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Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Charles E. Mercer
President

September 29, 2000

Dennis L. Kivikko
Secretary-Treasurer,
Show Manager

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

*minimum
wage*

Dear Mr. President:

Over 18 months ago we, the Executive Board of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, authorized the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Department to execute an initiative to stop the "Saipan Scam." This initiative included joining and working with the Take Pride in America Coalition and was by Resolution unanimously adopted by the 23rd AFL-CIO Convention (copy enclosed).

We urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that federal legislation stopping the "Saipan Scam" is enacted into law this year. We ask this on behalf of the millions of American men and women who are members of our affiliated AFL-CIO unions.

Right now, garment sweatshops operated by Chinese and other interests in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI or Saipan) are using loopholes in U.S. law to place "Made in USA" labels on goods made by Chinese workers using Chinese materials. Another loophole allows these Chinese goods to be shipped to the U.S. duty free. This outrage, known as the "Saipan Scam," deceives U.S. consumers, destroys U.S. jobs, and costs U.S. taxpayers \$200 million a year.

Legislation to close these loopholes (S. 922 and H.R. 1621, "The 'Made in USA' Label Defense Act") is strongly supported by the American people. Working through the Take Pride in America Coalition and their more than 330 member organizations (see www.takepride.org), their calls, letters and personal visits have resulted in **233 House cosponsors – an outright majority of the House – and 36 Senate cosponsors for this legislation.** These supporters include Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, Senator Joseph Lieberman, Senator Ted Kennedy and many other leaders in the Congress from both sides of the aisle. A list of current cosponsors is enclosed.

However, while Democrats have joined with Republicans in calling for these reforms to be passed, a leading Saipan factory boss disclosed to ABC's 20/20 News (5/24/99) that U.S. Rep. Tom Delay (R-TX) promised them that he would make sure these and other reforms did not come to a vote in the Congress. This is a travesty of justice to the majority supporting this bill, to America's working men and women who are losing jobs to this scam, and to those who are toiling in virtual indentured servitude in these sweatshops right under America's flag.

Buy Union
Buy American



Letter to the President
September 29, 2000
Page 2

We trust that your Administration will insist on the inclusion of these reforms in your negotiations with Congress on an expected Omnibus Appropriations bill. In addition to restoring honesty to the "Made in USA" label for American consumers and saving thousands of jobs for American workers, the Administration has estimated that enactment of these reforms would achieve budget savings of \$748 million over four years (copy enclosed). Righting this wrong is the morally and fiscally responsible thing to do for all Americans.

Please, Mr. President, make these critical reforms a "must-pass" element of any comprehensive appropriations package that your Administration negotiates this fall.

Thank you for your consideration.

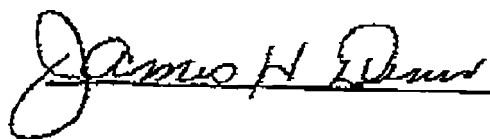
Respectfully yours,



Charles E. Mercer, President
Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO



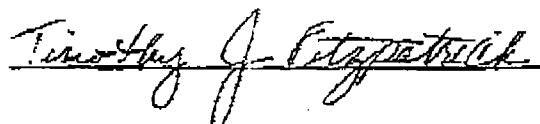
Dennis L. Kivikko, Secretary-Treasurer
Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO



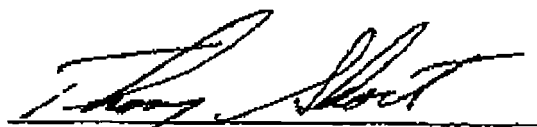
James H. Dunn, Treasurer
PACE International Union



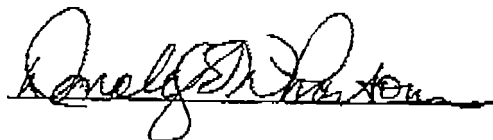
Jay Mazur, President
UNITE!



