

women's and children's issues, and the strengthening of democracy.

Trade experts in many nations insist that a broad agenda addressing the liberalization of previously untreated sectors (including services and agriculture) is the only way to ensure that the new round can move forward. Proponents of a broad agenda assert that any delay in trade liberalization would result in missed opportunities for huge gains in global trade and income, and could open the way for protectionist "backsliding." Advocates of further liberalization also insist that the process must move forward if developing countries are to benefit from increased market access, greater consumer choice and increased opportunity to attract foreign investment.

Many anti-WTO protesters preparing to clog the streets of downtown Seattle say they categorically oppose any new round of trade talks. A petition outlining objections to a new round and calling for an exhaustive review of existing WTO agreements has been signed by over seven hundred groups worldwide. The signatories claim that trade liberalization has done little to benefit the world's poor. They also view the WTO as a threat to democracy, insisting that WTO policies have undermined elected governments' ability to prioritize national development, public health and safety issues, as well as interfered with consumer rights. These concerns are attracting widening publicity, and though they have been dismissed as instances of "anxiety" by U.S. Trade representative Charlene Barshefsky, and as "attacks by extremists dedicated to spreading anarchy and defeating capitalism," by Financial Times contributor Guy de Jonquieres, popular opposition to the WTO could prove a significant barrier to further liberalization, particularly as the U.S. presidential race intensifies.

Despite their opponents' accusations to the contrary, free trade advocates insist that they too have the best interests of the world's population at heart. WTO director-general Mike Moore has summed up the position of free trade supporters in saying that "the WTO is about raising living standards . . . if living standards rise, environmental standards rise, families are better off and children normally have a better education." Moore's position is a prime example of the "rising tide lifts all boats" line: what is good for the economy is good for people. Macroeconomic indicators both support and contradict this thesis, depending on one's point of view. In many developing areas, including Latin America, foreign investment is up, and inflation is down. The Financial Times reported last month that global income has grown dramatically as a result of trade liberalization. The rising-tide rationale is also being applied to the next round of negotiations, with experts insisting that the poorest countries also will benefit from the removal of agricultural trade barriers. Yet others suggest that conditions are worsening in the majority of developing regions. In Latin America overall economic growth has been ragged with less than 3% annually, according to the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), with some countries showing negative growth, job creation has slowed, and unemployment has remained fairly stable. Perhaps most telling, gaps in income distribution have sharply widened, suggesting that the free-market system contains inherent structural inequalities preventing some "boats" from rising despite general increases in trade, investment, and economic growth.

In addition, WTO policies continue to force developing countries to compete largely on the basis of their only truly competitive advantage: cheap labor. This presents a prob-

lem, as it has historically, in that labor is performed by workers who are also humans with a need to consume. Countries that must lower labor costs as a means to greater efficiency and greater competitiveness must essentially manipulate their populations in the service of "the market." UNCTAD reports that Latin American workers experienced declines in real wages of 20-30% since the Uruguay Round was implemented beginning in 1990. It seems clear that all workers have not benefited from new trade patterns. Perversely, however, shrinking wages can contribute to the appearance of economic growth in the form of increased "efficiency." Similarly, the rapid increase of temporary and ill-paid service jobs in countries like the U.S. is hailed as improved flexibility in the labor market—even though it may undermine job security for countless workers, and even though significant decreases in wages can adversely affect consumption.

Traditionally, the WTO has argued that labor and environmental matters—as well as the burden of ensuring equitable distribution of resources and profits—are best left to natural forces in member states, as they are not, classically speaking, trade-related. Yet the trade organization consistently has undermined member nations' attempts to regulate labor and environmental protection, with its dispute panel by categorizing many reforms as "non-tariff barriers to trade," which may invite retaliatory sanctions. Issues that might be most effectively pursued by means of international cooperation, are instead reduced to bargaining chips. Developing countries, for example, suffer from environmental degradation just as developed countries do—sometimes even disproportionately, due to, for example, having to allow toxic materials to be dumped or incinerated in third-world countries, out of financial desperation. Yet efforts to enact environmental protection measures are often misguidedly opposed by poorer nations which cannot afford to implement similar measures, or lack the infrastructure to do so. Poorer countries perhaps naively believe that developed countries invoke stricter environmental measures as a ploy to protect their own domestic industries against overseas low cost competition. Labor issues have met a similar fate under free trade, with workers in neighboring countries often pitted against one another, rather than pooling their leverage in order to raise standards across the board.

