

out of every three jobs is an export job. So my State would be punished by this amendment. In fact, we are \$100 million below last year's level in terms of the loan guarantees. This administration has cut it. I would also point out that this is a new administration that is not responsible for what the previous administration did on this particular loan; and they have said that they are going to review this matter.

Mr. Chairman, I would say to the gentleman he has won his victory here today. The gentleman has convinced the new administration that this is something which should not be done in the future; and so do not punish the Export-Import Bank where jobs in my State will be lost.

(On request of Mr. MOLLOHAN, and by unanimous consent, Mr. DICKS was allowed to proceed for 2 additional minutes.)

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, first of all, the gentleman speaks in terms that this cut is going to have a disastrous impact on exporters who are assisted by the Export-Import Bank and people in his congressional district, perhaps. Hardly. The President requested \$633 million. This committee is appropriating \$753 million, which is \$120 million more than the President requested. We are simply taking \$18 million.

Mr. DICKS. Reclaiming my time, but \$100 million less than last year.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Chairman, to follow up on the point of the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the word "cut" has been used here a lot. I used it myself.

Mr. Chairman, we are over the President's request; but my understanding is that the dollars appropriated, and the way it will be budgeted will provide for about 12 to \$12.5 billion worth of subsidies.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, if we had gotten last year's level, we would be at \$15 billion in export support, so it is about a \$2.5 billion cut which the gentleman will make worse with this \$18 million cut.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DICKS. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, we have had, in the last 3 years, 19 steel companies go bankrupt. That is sobering. Nineteen steel companies in this country. We have had 23,000 steelworkers, real jobs for real people, laid off. This is here and now.

Mr. DICKS. Reclaiming my time.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, if I may finish. When the gentleman talks about going to the authorizing committee, we are not talking about deal-

ing with an imminent danger. The gentleman serves on the Committee on Appropriations. The Committee on Appropriations can make a statement here and now. If we were to go to the authorizing committee, it may be 2 more years and another 19 steel companies going bankrupt.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the gentleman makes a mistake if he does not consider trying to change the law so the Export-Import Bank has to take into account the impact on the domestic economy of these exporters.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to joining the gentleman in that effort.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I told the gentleman I would be glad to help in that effort. But the point here today is this is a meat-axe approach. Coming in here and cutting \$18 million out of Export-Import Bank does not make any sense. The new administration says they are going to take the gentleman's position into account. I would urge the gentleman to withdraw his amendment, he has made his point, and not hurt another sector of the economy.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman should urge something else because he knows that is not going to happen. Maybe the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) should urge his colleagues who might support his position to vote with him.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I always think my colleagues have good judgment.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair requests Members follow regular order.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. This is a token amount of money being cut from the Export-Import Bank. The President asked for a \$120 million cut. This is only \$18 million. There was \$120 million added over the present request. This is not a project that is a favorite of the President, and he has referred to this as a form of corporate welfare.

This is just a small effort to rein in the power of the special interests, the powerful special interests. It has been mentioned that jobs could be lost. In the debate, there has been emphasis on jobs, and the truth is that it may happen. Jobs could be lost. But what Members fail to realize is that the jobs lost are special interest jobs. If my colleagues take that same funding, and we never talk about what would happen to that \$75 billion line of credit of the Export-Import Bank if it were allowed to remain in the economy. Other jobs would be created, so my colleagues cannot argue half of the case. We have to look at the whole picture. Special interest jobs would be lost. True market jobs would be increased.

Mr. Chairman, last week we had a vote on trade with China. I supported

that vote. I believe in free trade and low tariffs. I believe in the right of people to spend their money where they please, and I believe it is best for countries to be trading with each other. But the very same people today arguing for these corporate subsidies claim they are for free trade. If my colleagues are for free trade, they should not be for corporate subsidies. They are not one and the same. They are different.

Free trade means there are low tariffs, but we do not subsidize any special interests. To me it is rather amazing, the paragraph that we are dealing with is called Subsidy Authorization. There is no pretension anymore. We just advertise, this as a subsidies. When did we get into the business of subsidies? A long time ago, unfortunately. I do not think that the Congress should be in the business of subsidies.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment has something to do with campaign finance reform. I am in favor of some reforms, that is, less control. People have the right to spend their own money the way they want; and when we have the problem of big corporations coming here and lobbying us, that is a secondary problem.

If my colleagues look at the corporations that get the biggest subsidies from the Export-Import Bank, they really lobby us.

Mr. Chairman, what I say is let us have some real campaign finance reform and let us get rid of the subsidies and the motivation for these huge corporations to come here and influence our vote. That is what the problem is. We do not need to get the money out of politics, we need to get the money out of Washington and out of the business of subsidizing special interests. That is where our problem is.

Last week we voted to trade with China, and I said I supported that. But anybody who voted against that bill because they do not like what is happening in China should vote for this amendment and also my amendment that is likely to come up.

China gets \$6.2 billion, the largest subsidy to any country in the world from the Export-Import Banks. China gets it. So why do we first want to trade with China, then subsidize them as well, and then complain? I would suggest that those who claim they believe in free trade, they need to support this amendment because we are getting into the interference and manipulation of trade, the subsidy to big corporations.

Those who do not like China should vote for this because there is a suggestion that the Export-Import Bank serves the interest of China. So to me it should be an easy vote. The only problem with this amendment is that it is so small. It does not really address the big subject on whether or not the Congress should be in this business. Obviously they should not be. Where do you find the authorization to give subsidy appropriations in the Constitution? It is not there.

This is a charade. This is fiction when it comes to looking at constitutional law.