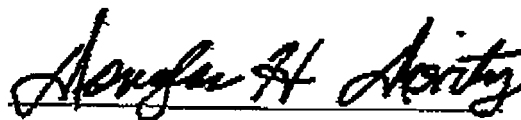
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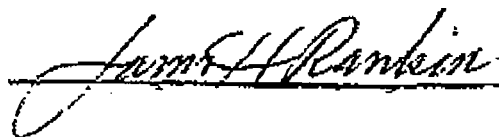
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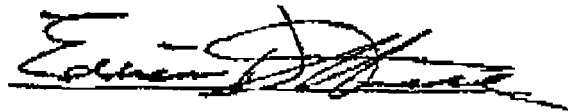


Gerald H. Deneau, Secretary-Treasurer
Graphic Communications International Union



James Rankin, President
Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers
International Union

Letter to the President
September 29, 2000
Page 3



Edwin D. Hill, Secretary-Treasurer
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



David B. Durkee, Secretary-Treasurer
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers
and Grain Millers International Union



Larry D. Barber, Executive Vice President
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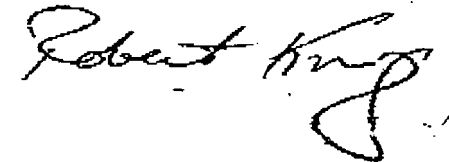
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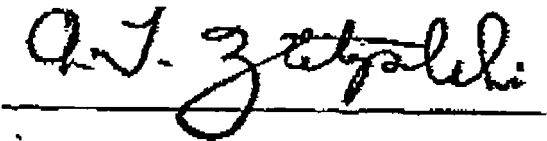
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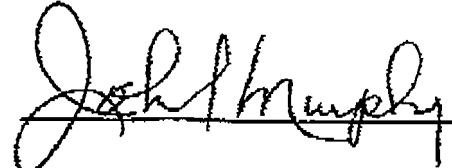
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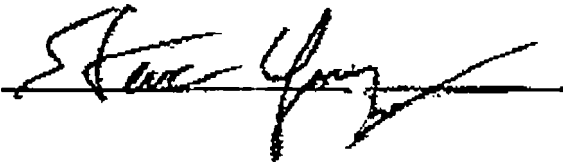
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Sheet Metal Workers' International Association



John J. Murphy, Director
ABG Division, United Steelworkers of America



Steve Young, President
American Federation of Musicians

CEM:eh
Enclosures
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Letter to the President
September 29, 2000
Page 4

cc: Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States
 John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff
 Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President For Domestic Policy
 Larry Stein, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
 Craig Smith, Assistant to the President for Political Affairs
 Jack Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget
 John Sweeney, President, American Federation of Labor and
 Congress of Industrial Organizations

Cosponsors of H. R. 1621/S. 922 "The 'Made in USA' Label Defense Act"

(as of September 29, 2000)

SENATE - S. 922 (36 total - 8 R's, 28 D's)

Alabama	Sessions (R), Shelby (R)
Arkansas	Lincoln (D)
California	Boxer (D), Feinstein (D)
Connecticut	Lieberman (D)
Georgia	Cleland (D)
Hawaii	Akaka (D)
Illinois	Durbin (D)
Indiana	Bayh (D)
Iowa	Harkin (D)
Louisiana	Breaux (D)
Maryland	Mikulski (D)
Massachusetts	Kerry (D), Kennedy (D)
Maine	Snowe (R)
Michigan	Abraham (R)
Minnesota	Wellstone (D)
Montana	Baucus (D)
New Jersey	Torricelli (D)
North Carolina	Helms (R), Edwards (D)
North Dakota	Dorgan (D), Conrad (D)
Oklahoma	Inhofe (R)
Oregon	Wyden (D)
Pennsylvania	Santorum (R)
Rhode Island	Reed (D)
South Carolina	Hollings (D), Thurmond (R)
South Dakota	Johnson (D), Daschle (D)
West Virginia	Byrd (D), Rockefeller (D)
Wisconsin	Kohl (D), Feingold (D)

HOUSE - H.R. 1621 (233 total - 37 R's, 195 D's, 2 I)

