

and I am not taking sides in this Presidential campaign at this point, but I would like to point out some of the inaccurate remarks that have been made in what I believe to be untrue statements.

First of all, they say Pat Buchanan, one of the leading candidates for President, has been one who wants to put a wall around the United States and be a protectionist, and they say the manifestation of this is because he opposed NAFTA and a lot of the jobs going to Mexico and other parts of the world, and they have said that this is the wrong approach and that we should not be worrying about that.

The fact of the matter is NAFTA has been a disaster, and Mr. Buchanan is not wrong.

Let me give you some figures: In 1995, the U.S. trade deficit with the world was about \$120 billion. That included a deficit of about \$671 billion with Japan, \$40 billion with China, and the deficit with Mexico is now \$16 billion. Two years ago, when we signed NAFTA, we had a \$6 billion trade surplus with Mexico. Now we have a \$16 billion trade deficit. That means we have lost \$22 billion in trade with Mexico in the last 2 years, and each one of those billions of dollars costs the people of this country 19,000 jobs.

And so since NAFTA was passed, we have had a net loss of over 300,000 jobs going to Mexico. A net loss of 300,000 jobs. I think that it is not inaccurate to say it is not in the best interests of the people of this country to have businesses and industries relocate in Mexico to the detriment of American workers because of an unfair trade agreement.

Now, people say why do we have an unfair trade agreement? "Why do you say that, DAN?" The reason I say that is there are several problems with the NAFTA bill. Mr. Buchanan has talked about those. One of the problems is the tariffs on the Mexican side of the border come down over 15 years. On the American side of it's border, in many cases, those tariffs come down in 5 years. That gives the Mexican entrepreneur or business person a 10-year advantage, because they are still going to have tariffs on their side of the border for American products while we do not have them here.

Now, the wage rates down there in some parts of Mexico are very, very low. You can employ people in the Yucatan, including fringe benefits, for a dollar an hour, and their counterpart in the United States is being paid anywhere from \$10 to \$20 an hour. That labor disparity is one reason to go down there.

In addition to that, the tariffs not coming down as quickly on the Mexican side also is an inducement for American industry to leave here and go down there. Why would a small labor-intensive industry, let us say, that manufactures microwave ovens want to stay here when their competition is in Mexico at much lower wage rates, sell-

ing into the United States with no tariffs while they are paying much higher wage rates here in the United States and they cannot sell into Mexico without an import tariff? And so there is a real disadvantage for American industries staying here instead of going south of the border. Mr. Buchanan talks about that, and it is something that has cost us, as I said, over 300,000 jobs.

Let me give you some figures: Imports from Mexico have increased 51 percent; that is, products coming from there to here. United States exports going to Mexico have increased by only 8 percent. So they have got a 33 percent advantage there. The \$5.7 billion trade surplus I talked about in 1992 is now a \$16 billion trade deficit, costing 300,000 jobs. The companies along the border are relocating in Mexico because of these advantages. More workers, in 90 percent of the cases, let me just read this to you, at this rate, taking Japan and China, for example, excuse me, while large corporations made sweeping predictions that NAFTA would enable them to hire more workers, in 90 percent of the cases these companies who said they would be able to hire more workers because of NAFTA have made no significant steps toward fulfilling these promises. In fact, according to the Department of Labor estimates, many of these leading NAFTA promoters have laid off workers, including GE, Procter & Gamble, Mattelle, and Xerox. For example, Wrangler has closed three manufacturing plants, lost 700 jobs to Mexico. United Technologies automotive plant in St. Matthews, SC, laid off 400 workers to plants in Mexico. Cleveland Mills, owned by Fruit of the Loom, folded in December, eliminating 400 jobs. This is part of the Fruit of the Loom plans to cut 3,200 jobs, close six plants and move those operations to other parts of the world, including Mexico. Eleven El Paso apparel factories closed down in the first year alone because of NAFTA, and recently the Hershey Co., an all-American company, everybody loves those Hershey Kisses, they moved one of their major Hershey Kisses plants to Mexico, and this is just another reason why facts need to be laid out very clearly in this campaign, and we should not be denigrating any one candidate to the advantage of another, because of misinformation.

