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House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. HASTINGS of Washington].

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 16, 1996.

I hereby designate the Honorable RICHARD "DOC" HASTINGS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of May 12, 1995, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority and minority leader limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. ROTH] for 5 minutes.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, here is what travel and tourism has done for the Atlanta Olympics.

When Atlanta was chosen to host the 1996 summer games, the tourism industry immediately began working with State and local governments.

Their goal was to take advantage of the Olympics to make Atlanta a top international travel destination.

To achieve their goal, they came up with a 5-year plan.

The Olympic games have not begun and Atlanta is already receiving benefits.

Since they started the plan, tourism has increased 10 percent annually. Atlanta hotels have the highest occupancy rate in their history. In the last 5 years, 7 million visitors have spent \$3.5 billion. In other words, travel and tourism is creating jobs and economic growth for Atlanta and for Georgia.

Once the games begin, Atlanta expects another 2 million visitors.

They expect 3 billion people to watch the Olympics on TV. That is 60 percent of the world's population. It is 3 billion potential travelers. And Atlanta is making the most of it. Because of the 5-year plan, they expect tourism to increase 8 percent a year after the Olympics. They are succeeding because they are united. They know that the Olympics are not only an athletic competition. It is an opportunity to showcase Atlanta to the world.

But organizing such an enormous event is no easy task. It calls for a common purpose and shared resources. Atlanta answered the call. Now they are seeing the benefits. We can learn something from their effort in Atlanta. Drawing visitors to the United States requires hard work and cooperation.

But we obviously have not worked hard enough. Over the last 3 years, fewer and fewer tourists have been coming to the United States. Even though tourism is growing 23 percent faster than the world economy. By the year 2006, the United States could potentially create an additional 2.4 million tourism-related jobs. That is a new job every 2 minutes. But this is not a foregone conclusion. Those jobs could easily go somewhere else.

In 1995, 2 million fewer visitors came to the United States. Translated: That drop cost us 177,000 jobs.

We need to adopt the same work ethic as the organizers of the Olympics. They brought many different groups together to ensure success in Atlanta this summer. Travel and tourism can benefit from being united; 99 percent of

the tourism businesses in the United States are small businesses.

They do not have the resources to tap into the international market by themselves. But, when they combine their resources, they are powerful. Overall, tourism is the second largest industry in America. It employs, directly and indirectly, over 14 million Americans. In 1995, tourism pumped \$76 billion into the U.S. economy and \$58 billion in tax revenue.

Tourism is our leading export with a \$18 billion trade surplus. But we are rapidly losing ground. Our businesses lack the resources necessary to compete with their huge international rivals. We lack unity. Other nations pour billions of dollars into campaigns to attract tourists. Our small tourism businesses are left to their own devices.

The travel and tourism industry recognized the problem. So they came to Washington last year to find a solution. At the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism, they found their answer—H.R. 2579. This bill brings together representatives from many segments of the tourism industry. These groups will formulate a national strategy for travel and tourism.

The goal is to bring more international visitors to the United States and to steer them toward American businesses for every part of their trip. We should have 100 million visitors to the United States by the year 2000. Working independently, tourism could never hope to reach such a goal. But when these groups and businesses are united, they will be unstoppable. The travel and tourism industry will not be the only winners. Every American will benefit from its success.

Millions of new jobs will be created. Billions of dollars in revenue will be generated. H.R. 2579 is the economic shot in the arm we are looking for. The entire world will be watching America this year. Travel and tourism is determining how the world sees us. Atlanta

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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will succeed because they are united. It is about time we gave travel and tourism the same advantage. Support travel and tourism by cosponsoring H.R. 2579.

Mr. Speaker, when we pass H.R. 2579 and it is signed into law by the President, then America is going to have a chance to be in this global competition for tourism and for business.

