

fall of France and at a time when the Axis powers were seemingly unbeatable.

The heroic stance by the Greeks against insurmountable odds, was the first glimmer of hope for the Allies, and today we can take great pride in those who risked their lives to defend their country. They sought to defend their own land, but they helped to save Europe.

THE ENDLESS GROWTH OF OUR NATIONAL TRADE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today because I think it is absolutely imperative that a proper amount of attention be given to the disturbing facts about the seemingly endless growth of the U.S. international trade deficit, and the impact of that growth on the American economy and American jobs.

In the first two quarters of 1995, the U.S. international trade deficit was over \$64 billion, compared to \$50 billion last year for the same period, and the second quarter's deficit of \$33.8 billion was the largest since 1987.

What these numbers signify is a growing assault on American jobs as foreign goods and services pour into the United States at a pace that far exceeds the exit of American exports. When one stops to consider these facts, Mr. Speaker, it becomes quite clear that the incessant push to enter into free trade agreements without first stopping to insure they include fair trade safeguards is, pure and simple, reckless.

Perhaps there is no better example to illustrate this point than the recently broken-down negotiations between Congress and the Administration over the reauthorization of fast-track trading authority, and the relation of those negotiations to the runaway momentum in both the Congress and the executive branch to expand NAFTA.

The debate over fast-track's reauthorization has centered on the Administration's position that U.S. trade negotiators should continue to be allowed to address labor and environmental concerns and the Republicans' drive to revoke that authority. In my opinion this difference represents a flawed point on which to base negotiations as it begs the very fundamental question of whether fast-track should be reauthorized at all.

While the Administration's position is imminently better than the Republicans', it is not a good alternative. It is, rather, the lesser of two evils. For even under a fast-track program that safeguards the right of U.S. trade negotiators to address both labor and environmental concerns, Congress would still have to agree in advance of seeing a trade agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is tragically wrong for Congress to agree to stifle it-

self and surrender its constitutionally granted authority when considering trade pacts that will have far reaching effects on American jobs. Those pacts should, on the contrary, be scrutinized from top to bottom in order to prevent the type of disaster that is currently going on as a result of the NAFTA pact.

Indeed, those who would see fast-track reauthorized and subsequently support the use of that tool to expand NAFTA must be living under rocks. As the last 20 months have shown, the impact of NAFTA on the American economy has been anything but what its proponents promised. To push for expanding that ill-conceived trade pact represents nothing short of a callous disrespect for the notion of protecting American jobs.

Consider, for instance, the claim made often by NAFTA's strongest supporters before the NAFTA agreement was approved by Congress that the trade pact would create 200,000 jobs by 1995. That claim was made by using the calculation that every billion dollars of net exports creates 20,000 jobs. It is with no pleasure, and I assure you with no pleasure on my part, that I point out that in the first 6 months of 1995 the United States recorded an \$8.3 billion trade deficit with Mexico, whereas last year during the same period the U.S. had recorded a surplus of \$1.1 billion.

In order to reach the goal of 200,000 new NAFTA jobs, the United States would have to run a yearly trade surplus with Mexico exceeding \$8.6 billion. Thus what is clear is that the reality of the situation is drastically different from what NAFTA's champions promised the American people; with a projected \$15 billion 1995 trade deficit with Mexico, and the situation with Canada not being much better, by the year's end, instead of creating 200,000 new employment opportunities, NAFTA probably will have eliminated some 800,000 American jobs.

What is, moreover, as equally disturbing is the Labor Department's recent report that as of September 30 it had certified 42,221 citizens as eligible for NAFTA-related trade adjustment assistance.

In light of these facts, the push to expand NAFTA is not just bad policy, it is shockingly bad policy. Congress need to get its priorities in order. Before we worry about expanding a trade agreement that has done nothing yet but consume American jobs, I would suggest that we first attempt to both offer better help to those Americans who have already lost their jobs and stop further hemorrhaging.

