

to the Gingrich Republican agenda that seeks to cut back on Medicare and Medicaid, that seeks to cut back on student loan programs and education programs, and that also tries to roll back the environmental agenda and the environmental protection that we have fought so hard for over the last 25 years here in the Congress.

What my constituents were telling me is that they feel there needs to be more student loan programs and programs that allow students to finance their education at college or graduate school. The same thing about Medicare; the senior citizens feel that Medicare should be expanded so that it covers prescription drugs, so that it covers home health care. And with regard to environmental programs, they would like to see more cleanup of Superfund sites and better protection and better enforcement of our environmental laws.

One thing is absolutely clear, that is that the Gingrich Republican agenda has really created a mess and the last 2 years have been a failure.

ENGLISH AS OUR OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, on August 1 we in this House took a historic step by passing English as our official language by a vote of 259 to 101. I thank all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives for joining me in getting this bill passed. Those of us who are committed to keeping this country as one Nation, one people—the “United” States of America realize that to do this we need one common language.

Now to complete this task we must spur the Senate into action. That's why I'm asking the Members of this body to contact their Senators and request that they take up this bill, pass it, and send it on to the President for his signature.

Then we will have completed a task we started years ago. It will demonstrate that while success does not always come with rushing speed, success does come with persistence.

English must become our official language; but that will only happen if we make it happen.

LET US REMEMBER GUAM

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, American leadership in the world and in particular, the measured and timely response of President Clinton to Saddam Hussein's jabs into Northern Iraq should be recognized and supported by all Americans.

America's leadership in the unleashing of the cruise missiles and her projection of power in the world

has again manifested itself in these latest developments. Over the concerns of Allies and despite problems with fly over rights, America alone can project power throughout the world in the name of peace and security.

As demonstrated by the use of the B-52's, Guam remains a crucial and proud part of America's projection of power around the world. Guam did its part, there were no concerns about fly over rights, and the bases on Guam performed their role.

Mr. Speaker, let's remember Guam in more settled times as the people of Guam recover from Brac decision to close bases and as the people of Guam attempt to recover land that the military no longer desires. Even though we can always count on Guam, we should never take Guam for granted.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

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

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, most of the Members of the Congress have in one way or another asserted their support of the President of the United States in the actions that he has taken in Iraq, and we will continue to do so. But there is a time now for the White House to articulate the policy and the goals and the targets of this attack with missiles on Iraq.

We should not be subjected now, as Members of Congress, to a bulletin of the missile of the day, 20-some the first time, 17 the next time and another one, most recently. This missile of the day does not constitute a policy for long-term solution of the wide-ranging problems of the Middle East. We urge the President to continue to earn the support of the Congress, to articulate a policy that we can all see and feel and hear so that we can continue to support efforts against Saddam Hussein.

THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICAN WORKERS

(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, the speeches are over. Rosy scenario and glad tidings are now behind us; a reality check is in order.

Over 1 million American families filed bankruptcy last year. A record number of Americans went belly up. How is that for family values to both the Democrat and Republican Parties?

Think about it. While politicians say fat city, bankers say foreclose. While politicians say super, bankers say sue.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. The truth is, while lawyers, bankers and CEO's are doing the macarena all over America, American families are going belly up in record numbers, doing the same old shuffle trying to make ends meet.

I yield back the balance of any pay they are missing.

FIGHT ILLEGAL DRUGS, NOT TOBACCO FARMERS

(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, Bill Clinton's assault on tobacco has upset farmers all across my district in eastern North Carolina. Clinton's proposal by definition has made every tobacco grower, warehouseman and wholesaler a drug dealer and every smoker a drug user. One tobacco farmer asked me to deliver a message to the politically correct in Washington, DC. He said,

Tell the President that I am not a drug dealer, nor is anyone else in the tobacco community. In fact, there are probably fewer drug users among all tobacco growers than there are on the White House staff.

Another tobacco farmer asked me to urge Clinton to wage war on illegal drugs, not tobacco farmers. I traveled across my district visiting several tobacco farms and auction warehouses, where hard-working farmers believe Clinton decided to deflect criticism of the staggering increases in illegal teenage drug use by attacking tobacco. Mr. Speaker, the farmers of North Carolina are angry. Washington is treating them like criminals. They are taxpaying, law-abiding citizens who believe the President should keep the FDA off the farm and out of NASCAR racing.

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GINGRICH CONGRESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today we begin the final push of the 104th congressional session, and to welcome the Republican leadership back, we have a new CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll that shows that voters prefer the Democrats in Congress over Republicans by a 10-point margin. The reason for the American people rejecting the Gingrich Republican revolution and turning toward the Democrats' families first agenda is that the Republican leadership have their priorities backward.

The American people do not support Republican efforts to cut Medicare, and the people do not support Republican efforts to cut student loans, and the American people do not support efforts to roll back environmental protections. And mostly, the American people do not support a Congress that puts their needs far below the desires of the most wealthy in our society.

Democrats are committed to fighting for working families; that is why they developed the families first agenda. It includes legislative proposals that would put Congress on the right track toward solving the problems that families face in their everyday lives. The Republican leadership should spend the

rest of this session working for families instead of against them.

