

world. They have signed on to destroying the American patent system as we have known it for the last 130 years.

This is truly a battle between the little guy and the big guy. H.R. 3460, the Steal American Technologies Act, is being pushed through the system by big business. Small business, the investors, the NIFB, colleges and universities that get monies from royalties from their own inventive processes, they are behind the Rohrabacher substitute for H.R. 3460.

This will be a battle that determines America's future, but the American people will have trouble understanding it. Let us hope they call their Congressman to let them know they will be watching and America's interests should be protected.

MSA'S PROVIDE FREE MARKET SOLUTION TO HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Clinton administration, our President has taken American workers for a rollercoaster ride when it comes to fundamental health care reform. Two years ago we faced the scary plan called Clinton Health Care, which basically was a system of socialized medicine. Clinton Care completely rejected the idea that free market reforms, not big government, centralized control, might be the way to bring health care costs into line, and it would have forced people into managed care.

Americans were confronted with this ridiculously complex plan that would have even further increased our citizens' dependence on the Federal Government and ultimately left our children with debt even worse than today's already unacceptable high levels.

Today in Congress we have a plan, a good plan, for health care reform. It does not call on the Federal Government to take over anything. Instead, we propose to fix our problems in a manner that befits our free market economy by empowering Americans to have more, not less, control over their health care. Our plan will let Americans take their health care insurance with them when they change jobs, limit exclusions for preexisting conditions, and, perhaps most importantly, give Americans the option to choose medical savings accounts, MSA's. Our plan believes in giving people, not bureaucrats, the power to make personal health care choices, but this plan is held hostage, day 57.

MSA's, which is a component of our health care reform plan, provide free market solutions to our health care problems. Because of the fundamental good sense MSA's make, we have more and more Democrat converts to this economically sound reform option.

While I would prefer to give the MSA option to all Americans, I recognize

slow progress is better than no progress. Such is the nature of compromise. All in all, however, we in Congress have a solid reform plan, and I am proud of the spirit of bipartisanship that many have brought to this cause.

However, one more Democrat still has not joined us in this compromise, and that is President Clinton. His refusal to take it up has brought this reform to a halt. I call on the President in the spirit of bipartisan, working together for Americans on crucial, crucial health care reform, for all Americans, to stop this hostage taking of the health care reform plan, come on board, and do what is right for America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WELLER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May Your Spirit, O God, be with us all the day long and remain with us in our hopes and in our sorrows, in our dreams and in our defeats. Cause us never to forget Your heavenly vision and let us never walk away from the gifts of Your good grace. We know, gracious God, that Your Spirit is over all the world and given to every person and is present in our lives this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REPORT ON H.R. 3662, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. REGULA, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-625) on the bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of order are reserved on the bill.

HOW LONG WILL PRESIDENT CLINTON AND SENATOR KENNEDY STAND IN THE WAY?

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a health care bill that ensures affordability, accessibility and ensures that preexisting conditions will not deny an individual health care coverage any longer. It makes health care more affordable to small businesses and to the self-employed and allows them to set up medical savings accounts. It allows tax deductions for long-term health care needs, and it fights fraud and abuse with tough new provisions.

Mr. Speaker there are only two people standing between the American people and more affordable and available health care, and that is President Bill Clinton and Senator TED KENNEDY, and, Mr. Speaker, how long will they stand in the way and deny the American people these much needed reforms?

VETERANS DESERVE MORE THAN HOLLOW PROMISES

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans are getting a raw deal. Last week the Republican budget conference approved a veterans budget \$573 million below that recommended by President Clinton. Now the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations has recommended that the funding level recommended by President Clinton for veterans' employment services provided for disabled veterans outreach program specialists and local veterans employment representatives be cut by almost \$12 million. As a result, 28,000 fewer veterans; that is, 28,000 fewer veterans, will be placed in jobs than proposed in the President's budget.

Additionally, the Republicans have recommended that the transition assistance program be terminated October 1. This successful program has

trained hundreds of thousands of men and women leaving our Armed Forces to find, and to find quickly, good permanent civilian jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans are anxious to spend billions of dollars on a dubious son of star wars program but are unwilling to provide the \$2 million necessary to help veterans earn a living in their civilian communities. Let us hope the Committee on Appropriations restores this money. Veterans deserve more than hollow promises.

NO MFN FOR CHINA

(Mr. FUNDERBURK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, dollar signs, business for some United States companies, trade and engagements; these seem to be the primary arguments for renewing MFN for Communist China.

