

"It was a profound historical address," Thompson said. "I shall never forget it."

THE POWER OF EDUCATION

Education was extremely important to Freeman and his family. He sacrificed so his children could go to college. He long remembered how difficult it had been to pursue his own education.

In the late 1930s, Freeman desperately wanted to go to college. But his widowed father was struggling to support seven sons.

Freeman interviewed with the president of Clark College in Atlanta and begged to attend classes there. He succeeded, working his way through as a custodian, and eventually graduated with a degree in education.

After his arrival in Kansas City, Kan., he earned advanced degrees, including his doctorate in theology from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in 1953. At the time, the opportunity to earn such a degree was rare for a black minister.

Education remained important throughout his involvement in the National Baptist Convention, USA. Freeman became president of the organization's Congress of Christian Education (as it's now called) in 1968.

His influence was almost immediate. His dynamic leadership and speechmaking helped increase attendance at its annual meeting by the thousands over his 15-year tenure.

"It's his personality," said the Rev. Ellis Robinson, Freeman's successor at First Baptist. "He knew how to get things done."

In his work for the National Baptist Convention and other programs, Freeman traveled extensively—all around the world—often at a moment's notice.

But his first priority was always his church. He always made sure that things would get done in his absence.

"Ministers and clergymen play a lot of different roles," said Thompson. "The pastoral role is one of shepherding, caring for and protecting and watching over the flock. . . . Nobody I know of played that role as well as Rev. Freeman. He was just a rare individual. He could make you feel good when you felt bad; he was very inspirational and uplifting."

There's something else about Freeman that people talk about. He loved to tell jokes. Every time he spoke, people could expect to hear two or three jokes along the way.

Of course, he had two kinds of jokes: those he could use in sermons and those he couldn't.

One of his very popular jokes dated from the days of "streaking," when college kids would dash through public places in the buff. Freeman's joke had to do with some older women in a nursing home. The punch line: One fellow goes, "What was that?" And the other goes, "I don't know, but it sure did need ironing."

Even in his last days, that joke was still able to touch people in unexpected ways. One former church member was visiting just a couple of weeks ago. Sitting at his bedside, this person said, "Reverend Freeman, I'll always remember that old joke about the senior citizens."

And, as his daughter Connie Lindesay tells it: "He just beamed. His eyes just twinkled."

FASTA, THE "FAIR STEEL TRADE ACT"

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, our foreign competitors have been dumping steel in Amer-

ica below market value for well over a year. This practice, which has been allowed to continue unencumbered by the Clinton Administration, has had a devastating effect on the U.S. steel industry and U.S. steelworkers. I have taken numerous actions, alone and in conjunction with the Congressional Steel Caucus, to urge the Administration to change its backward trade policy and remedy the current crisis. These pleas have fallen on deaf ears. It is time for a clear and decisive action. Therefore, I am introducing FASTA, the "Fair Steel Trade Act" today to force the Administration to impose swift and severe penalties on those countries that have flagrantly and repeatedly violated our trade laws. Specifically, FASTA will impose a three-month ban on imports of steel and steel products from Japan, Russia, South Korea and Brazil.

Steel dumping in America has become a global event. In the first 11 months of 1998, steel imports are up 167 percent from Japan, 60 percent from Russia, up 112 percent from South Korea, up 68 percent from the Ukraine, up 150 percent from Australia, up 105 percent from South Africa, up 114 percent from Brazil and up a whopping 586 percent from Indonesia.

In January, it was reported that a Congressionally-mandated report on foreign steel dumping would finally be released from the Administration. It was rumored that the report would outline the Administration's plans for helping the U.S. steel industry cope with cheap steel imports, but would not include any new initiatives beyond the Administration's previous efforts. Those efforts have consisted mainly of expediting complaints from U.S. steel companies and negotiating with countries such as Russia and South Korea.

In response to this rumor, I wrote a letter to President Clinton urging him to reverse course and take drastic action to stem the tide of cheap steel imports: "During your two campaigns for the Presidency and throughout your Administration you spoke eloquently about using U.S. trade policy to build a bridge to the 21st century for American workers. That bridge is crumbling under the weight of millions of tons of illegally dumped foreign steel. If your Administration does not take extraordinary and decisive action, hundreds of American communities and thousands of American families will enter the 21st century in poverty." The fact is, the Administration has been reviewing the dumping of foreign steel below cost in our market. It is crystal clear that anti-dumping statutes have been repeatedly violated. It's time to stop reviewing and start acting. I made it clear to the President in my letter that maintaining his present course of action falls woefully short of the type of decisive action that is warranted by this emergency.

Unfortunately, the rumors about the report proved true. In essence, the report demands that Japan curb its steel shipments to America through "voluntary export restraints." Idle threats and voluntary self-policing restraints do not a trade policy make. What's worse, the report makes no mention of the other six countries that continue to dump steel in our market.

The report also provides for tax relief for steel companies. According to the report, the steel industry will have greater ability than other industries to receive tax refunds to offset its losses. Under current law, companies can receive tax refunds on their losses for the previous two years of taxes paid. The steel indus-

try is now able to obtain refunds for the previous five years. This news, however, was not enough to save Bethlehem Steel. After the report was made public, Bethlehem Steel announced that it will close two stainless steel and strip-metal plants, thereby adding 540 American workers to the unemployment roll.

The tax relief provision is estimated to cost \$300 million over five years. While I support relief for the steel industry, I am livid that the President expects the American taxpayer and the steelworkers who have lost their jobs to pay for the illegal actions of our foreign competitors. Perhaps if the Administration enforced our trade laws for a change, and penalized dumping, we would collect enough revenue to pay for tax relief for our domestic steel industry.

It has become obvious to me that this Administration is unwilling to take the type of definitive action necessary to deal with this serious crisis. Voluntary self-policing is like putting a kid in a candy store and asking him not to eat. No disincentives, no repercussions—it's strictly voluntary. Promises won't help the 10,000 steelworkers who have lost well-paying jobs and promises won't stop industry giant Bethlehem Steel from closing the doors on two of its plants.

Despite repeated calls from steelworkers and Members of Congress such as myself, the Administration has elected to pursue a course of limited and meek actions. The time for negotiating, monitoring and litigating are long past. Tax breaks and more retraining programs will not put a single steelworker back to work.

It is now incumbent upon my colleagues in Congress—Democrats and Republicans—to take up the banner and fight to ensure that the steel industry, an industry vital to America's economy and national security, is not decimated by illegal competition. Cosponsor and pass FASTA today.

TRIBUTE TO DICK VOLPERT

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 2, 1999*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. SHERMAN, and I rise today to pay tribute to our dear friend Dick Volpert, who this year is receiving the Learned Hand Award from the American Jewish Committee. Certainly we can think of nobody more deserving of an award that honors both superior intellect and humanitarianism. Dick is that all-too-rare person who cannot remain aloof when he sees a person or group in need of help. He has a widespread and richly-deserved reputation for getting passionately involved in a range of causes.

Dick and his wife, Marcia, were without question among the most forceful and tireless advocates anywhere in the world on behalf of Soviet Jews in the 1970s and 80s. There is no doubt that their efforts enabled many Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union at a time when the freedom to practice their religion had been