Alabama	Everett (R), Bachus (R), Callahan (R), Cramer (D), Aderholt (R), Hilliard (D)
Arizona	Pastor (D)
Arkansas	Snyder (D), Berry (D)
California	Miller (D), Stark (D), Martinez (D), Hunter (R), Sherman (D), Lee (D), Filner (D), Lantos (D), Pelosi (D), Berman (D), Capps (D), Lofgren (D), Eshoo (D), Woolsey (D), Napolitano (D), Dixon (D), Farr (D), Millender-McDonald (D), Sanchez (D), Waters (D), Baca (D), Roybal-Allard (D), Horn (R), Waxman (D), Condit (D), Becerra (D)
Colorado	Udall (D), DeGette (D)
Connecticut	DeLauro (D), Maloney (D), Gejdenson (D), Larson (D)
DC	Norton (D)
Florida	Thurman (D), Wexler (D), Brown (D), Meek (D), Boyd (D), Deutsch (D)

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Georgia Deal (R), Lewis (D), Isakson (R), McKinney (D), Bishop (D), Norwood (R), Barr (R), Collins (R)

Hawaii Mink (D), Abercrombie (D)

Illinois Gutierrez (D), Lipinski (D), Phelps (D), Costello (D), Evans (D), Davis (D), Rush (D), Jackson (D), Blagojevich (D), Schakowsky (D)

Indiana Visclosky (D), Carson (D), Roemer (D)

Iowa Latham (R), Boswell (D)

Kansas Moore (D)

Kentucky Whitfield (R), Lucas (D)

Maine Baldacci (D), Allen (D)

Maryland Cummings (D), Wynn (D), Cardin (D)

Massachusetts McGovern (D), Frank (D), Tierney (D), Capuano (D), Oliver (D), Neal (D), Delahunt (D), Moakley (D), Markey (D)

Michigan Dingell (D), Kildee (D), Kilpatrick (D), Rivers (D), Stabenow (D), Barcia (D), Stupak (D), Conyers (D), Bonior (D), Levin (D)

Minnesota Luther (D), Oberstar (D), Vento (D), Peterson (D), Sabo (D), Minge (D)

Mississippi Shows (D), Thompson (D), Taylor (D)

Missouri Danner (D), Gephardt (D), Clay (D), McCarthy (D)

Nebraska Terry (R)

Nevada Berkley (D)

New Jersey Franks (R), Pallone (D), LoBiondo (R), Smith (R), Pascrell (D), Rothman (D), Menendez (D), Payne (D), Andrews (D), Holt (D)

New Mexico Udall (D)

New York Hinchey (D), Maloney (D), McHugh (R), Forbes (D), Weiner (D), Nadler (D), Walsh (R), King (R), Slaughter (D), Ackerman (D), Kelly (R), McNulty (D), Lowey (D), Engel (D), Towns (D), Owens (D), LaFalce (D), Velazquez (D), Crowley (D), Rangel (D), McCarthy (D), Meeks (D), Serrano (D), Gilman (R)

North Carolina Price (D), McIntyre (D), Etheridge (D), Clayton (D), Coble (R), Myrick (R), Burr (R), Hayes (R), Watt (D), Ballenger (R)

North Dakota Pomeroy (D)

Ohio Brown (D), Kucinich (D), Traficant (D), LaTourette (R), Kaptur (D), Regula (R), Ney (R), Strickland (D), Jones (D), Hall (D), Sawyer (D)

Oregon Wu (D), Blumenauer (D), DeFazio (D), Hooley (D)

Pennsylvania Brady (D), Borski (D), Doyle (D), Murtha (D), Klink (D), Toomey (R), Holden (D), Coyne (D), Goodling (R), Mascara (D), Hoeffel (D), Fattah (D), Kanjorski (D)

Rhode Island Kennedy (D), Weygand (D)

South Carolina Clyburn (D), Spratt (D), Graham (R), Spence (R)

Texas Green (D), Turner (D), Hinojosa (D), Frost (D), Sandlin (D), Gonzalez (D), Reyes (D), Lampson (D), Jackson-Lee (D), Rodriguez (D), Johnson (D), Bentsen (D), Ortiz (D)

Tennessee Clement (D), Ford (D), Gordon (D), Tanner (D)

Vermont Sanders (I)

Virginia Goode (I), Boucher (D), Goodlatte (R), Moran (D), Pickett (D), Scott (D)

Washington Baird (D), Inslee (D), Metcalf (R), McDermott (D), Dicks (D)

West Virginia Rahall (D), Mollohan (D), Wise (D)

Wisconsin Barrett (D), Sensenbrenner (R), Obey (D), Baldwin (D), Kleczka (D), Kind (D)

J. Dennis Hastert
Fourteenth District
Illinois



(202) 225-0600

minimum wage

Office of the Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
September 28, 2000

Honorable Richard Gephardt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of September 26, 2000 regarding a balanced approach to the minimum wage. As you know, I wrote the President a week before Labor Day, asking him for his help in breaking the roadblock that has kept us from enacting legislation that would raise the minimum wage as it provided tax relief for the small business owners who often hire minimum wage workers. I appreciate your response, which I take as a good faith effort to break this roadblock.