For the immediate future this means ensuring that fast track will indeed, as reports now indicate, be kept out of the reconciliation bill, killing the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which proposes to grant one-way NAFTA privileges to 23 Latin American countries without any reciprocal benefits for the U.S., and opposing the inclusion of Chile in

NAFTA. For the long term this means working to implement policies that have the effect of actually creating jobs in a fair and equitable manner.

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Mr. Speaker, I feel very strongly about this. I think that NAFTA has hurt the United States, hurt our economy, and I do not want to see it expanded.

KEEP UNITED STATES TROOPS OUT OF BOSNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, under the cover of a peace agreement in a country that has never known peace, Bill Clinton is about to commit 25,000 of our sons and daughters into Bosnia. Now, that is not just 25,000 troops into Bosnia. That really equates to a number much larger than that, because you have to have the support troops to support those 20,000 or 25,000 troops that we are going to put on the ground in Bosnia.

Take a look very carefully at the situation in Bosnia. We have an absolute responsibility to question Bill Clinton about his intent to put these young people into that country. We need to assess the situation. Is the situation in Bosnia a security threat to this country? That answer is easy; no. Is it a security threat to any of our allies? The answer is easy; no. Is it an economic threat to the United States of America? The answer is no. Is it an economic threat to any of our allies? The answer is no. If we do not go into Bosnia, will it mean the collapse of NORAD? No, it will not.

How can this President justify it? Because he has made a commitment to this? Take a look at what the cost of Bosnia will be. We know that there is a very high likelihood of loss of life, and it could be my son. I have a son who is 18 years old. It could be your daughter or your son.

Think about it before we put these troops into Bosnia, before we let Bill Clinton put us into a situation that has no exit strategy. We need to ask Bill Clinton some pretty tough questions: One, what are the rules of engagement, Mr. Clinton? Number two, for what purposes and what reasons and where will our troops be assigned? Three, how do we get out of there? Four, how long are we going to be in there? Have you made any kind of strategy as to how we are going to get out or how long we are going to be there?

I would venture to say that we are woefully short of the kind of answers we need before we even consider supporting this President sending American ground troops into the country of Bosnia. I think that it is imperative and incumbent upon us to demand from this President that he be forthright

with the people of the United States of America and explain what that situation is. Right now he has got the cover of Medicare, he has got the cover of budget. While all this is going on, the Pentagon is buzzing away down there preparing to send these troops over to a country that is not a threat to this country.

I think the test, the ultimate test that each and every one of us in these chambers should employ, is the test that came across to me when I sat at a graduation speech this last spring. An 18 year old young man just got his degree and walked by. The person next to me leaned over and said, "We are very proud. That young man is going into the United States Marines."

At that very instant I thought to myself, could I look at his parents if we lose this young man in Bosnia? Could I look at his parents eye-to-eye and tell them that the loss of their son was necessary for the national security of the United States of America? Could I look them in the eye and tell them that it was necessary to send their son over to Bosnia? Were we able to look them in the eye when we were over in Lebanon or Somalia? I venture to say before we give our support to this President to send those troops into Bosnia, we ought to consider what our response is going to be to those parents.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield? Mr. MCINNIS. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi.

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying I just returned from that part of the world this weekend. I had a chance to meet with all of our top NATO officials and to go to observation posts on the Serbian border.

I am not going to disagree with anything the gentleman said. What I would say as a member of the minority party talking to a member of the majority party is I would ask that the gentleman ask the Speaker of the House that we be allowed to vote on this. It is our constitutional duty.

Everything the gentleman said I agree with. Congress ought to vote on it. The gentleman and I and the other 400 Members ought to decide this issue, not the President of the United States.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I absolutely agree with the gentleman. This should not be the decision of the President of the United States. The President of the United States should come to the U.S. Congress and ask us for our permission. Frankly, I am going to be leading the charge against it, because while I have not been to Bosnia, I have an 18-year-old son.