TIME TO JUST SAY NO AGAIN

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we have a problem, a very serious problem that has cast a long, dark shadow over our great land. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is drugs. The United States has seen an 80-percent increase in the use of illegal drugs in the last 4 years.

This is an unconscionable statistic, a statistic that we can no longer afford to ignore. Cocaine use up by 166 percent and marijuana use up by 141 percent.

Last year 1 in 10 kids used drugs regularly. That is too many. Our children are the real bridge to the 21st century, and they are being torn down by these drugs. It must end if we intend to give them a bright future.

I knocked on 3,500 doors while I was back in Omaha during the August recess. I can't tell you how many people in Nebraska said to me one thing: find a way to fight the drug war.

This is not an east coast or a west coast problem, an urban or a rural problem; it is a national problem.

We live in the greatest Nation in the world and can ill afford to let this problem continue. It's time we said just said no again.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 6 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

TOLL FREE CONSUMER HOTLINE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 447) to establish a toll free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 447

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLL FREE NUMBER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—If the Secretary of Commerce determines, on the basis of comments submitted in rulemaking under section 2, that—

(1) interest among manufacturers is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a 3-year toll free number pilot program, and

(2) manufacturers will provide fees under section 2(c) so that the program will operate without cost to the Federal Government, the Secretary shall establish such program solely to help inform consumers whether a product is made in America or the equivalent thereof. The Secretary shall publish the toll-free number by notice in the Federal Register.

(b) CONTRACT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract for—

(1) the establishment and operation of the toll free number pilot program provided for in subsection (a), and

(2) the registration of products pursuant to regulations issued under section 2, which shall be funded entirely from fees collected under section 2(c).

(c) USE.—The toll free number shall be used solely to inform consumers as to whether products are registered under section 2 as made in America or the equivalent thereof. Consumers shall also be informed that registration of a product does not mean—

(1) that the product is endorsed or approved by the Government,

(2) that the Secretary has conducted any investigation to confirm that the product is a product which meets the definition of made in America or the equivalent thereof, or

(3) that the product contains 100 percent United States content.

SEC. 2. REGISTRATION.

(a) PROPOSED REGULATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall propose a regulation—

(1) to establish a procedure under which the manufacturer of a product may voluntarily register such product as complying with the definition of a product made in America or the equivalent thereof and have such product included in the information available through the toll free number established under section 1(a);

(2) to establish, assess, and collect a fee to cover all the costs (including start-up costs) of registering products and including registered products in information provided under the toll-free number;

(3) for the establishment under section 1(a) of the toll-free number pilot program; and

(4) to solicit views from the private sector concerning the level of interest of manufacturers in registering products under the terms and conditions of paragraph (1).

(b) PROMULGATION.—If the Secretary determines based on the comments on the regulation proposed under subsection (a) that the toll-free number pilot program and the registration of products is warranted, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations.

(c) REGISTRATION FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturers of products included in information provided under section 1 shall be subject to a fee imposed by the Secretary of Commerce to pay the cost of registering products and including them in information provided under subsection (a).

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of fees imposed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) in the case of a manufacturer, not be greater than the cost of registering the manufacturer's product and providing product information directly attributable to such manufacturer, and

(B) in the case of the total amount of fees, not be greater than the total amount appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for salaries and expenses directly attributable to registration of manufacturers and having products included in the information provided under section 1(a).

(3) CREDITING AND AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Fees collected for a fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriation account for salaries and expenses of the Secretary of Commerce and shall be available in accordance with ap-

propriation Acts until expended without fiscal year limitation.

(B) COLLECTIONS AND APPROPRIATION ACTS.—The fees imposed under paragraph (1)—

(i) shall be collected in each fiscal year in an amount equal to the amount specified in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year, and

(ii) shall only be collected and available for the costs described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 3. PENALTY.

Any manufacturer of a product who knowingly registers a product under section 2 which is not made in America or the equivalent thereof—

(1) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$7500 which the Secretary of Commerce may assess and collect, and

(2) shall not offer such product for purchase by the Federal Government.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "made in America or the equivalent thereof", with respect to a product, has the meaning given such term for purposes of laws administered by the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) The term "product" means a product with a retail value of at least \$250.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or in any regulation promulgated under section 2 shall be construed to alter, amend, modify, or otherwise affect in any way, the Federal Trade Commission Act or the opinions, decisions, rules, or any guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission regarding the use of the term "made in America or the equivalent thereof" in labels on products introduced, delivered for introduction, sold, advertised, or offered for sale in commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY].

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 447, a bill to establish a toll free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made. This bill, introduced by my colleague from Ohio, Mr. TRAFICANT, was passed unanimously by the House during the 103d Congress, but unfortunately was never passed by the Senate.

The legislation reflects the bipartisan consensus reached in the 103d Congress that a toll free number which would provide consumers with information on products "made in America" would be a significant benefit, but that any such program should be funded by manufacturers and not taxpayers. Thus, the bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to canvass industry to determine the level of interest in establishing this kind of toll free number. If the Secretary determines that there is interest among manufacturers of domestic products sufficient to provide private sector funding, then the Secretary is directed to contract out the operation of the line to an organization that would charge a fee for listing