In your response, you express grave concern about the above-the-line health care tax deduction. According to the Joint Tax Committee, 26 million Americans would be able to provide affordable health care coverage by claiming this important tax deduction. And according to the General Accounting Office, this tax deduction would primarily benefit millions of low and middle-income Americans in the 15% percent tax bracket, and help 1.6 million Americans to get health insurance for the first time.

You said in your letter that increasing the minimum wage would help 10 million workers. Likewise, our 100% health care tax deduction would help 26 million Americans get health care insurance or increase their current coverage. Most of these Americans work in small businesses, which often cannot afford to offer their employees health insurance.

One of the real problems in health care today is access to affordable health insurance. Our plan addresses that problem with a solution that works. I urge you to drop your opposition to this common-sense health care reform. If we work together, I believe we can help America's workers with their wages and with their health insurance. We can also help small businesses, which create the majority of new jobs in the country. Thank you for your letter and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House



Union Label & Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO



Charles E. Mercer
President

September 29, 2000

Dennis L. Kivikko
Secretary-Treasurer
Show Manager

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

MINIMUM WAGE

✓cc: Karen T.

Dear Mr. President:

Over 18 months ago we, the Executive Board of the Union Label and Service Trades Department, AFL-CIO, authorized the President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Department to execute an initiative to stop the "Saipan Scam." This initiative included joining and working with the Take Pride in America Coalition and was by Resolution unanimously adopted by the 23rd AFL-CIO Convention (copy enclosed).

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However, while Democrats have joined with Republicans in calling for these reforms to be passed, a leading Saipan factory boss disclosed to ABC's 20/20 News (5/24/99) that U.S. Rep. Tom Delay (R-TX) promised them that he would make sure these and other reforms did not come to a vote in the Congress. This is a travesty of justice to the majority supporting this bill, to America's working men and women who are losing jobs to this scam, and to those who are toiling in virtual indentured servitude in these sweatshops right under America's flag.