I would strongly urge a yes vote on this amendment and do not support this effort to benefit the big companies and hurt the little guys. The little guys are the ones who lose this line of credit and push their interest rates up.

Who gets the risk under this situation? The taxpayer. There is a lot of insurance in the Export-Import Bank. The risk goes to the taxpayer, but the profits go to the corporations. What is fair about that? The big corporation cannot lose. So why would the banks not loan to the big special interest corporations?

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I have not seen such obfuscation in all my life as I have seen here this morning. Somehow they want us to believe that if we take \$18 million out of their budget, that the whole import/export budget will collapse. The President's budget has \$687 million in it. The House budget is \$805 million.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Visclosky-Mollohan amendment which cuts \$15 million from the Export-Import Bank subsidy appropriations and \$3 million from their administrative expenses. It troubles me that the Ex-Im Bank approved an \$18 million loan guarantee to modernize and improve production for a Chinese steel company. Yes, you heard it correctly. We are using American taxpayer dollars to modernize a Chinese steel company so that it can produce more steel for import into the United States, thereby, putting more steel workers on the unemployment line.

To add insult to injury, Benxi, the Chinese steel company, is currently involved in an anti-dumping case before the International Trade Commission. Once again, you heard it correctly. We are guaranteeing a loan for a Chinese steel company which has been charged with dumping steel on the American market.

Does the Ex-Im Bank not know that our domestic steel industry has been hurting since the flood of imports began in the late 1990s? In fact, since December of 1997, 18 steel companies, and I understand one more steel company with a combined total of 36,000 employees, have declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy which means 36,000 steel worker jobs could be in jeopardy. Since 1998 over 20,000 steel workers have lost their jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize the competitiveness of the international marketplace, and I know our companies can compete if the playing field is level. In fact, we have the most efficient and productive steel workers in the world. However, not only do we lack a level playing field, but American taxpayers are now being asked to subsidize our competitors.

As John Stosel says on ABC's 20/20, "Give me a break." This must stop and

Congress needs to send a message that it will not tolerate these misguided policies. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the Visclosky-Mollohan amendment.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MASCARA. Yes, I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to point out that on December 15, 2000 the board of directors of Ex-Im approved a guarantee for an \$18 million credit to support export sales from General Electric in Salem, Virginia; Carlen Controls in Roanoke, Virginia; and CIC Company in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania for software control systems and main drive power supplies and it does go for this project. These are U.S. companies that got the loan guarantees.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MASCARA. Yes, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman just made our point.

The lack of wisdom is in paying off these companies to support investments of the Benxi steel facility in China in order to enable the production of tremendous excess capacity in that plant. The gentleman just made the point.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania will continue to yield, the point I was trying to make was that the gentleman said that the guarantee was given to the Chinese company. It was not given to the Chinese company. It was given to these three American companies.

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Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Chairman, I think all of us agree that the Ex-Im Bank is valuable, that it is valuable to small businesses, that it is important for trade, but we are sick and tired of throwing it in our face. I represent steelworkers as well as the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), and we are sick and tired of this country in our face, our workers being put out of work and using our taxpayers' dollars to do it.

Mr. Chairman, I am asking all my colleagues to support the Visclosky-Mollohan amendment.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Visclosky-Mollohan amendment as the chairman of the authorizing subcommittee on the Committee on Financial Services. The ranking member of that subcommittee is the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS). While I have served for 21 years on the Banking Committee, now the Financial Services Committee, this is the first year that I

have been the chairman of the authorizing subcommittee that relates to the Export-Import Bank.

I would say to the gentleman from West Virginia and the gentleman from Indiana that the authorization for the Export-Import Bank expires on September 30, 2001 and there is broad and bipartisan concern with the case that the gentlemen have brought to our attention. It has also been brought to our attention by all of the members of the Steel Caucus. In fact, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and I introduced legislation last week at this time, H.R. 2517 and we have a section in that legislation specifically related to Benxi Steel and the transaction approved by the Export-Import Bank in December of 2000.

I would tell the gentlemen that the Export-Import Bank and Treasury, which has exercised veto authority over the transactions of the Export-Import Bank, also has this Member's attention, and I want to make changes. If the Banks think they are going to have a straight, clean reauthorization bill, they are not going to do it with my approval or my active involvement. I very much think we need to give some very specific direction to the Export-Import Bank in many areas, and I will welcome these gentlemen and other Members' concerns about this specific transaction and on other issues.

I also think it is crucial that the industries that uses the export credit guarantee programs of the Bank understand we need to build a base of support for the Bank within the small business community. Currently the small business community has about 18 percent of the transactions in dollars allocated. That is probably only because Congress pushed the Bank to move ahead in its 1996 authorization legislation.

Furthermore, the Export-Import Bank has this Member's attention because the Treasury stepped in earlier this year and vetoed two transactions, one of which is in my home State, on the use of the tied aid war chest. An Austrian firm got that contract for \$7-9 million; and we lost \$100 million worth of follow-up sales annually in irrigation equipment—all for no good reason.

So the Export-Import Bank deserves plenty of scrutiny. We need to give them very specific directions. The gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and I have begun that effort with section 16 in the legislation we introduced. If after examining it you do not think it is strong enough, we will listen to your ideas in a further way.

I also would say this, that you have had an impact already—at least potentially. As already pointed out, the Export-Import Bank is now going through a process of enlarging and clarifying and getting it right in terms of the Ex-Im Bank's impact procedures that they will consider. In short, and this is a quote from the Bank's statement of objectives, they want to make sure they