THE STEAL AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon vote on a bill concerning patent law in the United States of America, and that is a ho-hum of an issue for most people. In fact, it is one of those issues that people want to turn their radios off if it even comes on a local talk show to discuss, but the fact is this piece of legislation will make the difference as to whether or not America remains the leading economic power on this planet or whether or not our economic adversaries destroy us and destroy us as business competitors in a few short years ahead. It will also determine whether or not those people who are yawning at the other end of their radios saying should I listen to this or forget it, whether or not their families will have the standard of living that is higher than the standard of living of working people around the world.

What has given America the edge has been our technological edge on the competition. This has been true throughout our history, and we are about to pass a bill that will dramatically change American patent law and permit America's economic adversaries to steal every one of our new innovative and technological ideas.

H.R. 3460 has already passed out of subcommittee and committee. I have spoken to some of the members of that subcommittee who had no idea what was in the legislation that they passed.

First of all, let us note that Patent Commissioner Bruce Lehman, our patent commissioner, several years ago went and made a hushed agreement with his counterpart in Japan, to do what? And we have a copy of that agreement. That agreement superimposes, says we will superimpose the Japanese patent system on the United States of America.

So, my colleagues, we are about to change our patent law and make it exactly like the Japanese patent law, and of course we know the Japanese are so creative. What we do know about Japan is that they are not creative; they are improvers and perfecters, but they are not creators. All the new ideas that have come out of that country, and now they want to change our system to make it like Japan's. Also in Japan, of course, the huge special in-

terests steal from the ordinary people any new idea that they have.

Well, this hushed agreement was first implemented when they tried to sneak something into the GATT implementation legislation, and succeeded, which ended the guaranteed patent term for Americans, and again it is a ho-hum issue. Who could pay attention to little details to whether the patent term is guaranteed or whether it is an uncertain patent term?

Well, step No. 2 in trying to make our patent system like Japan's is very easy to understand. It mandates that every American inventor who applies for a patent will be forced to see every detail of his invention published for the entire world, every Asian copycat, every economic adversary of the United States. Every enemy of the United States will have every one of our technological ideas before the patent is issued to the inventor. This does not make sense to anybody. Nobody says is that really happening?

Do not turn off that radio dial, Mr. and Mrs. America. Listen to the details of what is going on, or we are going to find our children's future being robbed because H.R. 3460 should be called the Steal American Technologies Act. It mandates every one of our technological secrets to be published for the world to steal, which will eliminate America's technological edge and our ability to compete, and ultimately the standard of living of our people will decline, and that will not be ultimately 20 years from now, that will be ultimately 5 years from now.

This bill also obliterates the Patent Office. The one thing that we have had, these civil servants at the Patent Office, these patent examiners who struggle to define what you own as a patent applicant as they issue your own patent, they are having basically their civil service protection ripped away. They are eliminating the Patent Office; literally they are obliterating. This is part of our Constitution, and they are going to resurrect it as what? Sort of an independent quasi, quasi-private corporation. This quasi-private corporation operation is going to have no board of directors. It is not a part of the legislation. Instead it creates a czar of patents who will be able to be appointed for 5 years but cannot be removed unless it is for cause, and that man, who is it going to be? The same guy who made the deal with the Japanese to eliminate our patent system.

No; we need to save America's technology by voting against H.R. 3460 and for the Rohrabacher substitute which would replace the bad parts of that bill. People need to talk to their Congressmen and women, or the big corporations who are in favor of this change will have their way and the American people will lose our standard of living. People need to talk to their congressmen to support the Rohrabacher substitute to H.R. 3460, the Steal American Technologies Act.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.)

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY) at 12 noon.

PRAYER

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

Breathe into us, O God, the breath of life; place Your hand upon us and support us all the day long; may Your spirit be welcomed in our hearts and allow us a full measure of Your grace; accept us when we miss the mark; forgive us when we fail; enlighten us when we are wearisome and give us all a new vision of faith and hope and love so we will be the people You would have us be, this day and everyday. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announce 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 Kentucky [Mr. LEWIS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 248. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the conduct of expanded studies and the establishment of innovative programs with respect to traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1757. An act to amend the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act to extend the Act, and for other purposes.