THE NEED FOR AN INDEPENDENT, CONSOLIDATED STATISTICAL AGENCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of myself, Mr. CLINGER, Mr. PETRI, Mrs. JOHNSON, Mr. CHRYSLER, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. LEACH, and Mr. ROGERS, I introduced the Statistical Consolidation Act of 1995. It would create a Federal Statistical Service which would combine the functions of the Bureau of the Census and Labor Statistics, one in Commerce, one in Labor, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

A core principle of the Republican majority is that government is too big and costs too much, and that we should seek economies wherever we might. The new Federal Statistical Service would streamline and improve the quality and efficiency of key data production, which affects not only the apportionment of Congress, the State legislatures, the boards of supervisors and city councils, but also business, the allocation of Federal and State programs, and many industry functions across the country.

Duplication of effort hampers the collection of statistical data. Both the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census collect data on the Nation's small businesses. The results are not only a wasted effort, but inconsistent and even contradictory findings. Public and private sector planning relies heavily on the accuracy of these statistics, which are collected through an assortment of sources.

The Nation needs better coordination and planning among its statistical agencies, to make Federal programs more responsive to the needs of our citizens. Lack of coordination has limited the usefulness of the data.

Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Democrat of Connecticut, a number of years ago saw the same need for change. He introduced the Statistical Policy Act of 1980. This Statistical Consolidation Act of 1995 takes many provisions from Senator Ribicoff's very far-reaching legislation. It is designed to remove duplication, harness information and technology, and streamline the collection and utilization of statistical data.

Some of you may ask, why not consolidate all statistical agencies, as Canada did with its Statistics Canada. After all, if Canada can do it, so can the United States. Canada, however, is not an example of complete consolidation. In fact, many of Canada's statistics come from sources other than Statistics Canada. In addition, the United States has nine times as many people and more complex statistical tasks than does the Government of Canada.

The new Federal Statistical Service would be headed by an Administrator nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Other officials to be nominated by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate are the Deputy Administrator, general counsel, and inspector general.

Also established is a Federal Council on Statistical Policy to advise the Administrator and the President. On the

Council would be statistics and survey professional experts from outside the Government, who would make policy recommendations to both the President and the Administrator.

The bill, when enacted, would trigger several events. Not later than 12 months after enactment, the new Federal Council would report to Congress on the consolidation of Census and Bureau of Labor Statistics field offices and on the savings possible from the merger. At the same time, the Council would provide a report on the feasibility of separating the decennial census mission from the rest of the Census Bureau. That action is in the bill to help Congress and the Nation grasp the cost of the decennial census.

Finally, within 18 months after enactment, the Council would recommend to Congress any changes in the procedure for releasing major social and economic indicators.

A well-informed electorate with access to knowledge of the state of the society is the cornerstone of a proper working democracy. Decisions based on the output of the Federal statistical system affects every citizen. That system is called upon to serve the voters of today and tomorrow. It is on their intelligent choices that the success of our democracy ultimately depends.

There must be better coordination and planning among these statistical agencies so that programs are more responsive to the needs of the Federal Government. It is my hope this bill will be passed as a bipartisan effort. The passage of this measure will not only mean better coordination, but it will also ensure independence from partisan influences, which are more probable when these functions are located in a Cabinet department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to carefully consider this proposal and hopefully adopt it during this session.

MAKE NEEDED CHANGES IN MEDICARE LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I am going to speak tonight on something we did last week and we are probably going to do again on Thursday, and that is to pass a bill that basically eliminates Medicare in this country. We will pass it again as part of the reconciliation bill on Thursday, and it will go over to the Senate.

The reason I am speaking about it is with the faint hope that my colleagues on the majority side will try to make some changes. I just doubt that will happen between now and Thursday, but the good news is it is a bicameral legislature, and the Senate will have the possibility to deal with this, and ultimately this is a piece of legislation that will go in front of the President. The President has issued a statement he will veto this legislation. I urge him