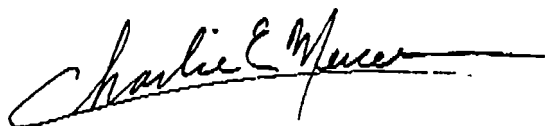


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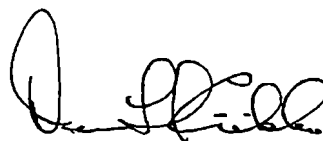
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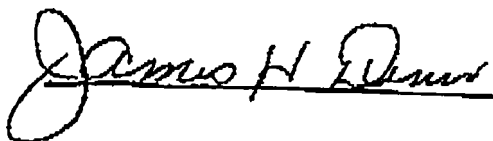
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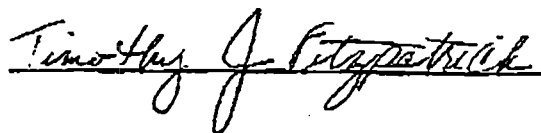
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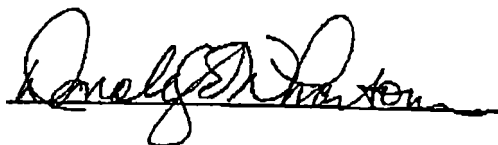
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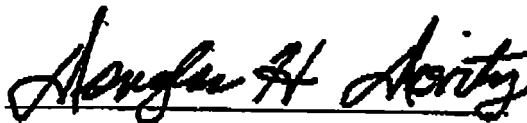
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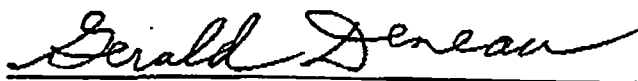
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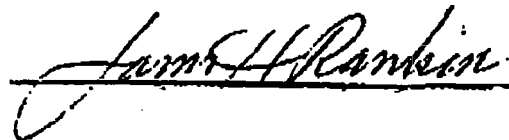
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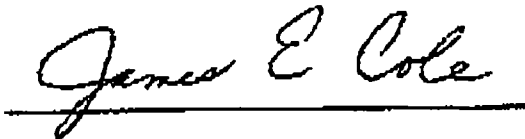
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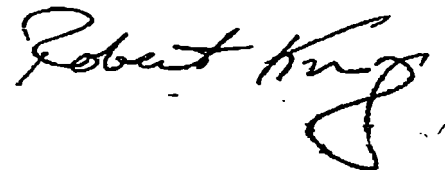
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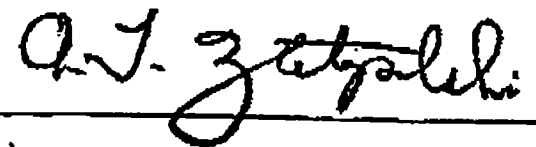
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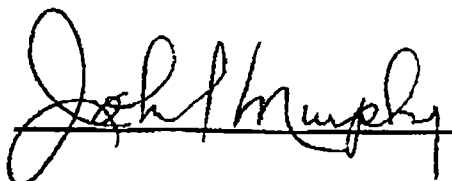
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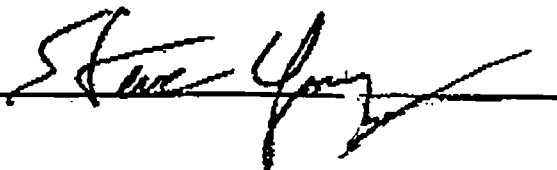
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cc: Albert Gore, Jr., Vice President of the United States
 John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff
 Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President For Domestic Policy
 Larry Stein, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
 Craig Smith, Assistant to the President for Political Affairs
 Jack Lew, Director, Office of Management and Budget
 John Sweeney, President, American Federation of Labor and
 Congress of Industrial Organizations

OPPOSING THE ABUSE OF WORKERS AND THE
MISUSE OF THE "MADE IN USA" LABEL IN THE
U.S. COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Submitted by the AFL-CIO Union Label and Service Trades Department.

WHEREAS, sweatshop garment factories set up by the Chinese and others in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) use a loophole in current U.S. law to deceptively apply the "Made in USA" label to products made with foreign workers and all foreign materials; and

WHEREAS, such misuse of the "Made in USA" label on these foreign products is a fraud and deception on millions of American consumers who rely on the truth of this label; and

WHEREAS, another loophole in U.S. law allows more than \$1 billion worth of CNMI-produced goods to escape U.S. import duties, which in turn costs U.S. taxpayers an estimated \$200 million annually in lost revenues; and

WHEREAS, these foreign-made goods from the CNMI unfairly compete against products actually made in the USA, thereby destroying the jobs of workers throughout America; and

WHEREAS, CNMI government and business leaders are actively pursuing investment by industries other than textiles, promoting the CNMI's "very

special" relationship with the U.S. and the fact that it is exempt from U.S. minimum wage, immigration, and import duty laws; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in both the U.S. House (H.R. 1621) and the U.S. Senate (S. 922) to close these loopholes to the benefit of U.S. working men and women, consumers, senior citizens, and taxpayers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this 23rd Convention of the AFL-CIO go on record as urging its affiliates to request that their local unions contact their elected representatives in Congress to request their cosponsorship of this reform legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this 23rd Convention of the AFL-CIO go on record as urging the Executive Council of the AFL-CIO and all affiliates to continue to work with the Union Label and Service Trades Department and the Take Pride in American Coalition to push for the immediate passage of this reform legislation.

