

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 HOLD- ING UP THE HEALTH COVERAGE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORD- ABILITY 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

Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act of 1996 ensures portability, it fights waste, fraud, and abuse, it cuts redtape and creates a medical savings account program to help the self-employed and employees of smaller businesses.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win situation for the American people. We emphasize people over bureaucracy, choice over centralization.

But, unfortunately, a small group of liberals in the other body have held up this commonsense legislation for 57 days. These liberals are holding out for the centralized Clinton Care that was rejected by Congress and the American people 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, we should break this logjam. Obstructionist liberals should end their campaign to take over the Nation's health care system.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all members it is not in order to cast reflections on the Senate or its Members, individually or collectively.

CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT OR APPEASEMENT

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we are told that the United States of America is engaged in a policy of constructive engagement with the gerontocracy that runs China. We have just completed our second annual negotiations to allow the Chinese to continue to pirate over \$2 billion a year in intellectual property rights from American companies. There is no change; they are still producing those disks today.

Yes, there was a little show of closing down a few, but that will not last. We are going to run a \$41 billion deficit with China, the most unfair trading nation on Earth, the most protectionist society on Earth. That means, according to our own Commerce Department's numbers we are going to lose 800,000 jobs to the unfair trade practices of the People's Republic of China.

At some point the policy of constructive engagement starts to look an awful lot like appeasement, and we all know how effective the policy of appeasement was in dealing with Hitler's Third Reich.

ENDING HEALTH CARE REFORM GRIDLOCK

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the American people have two major concerns about their health care insurance. One is can they afford it;

and, second, will they be able to take it with them when they have to move from one job to another?

First, the good news. A bipartisan majority in the House and the Senate supports passage of the Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act, which addresses both of these problems. Now the bad news. One Member from the other side of the aisle in the other body is standing in the way because of his opposition to providing more Americans the option of choosing a medical savings account, or MSA, for their health insurance.

Dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSAs. They love MSA's for three reasons. MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers.

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ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, I thought the Chair had said that we could not impugn motives to Members of the other body.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WELLER). The gentlewoman is correct. The Chair was attempting to ask the gentleman to suspend.

The Chair would ask that Members refrain from disparaging remarks about Members of the other body.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned no specific Member of the other body.

Mr. Speaker, dozens of companies and thousands of employees around the country have MSA's. They love MSA's for three reasons: MSA's give employees control over how their health care dollars are spent and make them careful but satisfied shoppers. They provide them freedom from worry by eliminating out-of-pocket costs for those with chronic or catastrophic illnesses. MSA's save money for employees and for the companies. Americans want this kind of health care coverage. We should move to make it possible for them.

THE REPUBLICAN BUDGET DOES NOT REFLECT THE PRIORITIES OF MIDDLE AMERICA

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

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, despite the heated rhetoric surrounding the budget debate, the Republican budget passed last week. It will tragically increase the deficit from \$130 billion to \$153 billion. Just when most of us who are deeply committed to deficit reduction thought that we had the opportunity to address the budget in a forthright manner, we have been duped. If we have learned anything about the tragic budget debate of last year, we have learned that if it is going to succeed, the design and the details of the budget must reflect the priorities of modern Americans.

Middle America wants to see the deficit decreased. Middle America does not want to see education and health care programs cut while defense spending increases. Middle Americans are willing to share in the sacrifice necessary to balance the budget. Yes, most support tax cuts. So do I. However, we should not borrow money temporarily to pay for a tax cut if we are sacrificing the future of our children and grandchildren. We must be willing to set our priorities straight and make the tough choices necessary to balance the budget.

END THE APATHY AND THE POLICY OF APPEASEMENT TOWARD CHINA

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in 1980, China was first granted MFN status. Since then, very little has changed. In fact, it would be easy to argue that the situation has worsened. In the last 5 years, China has accumulated a \$117 billion trade surplus with the United States, most of which is being used by the Chinese Government to build a war machine—a United States financed and outfitted Communist army.

Also troubling is the continued theft of American intellectual property rights. Even the Clinton administration has called the Chinese "the most egregious violator of agreements intended to combat the piracy of American products."

Our apathy and appeasement have actually worsened our position as a trade partner and as a steward of democracy in one of the world's most volatile regions.

The House will soon vote to end China's privilege. We will soon have the opportunity to send a message to the world that America will not support a rogue nation. We cannot continue to ignore the truth; we must be proactive in changing China's policies.

THE 1996 CHICAGO BULLS MADE AMERICA PROUD

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, let me join the chorus of Chicagoans, Illinoisans, and fans everywhere in saluting our world champion Chicago Bulls. The Seattle Supersonics were a worthy team, but 1996 was the year of the Bulls: a regular season record of 72 victories, a playoff record of 15 wins and 3 losses.

Why were they so successful? The greatest coach in the NBA, Phil Jackson, the man who proved that Zen can win; the greatest player in the history of the sport, Michael Jordan, whose athletic ability is only surpassed by his class; and a great team, with players