

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.

POSTPONING CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR

Mr. FUNDERBUNK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be in order later today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

REFORM WELFARE NOW

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, welfare should not be a way of life. Republicans are committed to replacing welfare with real work. However, President Clinton just wants to play politics with this issue, and there is no excuse that is too vague or too convoluted for President Clinton. As a candidate in 1992, the President promised to reform welfare as we know it, but he has vetoed welfare reform, not just once but twice. He has yet to keep his promise to the people of Wisconsin to sign their waiver to allow the Wisconsin works program to go into effect. He promised that he would have these waivers signed by last week, and now it is a week later.

If welfare reform was so important to President Clinton, why can he not sign a welfare reform plan working with this new Congress and approve the Wisconsin reform waiver?

Mr. Speaker, no more excuses, no more Washington political game. Let us reform welfare now.

REPORT ON H.R. 3814, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FISCAL YEAR 1997

Mr. Rogers, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-676) on the bill (H.R. 3814) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, 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.

SUPPORT ROMANIA MFN

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

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today we have a change in a bipartisan fashion to do something together on foreign policy. We should grant MFN to Romania. What we are doing is just extending parity. This is no special treatment. We did it under Ceausescu, the dictator. We should do it now under a

burgeoning democracy. Romania is a burgeoning democracy. It has made progress since the revolution of 1989 on human rights, the rule of law and a free market. Romania has been a loyal ally in recent foreign policy initiatives including sending troops to Bosnia, peacekeeping in Angola, large contingent in the U.S. training under the IMET program and an impressive record of support in the United Nations. Two out of our last three Ambassadors on a bipartisan basis have supported MFN to Romania.

Mr. Speaker, Romanians are looking to the United States as the primary source of business opportunities to foster the development of their economy. They have met the legal criteria for MFN, free immigration of its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, let us do something in a responsible bipartisan fashion.

MEDIA BIAS ON FILEGATE

(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, I could not disagree more with the previous speaker, but today I want to speak about the media bias on Filegate.

Mr. Speaker, where is the national media on filegate?

Where are the Woodward and Bernsteins?

Is the liberal left not shocked and outraged about the invasion of privacy of American citizens?

Are the liberals only outraged when it happens under a Republican President?

During Watergate, Chuck Colson went to prison for looking at one personnel file.

During Watergate, the Washington Post daily pounded the Nixon administration and tirelessly worked to find where the trail led.

Is the national press not interested because they overwhelmingly voted for Bill Clinton in 1992?

There are many unanswered questions.

Who in the White House hired Clinton's dirty tricksters and to whom did they report?

And finally in Clinton's inaugural address he said he would have the most ethical administration in history.

Since that is clearly not the case, when is the national press going to call Bill Clinton on the carpet?

BORIS HAS FALLEN AND HE CANNOT GET UP

(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, in August 1994, after a champagne lunch, Boris Yeltsin fell off a platform in Germany. In September 1994 Boris was too drunk to get off a plane in Ireland. In

February 1995, after an in-flight party, Boris had to be carried by aides off his plane. Just recently in July, Boris mysteriously disappeared for 7 days right before his election, and yesterday Boris Yeltsin missed a meeting with almost Santa Claus, Vice President AL GORE, but Vice President AL GORE came to his defense and said, "Boris looks good to me."

I ask, Mr. Speaker, compared to who? Jack Daniels? Foster Brooks?

The truth of the matter is while millions of Americans are worried sick about losing Medicare, Social Security, the White House is pouring billions of dollars into Russia, and Boris, who cannot walk a straight line while touching his nose.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker, and while we are at it, we better beam up Boris. Evidently, he has fallen and he cannot get up and he is getting drunk on Napa Valley champagne. Unbelievable.

THE REPUBLICAN COMMONSENSE WELFARE REFORM PLAN

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

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, just as President Wilson once claimed that World War I was going to be "the war to end all wars," President Clinton has promised to "end welfare as we know it."

Of course, unlike President Wilson, and despite two previous welfare vetoes, President Clinton still has a chance to renew his vow by supporting and signing the Republican commonsense welfare reform plan.

The Republican welfare reform plan is built upon five pillars which ensure that any assistance is temporary and not self-destructive.

It imposes a 5-year lifetime limit for collecting AFDC and vouchers. It requires able-bodied recipients to work for their benefits. It denies welfare benefits to noncitizens and felons. It restores power and flexibility to the States. And, it encourages personal responsibility to halt rising illegitimacy rates.

Mr. Speaker, redemption is at hand. President Clinton need not defend the status quo of a failed welfare system any longer. He needs only to support and sign the Republican commonsense welfare reform plan.

WELCOME TO REFORM "WEAK"

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

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the hard part is being to do this with a straight face because we are welcoming everyone to the Republicans' reform week. Yesterday in Roll Call, the majority leader said reform week was not meant to be "floorcentric." Now what does that mean to people beyond the Beltway?