***Adopted at the 23rd AFL-CIO
Constitutional Convention***

Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the United States Government Fiscal Year 2000]
From the Budget of the U.S., FY 2000
Online via GPO Access

[[Page 71]]

Modify International Trade Provisions

Extend and modify Puerto Rico economic-activity tax credit.--Although the Puerto Rico and possessions tax credit generally was repealed in 1996, both the income-based option and the economic-activity option under the credit remain available for existing business operations conducted in taxable years beginning before January 1, 2006, subject to base-period caps. To provide a more efficient tax incentive for the economic development of Puerto Rico and to continue the shift from an income-based credit to an economic-activity-based credit that was begun in the 1993 Act, the budget would modify the phase-out of the economic-activity-based credit for Puerto Rico (under section 30A of the Code) by (1) opening it to newly established business operations during the phase-out period, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998, and (2) extending the phase-out period through taxable years beginning before January 1, 2009.

Extend the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and modify other trade provisions.--Under GSP, duty-free access is provided to over 4,000 items from eligible developing countries that meet certain worker rights, intellectual property protection, and other criteria. The Administration proposes to extend the program, which expires after June 30, 1999, through June 30, 2000. The Administration is proposing permanent enhanced trade benefits for subsaharan African countries undertaking strong economic reforms. The Administration also proposes to provide, through June 30, 2001, expanded trade benefits mainly on textiles and apparel to Caribbean Basin countries that meet new eligibility criteria. These benefits will help Caribbean Basin countries prepare for a future free trade agreement with the United States and respond to the effects of Hurricanes George and Mitch. The Administration also proposes to implement the OECD Shipbuilding Agreement.

Levy tariff on certain textiles and apparel products produced in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).--
The Administration has proposed a tariff on textile and apparel products produced in the CNMI without certain percentages of workers who are U.S. citizens, nationals or permanent residents or citizens of the Pacific island nations freely associated with the U.S.

Expand Virgin Island tariff credits.--The Administration proposes the expansion of authorized but currently unused tariff credits for wages paid in the production of watches in the Virgin Islands to be available for the production of fine jewelry.

[[Page 87]]

EFFECT OF PROPOSALS ON RECEIPTS (In millions of dollars)

Estimate							
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000-2004
.....							
Modify international trade provisions:							
Extend and modify Puerto Rico economic-activity tax credit.....		-24	-46	-71	-106	-141	-388
Extend GSP and modify other trade provisions \1\.....	-84	-484	-223	-93	-96	-99	-995
Levy tariff on certain textiles/apparel produced in the CNMI \1\....			187	187	187	187	748

Cosponsors of H. R. 1621/S. 922 "The 'Made in USA' Label Defense Act"

(as of September 29, 2000)

SENATE - S. 922 (36 total - 8 R's, 28 D's)

Alabama	Sessions (R), Shelby (R)
Arkansas	Lincoln (D)
California	Boxer (D), Feinstein (D)
Connecticut	Lieberman (D)
Georgia	Cleland (D)
Hawaii	Akaka (D)
Illinois	Durbin (D)
Indiana	Bayh (D)
Iowa	Harkin (D)
Louisiana	Breaux (D)
Maryland	Mikulski (D)
Massachusetts	Kerry (D), Kennedy (D)
Maine	Snowe (R)
Michigan	Abraham (R)
Minnesota	Wellstone (D)
Montana	Baucus (D)
New Jersey	Torricelli (D)
North Carolina	Helms (R), Edwards (D)
North Dakota	Dorgan (D), Conrad (D)
Oklahoma	Inhofe (R)
Oregon	Wyden (D)
Pennsylvania	Santorum (R)
Rhode Island	Reed (D)
South Carolina	Hollings (D), Thurmond (R)
South Dakota	Johnson (D), Daschle (D)
West Virginia	Byrd (D), Rockefeller (D)
Wisconsin	Kohl (D), Feingold (D)

HOUSE - H.R. 1621 (233 total - 37 R's, 195 D's, 2 I)

Alabama	Everett (R), Bachus (R), Callahan (R), Cramer (D), Aderholt (R), Hilliard (D)
Arizona	Pastor (D)
Arkansas	Snyder (D), Berry (D)
California	Miller (D), Stark (D), Martinez (D), Hunter (R), Sherman (D), Lee (D), Filner (D), Lantos (D), Pelosi (D), Berman (D), Capps (D), Lofgren (D), Eshoo (D), Woolsey (D), Napolitano (D), Dixon (D), Farr (D), Millender-McDonald (D), Sanchez (D), Waters (D), Baca (D), Roybal-Allard (D), Horn (R), Waxman (D), Condit (D), Becerra (D)
Colorado	Udall (D), DeGette (D)
Connecticut	DeLauro (D), Maloney (D), Gejdenson (D), Larson (D)
DC	Norton (D)
Florida	Thurman (D), Wexler (D), Brown (D), Meek (D), Boyd (D), Deutsch (D)