Mr. Buchanan is right on the money on this issue. We are losing jobs. There needs to be free trade, but there needs to be fair trade as well, and so I hope my colleagues that are running for President will keep this in mind.

ATROCITY COMMITTED 90 MILES FROM U.S. SHORE

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 rise today to urge my colleagues in the

fastest possible time and the quickest possible moment to pass the Helms-Burton bill to bring the end of the Castro dictatorship in Cuba.

Just this weekend, we witnessed less than 90 miles from our shore, actually about 85 miles from our shore, 85 miles from my district, an incident that will be remembered throughout American history as one of the most brazen, really cruel, vicious, evil acts in the 20th century.

Two aircraft, civilian aircraft, unarmed civilian aircraft, irrefutably over international waters, and again the evidence is irrefutable at this time of where they were, and regardless of where they were, over international waters, shot down by military fighter jets, and all passengers perished. A rogue state, not a country, but the leadership of that country, that just recently in the so-called 13th of March incident of last year killed 40 innocent Cubans, men, women, and children trying to escape persecution. A country and a leader, not a people, but a leader, Castro, who just really immediately before this incident, February 15 of this year, began a nationwide roundup of members of an opposition group called Concilio Cubano, over 100 members of Concilio Cubano were arrested and over 20 members are still missing and presumed in jail.

The Clinton administration has offered on the table some things that will be helpful. But what this country needs to do, what we need to do as Americans, is bring the last and only dictator, the last and only Communist ruler in our hemisphere, to an end. We have the power to do that within this building, within this Hall, within this Chamber, with the help of the Chamber on the other side and the support of the President.

I point to several of my colleagues who really are still thinking of or fixated in Castro the liberator, Castro the reformist, to think of what he is doing to his own people.

I am glad that the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON], the chairman of the committee dealing with this issue and the author of this bill is here. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me say to my colleague from Florida that we really appreciate his leadership on this bill. He has been very, very helpful in getting the Burton-Helms bill through the U.S. House of Representatives with a veto-proof majority.

This horrible act that took place this weekend to which the gentleman referred should eliminate any doubt in anybody's mind about the necessity for passing this bill and cutting off Castro's ability to get hard currency by selling confiscated United States property that was owned by Americans in Cuba. I cannot stress strongly enough the support that the gentleman has given and how much I appreciate that.

The President has now come on board, a little late, but we are very happy he is on board, and he said he is

going to support some modification of this bill. I hope the President will sign the bill in the original form as it passed the House. That is the toughest bill we are going to have. If he cannot, I hope he will at least give us a very tough alternative so we can send Castro a unified message, and I know my colleague wants to do that, that this country stands together in opposing the human rights violations and the travesty that happened down there last weekend.

I want to thank my colleague once again for his leadership.

Mr. DEUTSCH. I see my colleague from Florida, the first Cuban-American to be a Member of the U.S. Congress, the gentlewoman from Florida [Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN], is on the floor. Another colleague of ours, the gentleman from California [Mr. LANTOS], who is actually a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, who in an official capacity, not spending any money but going through the U.S. intervention, as opposed to other people who visited that country, visited that country and met with dissidents, people tortured. This is a man who lived through the pre-Holocaust and actual Holocaust time, and described in Cuban, what is going on there, as bad as what was going on in Germany before the Holocaust.

So that is the reality of the situation on the ground 90 miles from our shore, 90 miles from my district, and we have the ability in this Chamber to change that. Hopefully by the end of this week we will take an important significant step and pass the Helms-Burton bill.

PROVIDING FREE AIR TIME TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article in this morning's Washington Post. Although I cannot say that I have always agreed with Fox Broadcasting Co. Chairman Rupert Murdoch, I am delighted that he has endorsed the idea—my idea—of providing free TV time to political candidates.

Mr. Murdoch has announced that he will give Presidential candidates free air time this fall. Last year, I introduced legislation to provide candidates this kind of access to our airways, and, to give voters a truer picture of the candidates.

Due to obfuscating and expensive political commercials, voters rarely witness what candidates truly stand for. The time has come to even the playing field and provide a mechanism to rid our airways of manipulative advertising campaigns, and return elections to the voters.