Supporters of free trade explain the suffering connected with trade liberalization by insisting that such sectors are experiencing the temporary hardships tied to a certain stage in a process of industrialization or development. Once these nations modernize their industries and stabilize their markets in order to become more competitive, the script reads, living standards will improve. But this attitude belies the supposed concern with the plight of the world's most poverty-stricken, implying that those who are suffering in the "early stages" of a country's development will just have to take one for the team. If the poor must wait for the day when free trade will deliver on all of its promises and bring about real improvements in poverty levels and standards of living, as its proponents claim it can do, it seems reasonable to ask that the WTO pause to assess the impact of its policies on those whose destinies are far from assured.

THE REV. RONALD J. FOWLER

HON. TOM SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, for over 30 years, The Rev. Ronald J. Fowler has served with distinction as the Senior Pastor of the Arlington Church of God in my hometown of Akron, OH. When he assumed that position in January 1969, Ron Fowler knew that he had a difficult act to follow—the 23-year tenure of his father, The Rev. Robert L. Fowler.

Ron Fowler has done his father, his congregation, and our community proud.

Under his leadership, the Arlington Church of God has grown in membership and ministries. This growth has twice necessitated the building of new worship and educational facilities.

But Ron Fowler does more than attend to his congregation and preach the Gospel. Both in his public and private roles, he lives the Gospel, committing himself to meet the ever-growing needs of his congregation and our community.

His dedication and devotion to serving the needs of the community led him to spearhead the establishment of the Independent Living Facilities for Seniors, now known as A.H.O.P.E.S.

His commitment to education resulted in the creation of both the Irma Jones Preschool and Infant Center, and the Arlington Christian Academy. That same commitment was evident as Ron Fowler served on the Akron Board of Education, exercising community-wide education leadership, from 1988 to 1995, including two years as Board President.

But most notably, Ron has been a vocal and forceful advocate and champion of racial reconciliation throughout the community and the nation. For more than 10 years, his mostly African-American church has worked hand-in-hand with The Chapel, a predominantly white church, in the Allies race relations program. That powerful personal resolve was evident for all the Nation to see two years ago when President Clinton held his first Town Hall Meeting on Race in Akron.

In one of his sermons, Ron Fowler spoke of an "unquenchable fire" that shapes lives. "Passion," he said, "is not something we are born with. It is something acquired. Whatever the route by which we acquire it, the fire that burns daily within our bosom reveals much about our character and understanding of what our mission in life is."

There is no question that Ron Fowler has that fire.

He is the living embodiment of his own challenge to "Press on" and "Take hold of the faith that gives all of us tomorrow."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our community, let me offer congratulations to Ron and Joyce Fowler and their family on 30 years of service through the Arlington Church of God. They have touched and enriched countless lives in their congregation and throughout our community. We are deeply grateful for their service and for their indelible example to the Nation.

HONORING UAW LOCAL 599
REUTHER AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to 23 members of UAW Local 599, who will be recipients of the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award. On Saturday, November 6, 1999, these individuals will be honored at the 19th Annual Walter and May Reuther Twenty Year Award Banquet.

Local 599 has always had a special place in my heart because my father was one of its original members. Over the years, Local 599 has developed a strong and proud tradition of supporting the rights of working people in our community, and improving the quality of life for its membership. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the local's charter, and its commitment to working for decent wages, education and training, and civil and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to recognize these special individuals who, have diligently served their union and community. During this time, each one of these UAW members have held various elected positions in the union. And there is no question they have represented their brothers and sisters well.

It is very fitting that these 23 people be recipients of the Walter P. Reuther Distinguished Service Award. Walter Reuther was a man who believed in helping working people, and he believed in human dignity and social justice for all Americans. The recipients of this award have committed themselves to the ideals and principles of Walter Reuther. They are outstanding men and women who come from every part of our community, and they share the common bond of unwavering commitment and service.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Robert Aidif, David Aiken, Dennis Carl, Russell W. Cook, Harvey DeGroot, Patrick Dolan, Larry Farlin, Maurice Felling, Ted Henderson, James Yaklin, Ken Mead, Don Wilson, Frank Molina, Shirley Prater, Gene Ridley, John D. Rogers, Dale Scanlon, G. Jean Garza-Smith, Nick Vuckovich, Jerry J. Ward, Greg Wheeler, Tom Worden, and Dale Bingley. I want to congratulate these fine people for all of the work they have done to make our community a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR VICTOR
MARRERO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ambassador Victor Marrero, an outstanding individual who on October 1 was unanimously confirmed by the Senate to fill a vacancy on the federal bench in New York's Southern District.