Georgia	Deal (R), Lewis (D), Isakson (R), McKinney (D), Bishop (D), Norwood (R), Barr (R), Collins (R)
Hawaii	Mink (D), Abercrombie (D)
Illinois	Gutierrez (D), Lipinski (D), Phelps (D), Costello (D), Evans (D), Davis (D), Rush (D), Jackson (D), Blagojevich (D), Schakowsky (D)
Indiana	Visclosky (D), Carson (D), Roemer (D)
Iowa	Latham (R), Boswell (D)
Kansas	Moore (D)
Kentucky	Whitfield (R), Lucas (D)
Maine	Baldacci (D), Allen (D)
Maryland	Cummings (D), Wynn (D), Cardin (D)
Massachusetts	McGovern (D), Frank (D), Tierney (D), Capuano (D), Olver (D), Neal (D), Delahunt (D), Moakley (D), Markey (D)
Michigan	Dingell (D), Kildee (D), Kilpatrick (D), Rivers (D), Stabenow (D), Barcia (D), Stupak (D), Conyers (D), Bonior (D), Levin (D)
Minnesota	Luther (D), Oberstar (D), Vento (D), Peterson (D), Sabo (D), Minge (D)
Mississippi	Shows (D), Thompson (D), Taylor (D)
Missouri	Danner (D), Gephardt (D), Clay (D), McCarthy (D)
Nebraska	Terry (R)
Nevada	Berkley (D)
New Jersey	Franks (R), Pallone (D), LoBiondo (R), Smith (R), Pascrell (D), Rothman (D), Menendez (D), Payne (D), Andrews (D), Holt (D)
New Mexico	Udall (D)
New York	Hinchey (D), Maloney (D), McHugh (R), Forbes (D), Weiner (D), Nadler (D), Walsh (R), King (R), Slaughter (D), Ackerman (D), Kelly (R), McNulty (D), Lowey (D), Engel (D), Towns (D), Owens (D), LaFalce (D), Velazquez (D), Crowley (D), Rangel (D), McCarthy (D), Meeks (D), Serrano (D), Gilman (R)
North Carolina	Price (D), McIntyre (D), Etheridge (D), Clayton (D), Coble (R), Myrick (R), Burr (R), Hayes (R), Watt (D), Ballenger (R)
North Dakota	Pomeroy (D)
Ohio	Brown (D), Kucinich (D), Traficant (D), LaTourette (R), Kaptur (D), Regula (R), Ney (R), Strickland (D), Jones (D), Hall (D), Sawyer (D)
Oregon	Wu (D), Blumenauer (D), DeFazio (D), Hooley (D)
Pennsylvania	Brady (D), Borski (D), Doyle (D), Murtha (D), Klink (D), Toomey (R), Holden (D), Coyne (D), Goodling (R), Mascara (D), Hoeffel (D), Fattah (D), Kanjorski (D)
Rhode Island	Kennedy (D), Weygand (D)
South Carolina	Clyburn (D), Spratt (D), Graham (R), Spence (R)
Texas	Green (D), Turner (D), Hinojosa (D), Frost (D), Sandlin (D), Gonzalez (D), Reyes (D), Lampson (D), Jackson-Lee (D), Rodriguez (D), Johnson (D), Bentsen (D), Ortiz (D)
Tennessee	Clement (D), Ford (D), Gordon (D), Tanner (D)
Vermont	Sanders (I)
Virginia	Goode (I), Boucher (D), Goodlatte (R), Moran (D), Pickett (D), Scott (D)
Washington	Baird (D), Inslee (D), Metcalf (R), McDermott (D), Dicks (D)
West Virginia	Rahall (D), Mollohan (D), Wise (D)
Wisconsin	Barrett (D), Sensenbrenner (R), Obey (D), Baldwin (D), Kleczka (D), Kind (D)