Mr. Speaker, I remember in my youth reading "The Odyssey," the story about the great Greek hero Odysseus and his trip home after the long Trojan War. In one of his adventures he guided his ship through the singing of the Sirens. He had to do this without meeting the same fate which lured all mariners and their ships to the rocky coast and disaster.

The modern-day lure of the songs of the Sirens is the China market. Like Odysseus of old, only President Reagan, unlike recent American Presidents, was able to resist this. He built the United States up from its self-imposed position of strategic weakness.

Let us do what is good for the American national interests and resist the modern sirens. Do not grant MFN for China, at least until Communist China starts to act more like a civilized nation in its treatment of its citizens.

CANCEL MFN FOR CHINA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, another last minute trade deal. The White House said China has voluntarily agreed to stop breaking international trade and copyright law.

Right.

Mr. Speaker, what does China have to do before the White House wakes up? Nuke Taiwan? Rape the Statute of Liberty?

I think the facts are now clear and evident. While China is kicking our assets all the way from Beijing to the east lawn, the White House keeps making another deal. I do not know if we elected Monte Hall or what here. In America the people govern.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should cancel most-favored-nation trade status pork for China. I yield back the balance of all jobs and money.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the White House has now released statements from some of the political operatives involved in pawing through the confidential FBI background files of hundreds of political opponents. Those declarations are more important for what they do not say than for what they do.

Craig Livingstone, the ex-bouncer and political hatchet man who is now being paid not to work, released his carefully lawyered statement saying that if he was asked to obtain FBI background files, and if he did obtain the files, and if he was asked to disseminate to other people the personal information that he learned from those files, and if he did give out that personal information to other people, well, then he did not do so for any purpose he thought was, quote, improper.

The statement of course does not say what he defines as improper.

The American people deserve to know exactly what happened and why. They deserve to know what the President means when he says that he takes full responsibility for this outrage, and we need to know why the President is treating Mr. Livingstone so very gentle.

REPUBLICANS REVERSE DEMOCRATIC DEFICIT REDUCTION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The same group that shut down the Government last winter has given us a budget that is way out of balance. The Gingrich Republican budget cuts Medicare, cuts Medicaid, increases by \$12 billion the military budget, more than the Pentagon asked for, and increases taxes on people making \$15,000 to \$30,000 a year, at the same time swelling the budget deficit, all to give tax breaks to the richest people in this country.

Three years ago the budget deficit was \$290 billion. This year we have got it down to \$130 billion. We have cut it in half. Unfortunately, the Gingrich budget increases the budget deficit to \$153 billion next year and a comparable amount the following year instead of bringing the budget deficit down. At the same time it cuts Medicare by \$162 billion, it cuts Medicaid \$72 billion, again all to give a tax break to the wealthiest people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it simply does not make sense.

SUPPORT THE WORKER RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, is it fair that any union member should

automatically have money deducted from his or her paycheck to pay for political candidates or causes with which he or she disagrees? It is fair that a union member should have to battle his or her union in order to object to the union's spending of dues for political purposes? And, if he or she does object, is it fair that a union member be subjected to harassment from the union, or worse, the threat of losing his or her job? I certainly don't think so, and I would hope and expect that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle would feel the same way.

Mr. Speaker, the Worker Rights to Know Act will help instill some basic fairness to the process by which unions spend the hard earned money of their members. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

ANOTHER REASON FOR DENYING MFN TO CHINA

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as we go through the annual ritual of extending most-favored-nation trading status for China, yet another reason for denying MFN has come to light: China has become the major contributor to weapons proliferation and instability in Asia, with Pakistan being one of the major recipients of Chinese nuclear technology and delivery systems.

As was reported in the media last week, there is strong evidence from our own intelligence agencies that Pakistan has deployed nuclear-capable Chinese M-11 missiles, obtained through a secretive transfers that both countries have tried to cover up. Yet, incredibly, despite the overwhelming evidence, the administration seems unwilling to impose the tough economics that both nations clearly deserve.

Earlier this year, we failed to punish China or Pakistan for the transfer of 5,000 ring magnets, devices used for the production of weapons-grade enriched uranium. We also went ahead with the transfer of \$368 million in United States conventional weapons to Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to get tough with China, Pakistan, and other nations contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons. Denying MFN to China is an effective way to show that we're serious about nonproliferation.

OBSTRUCTIONIST LIBERALS HOLDING UP THE HEALTH COVERAGE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

(Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House and Senate reached an agreement on a package of commonsense health care reforms. The