Mr. Murdoch has challenged his competitors to provide free TV time. I am challenging my colleagues to cosponsor my bill to ensure that broadcasters provide free TV time.

IMPORTANCE OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, everyone is talking about how on the campaign trail people are all talking about jobs, so I would like to address this issue of jobs today in a rational and forthright way.

According to futurist John Naisbitt, three industries will drive the global economy of the 21st century. They are telecommunications, information technology, and travel, tourism.

Rarely does a nation get the chance that we have now to reassess and to restructure our public policy approach to an industry that is slated to be a force of the future. Following the recommendations of the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism which took place here in Washington last October, we now have that chance to reshape our approach and our economic future with this monumental industry.

You have heard the statistics before on travel and tourism. Did you know that travel and tourism employs 204 million people worldwide? That is almost as many people as we have living in the United States, minus California. That equals 10 percent of the global work force. One out of every 10 people around the world works in travel and tourism.

In the United States alone, travel and tourism accounts for 1 out of every 9 jobs here in America. Tourism produces \$655 billion in tax revenue. More than 10 percent of all capital investment worldwide goes into travel and tourism. Maybe that is why travel and tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy.

America needs a bold agenda for change, change not only in the way we do business, but in the new way that we look at the world.

Consider for a moment that the single largest global revenue producer for individuals and governments, travel and tourism, has recently been cut from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Just totally cut it out, yet it is the No. 1 industry in America for jobs.

Mr. Speaker, America needs a contingency plan. The Travel and Tourism Partnership Act is that plan. This plan allows the United States to compete globally for tourism dollars against other countries like Canada, Germany, Spain, and Australia, who are very sophisticated in this area and are taking these foreign tourists and therefore these foreign dollars from us.

Even small countries like Malaysia and Tunisia have been spending more on travel and tourism year after year than we have. Now with the closing of the USTTA, U.S. tourism promotion efforts have dropped to zero. Let me repeat that, zero dollars. Anyone who tells you that this is not going to cost American jobs is wrong, dead wrong. It is going to cost us a lot of jobs. In the

next 5 years, there will be an increase, an increase, of 50 million travelers worldwide. This represents thousands upon thousands of jobs in America and billions and billions of dollars.

So when people talk to you about what is taking place on the Presidential campaign trail today, people talking about jobs, talk to them about travel and tourism, because this is where the jobs will be in the 1990's and the 21st century. This can mean tens of thousands of new jobs for American workers, but it is not going to happen if we in Congress do not have the foresight and take advantage of this remarkable opportunity.

That is why, as chairman of the 304-member Travel and Tourist Caucus, the largest in Congress, I introduced the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act. This act sets forth a complete new approach to marketing the United States as a foreign destination. Rather than just another government-run program, my bill designs a partnership between the tourism industry and the public sector, a device to carry out a more effective marketing plan so we can have jobs and dollars in this country.

This plan is vital to the United States. This is a job creating bill. Virtually all over the world, and particularly in the United States, travel and tourism is the predominant industry for jobs that our people need. With all this potential, the United States is losing its market share to travel and tourism in a growing world market. We must stop this trend.

That is why I am on the floor today, to ask you for your help, so that you can say you have done something constructive to promote jobs, private enterprise jobs, right here in America.

This act reflects the recommendation of some 1,700 sophisticated travel and tourist leaders, as well as local, State, and regional tourism officials who participated in the White House conference. By developing this partnership plan, we can create jobs here in America, keep our main streets alive, and pump new tourism dollars into our local economies. With one out of every nine American workers employed by travel and tourism, we cannot afford not to take action. Travel and tourism is the hidden giant in the U.S. economy.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for bold ideas in America, and it is time to chart a course for the future. I urge all of my colleagues to join 172 members who have already cosponsored the Travel and Tourism Partnership Act. We must act, and we must act today. Join us and get involved in this blockbuster industry of the 1990's and the 21st century.

RESPONDING TO A DISASTER IN POOLVILLE, TX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. PETE GEREN, is recognized for 5 minutes.