Ambassador Marrero was born in Puerto Rico and moved to New York City with his parents when he was 10. He graduated from New York University (B.A. cum laude, with Honors in History, Phi Beta Kappa). He re-

ceived his law degree from the Yale Law School, where he was elected Editor of the Yale Law Journal. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Sheffield (U.K.) School of Law and has taught as a Visiting Lecturer in Law at Yale and Columbia Law Schools.

Mr. Speaker, before his confirmation to the bench, Ambassador Marrero served as the Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States. His achievements during his tenure at the OAS are impressive. Among his proposals that have been adopted are the restructuring of the General Assembly in order to streamline the number of days and make it more efficient and effective, reform to eliminate duplication and waste through a new Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, and creation of the Center for the Study of Justice in the Americas. Through Attorney General Janet Reno he has pledged \$1,000,000 for the Center, to promote research on legal matters, train personnel, exchange information, and provide technical support on the reform processes of judicial systems in the Americas.

Mr. Speaker, before this posting, Ambassador Marrero served since 1993 as the United States Representative on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. He brought to his diplomatic posts extensive experience in private law practice and business in New York as well as public service in federal, state and city government.

Prior to his service at the United Nations, Ambassador Marrero practiced law in New York City. As a partner in the Manhattan law firm of Brown and Wood, he specialized in real estate, land use, development and environmental law.

During the Carter Administration, Ambassador Marrero was Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Previously he had been Commissioner of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the Vice Chairman of the New York State Housing Finance Agency. Before joining state government, he served as Chairman of the City Planning Commission of New York City.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Marrero has served as Director or Trustee for numerous civic education, charitable and professional organizations, as well as the Mayor of New York's Management Advisory Committee and Commission on the homeless, and the Yale University Urban Advisory Committee.

Ambassador Marrero is married to Veronica M. White. They have two children, Andrew and Robert.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ambassador Victor Marrero for his accomplishments as the Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States and in wishing him success as a Federal Judge in Manhattan.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE
ACCESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 1, 1999

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 974, the District of Columbia College

Access Act. It is legislation long overdue and deserves an immediate Presidential signature. This legislation expands the educational choices and opportunities of eligible District of Columbia students by establishing a program that permits these graduates to pay in-state tuition rates upon admission to state colleges in Maryland or Virginia. Moreover, this will benefit the already first-rate educational opportunities in these states by increasing the number and quality of candidates for admission.

Unlike the 50 states, the university system in the District of Columbia is significantly limited. The University of the District of Columbia is the city's only public university. Thus, if high school graduates from the District's schools want to attend an institution of higher learning and pay-in-state tuition they have no choice except the District's university. This is unacceptable.

H.R. 974 levels the playing field. It provides eligible high school graduates from the District's schools a network of state-supported colleges to attend. Specifically, this legislation establishes a program to permit D.C. residents who are recent high school graduates the ability to pay in-state tuition rates upon admission to state colleges in Maryland or Virginia. Under this proposal, the federal government will pay the difference between the two rates, creating no additional cost to state universities. Public university grants may not exceed \$10,000 in any award year, with a total cap of \$50,000 per individual.

Additionally, this legislation provides tuition assistance grants of \$2,500 for students attending private colleges in the District or the adjoining Maryland and Virginia suburbs, including historically black colleges and universities as another educational option for the District's students.

Access to quality education in the United States is essential. This bill goes a long way to ensure that the students of the District of Columbia are afforded a variety of educational opportunities at a reasonable cost. It will encourage the young people of the District of Columbia to complete high school and seek further education. This will enable them to acquire better jobs in the future, earn good salaries, and improve the quality of life in the entire Washington, D.C. metropolitan region.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN LETTER
IN NEW YORK POST ALLEGES
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN
INDIA

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 4, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a letter that appeared on Wednesday, November 3, 1999, in the New York Post by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. It reveals the religious persecution in India.

Christians have been actively persecuted in India in recent months, a pattern carried out on Sikhs, Muslims, and others.

I urge all my colleagues to read the attached letter, which I am placing in the RECORD.