need to take the lead and act as a model. Enactment of this legislation will represent and reflect America's determination to foster economic development and trade liberalization, as well as the promotion of democracy and democratic institutions.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment by my esteemed colleague TIM ROEMER, which would terminate the International Space Station. I am especially pleased to say that my support for the International Space Station is shared by my constituents as evidenced by letters I have received from them, and from the 2,000+ space enthusiasts that attended the Great Space Adventure events that I sponsored this past Spring.

The prospect of a permanent laboratory for researchers and scientists has students of all ages inspired—inspiration that will lead to more students pursuing math, science, engineering and medical careers. The International Space station also provides hope to the medical community and to patients afflicted with a variety of health conditions. Hope that research conducted in this permanent laboratory will yield new insights into human health and disease prevention and treatment, especially in the area of heart, lung, and kidney functions, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, hormonal disorders and immune system functions.

Already we have benefitted from the federal investments in the U.S. space program—and our investment in the International Space Station is no exception. For example: NASA developed a "cool suit" which is now helping to improve the quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients. NASA technology has produced a pacemaker that can be programmed from outside the body. NASA developed instruments to measure bone loss and bone density without penetrating the skin, which is now being used by hospitals.

NASA research has led to an implant for delivering insulin to diabetics that is only 3 inches across, providing more precise control of blood sugar levels and frees diabetics from the burden of daily insulin injections. NASA technology has led to the development of medical devices which are used to revitalize purposeful movement to muscles crippled by spinal cord injuries. As a result, paraplegics and quadriplegics can get a full cardiovascular workout equivalent to jogging three miles three times per week.

Technology from NASA also led to the development of an anti-shock garment for paramedic use which essentially reverses the effect of shock on the body's blood distribution and returns blood to the vital organs. This anti-shock garment has demonstrated effectiveness in treating shock from trauma induced by natural disasters or military actions, complications of pregnancy, ruptured internal organs, severe allergic reactions, brain injury and pediatric emergencies.

Even, telemedicine has benefitted from NASA expertise since adoption during the previous decades was slowed by high costs and technological shortcomings. Today, the technique is burgeoning under the impetus of snowballing advances in computer, video-conferencing and digital imaging technologies that offer greater health access to rural Americans along with greater efficiency in data transmission and display.

Mr. Chairman, these are but a few of the medical and health benefits that have come from our investments in the U.S. Space program, and I can not emphasize enough what value they have brought to the quality of life that so many of us have come to expect. It is because of this well documented success that I believe in the potential of the International Space Station. Joining me in recognizing the research potential of the Space Station are: the American Medical Association; the National Academy of Sciences; the National Research Council; the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; the American Medical Women's Association; the Planetary Society; the National Foundation for Brain Research; and the Shering-Plough Research Institute.

Let me also share with you what Dr. Michael DeBakey, Chancellor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine says about the need for a permanent laboratory in space:

The Space Station is not a luxury any more than a medical research center at Baylor College of Medicine is a luxury . . . Present technology on the shuttle allows for stays in space of only about two weeks. We do not limit medical researchers to only a few hours in the laboratory and expect cures for cancer. We need much longer missions in space—in months to years—to obtain research results that may lead to the development of new knowledge and breakthroughs.

I agree with Dr. DeBakey's view; and because I believe the International Space Station has the potential to help my constituents with their health and quality of life in the long term, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Roemer amendment and to support the International Space Station.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under