

In reality, the China MFN debate is about nuclear proliferation. It is about human rights. It is about small business in America, and it is about American jobs. We may in fact afford most-favored-nation status to nearly every other country, Mr. Speaker, but China is not any other Nation. China is very different and poses a far different set of issues to deal with as a package than any of the nations with which we have MFN status.

China is one of the world's most dangerous proliferators of nuclear weapons. The Communist Chinese Government has, and is currently, engaged in the transfer of dangerous technology for nuclear weapons to rogue nations. The Chinese Government has provided Iran with advanced missile and chemical weapons technology. They have provided Iraq and Libya with materials used to produce nuclear weapons. They have provided missile-related components to Syria and given the Pakistanis the technology for nuclear weapons at the same time that Pakistanis get poorer and poorer. The Chinese Government has provided the nations with the least stable governments and that pose the greatest threat to the security of the Middle East, to our own security, with weapons of mass destruction.

A vote in favor of MFN for China is a vote to condone nuclear proliferation by China. A vote in favor of extending MFN to China is also a vote to condone China's deplorable record of human rights abuses.

The State Department Country Report on Human Rights for 1996 bluntly stated the Chinese Government continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in violation of internationally accepted norms stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, in the absence or inadequacy of laws protecting very basic freedoms.

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Voting to extend most favored nation just days before China takes control of Hong Kong sends the wrong message, Mr. Speaker. Human rights, nuclear proliferation, these are important issues. But for thousands in my district in New Jersey, this is a debate about the future of their jobs. It is a debate about whether or not they will still have their jobs.

Part of the reason for the loss of those jobs, Mr. Speaker, has been the incredible trade imbalance we have cultivated with China, Communist China. In 1996, our trade deficit with China ballooned to a record \$40 billion. On the same rate, we will move to \$50 billion.

Where is the plus for the United States of America? Where is the plus for our families? We are on a path that will soon lead to China replacing Japan as the largest contributor to the overall U.S. merchandise trade deficit.

Renewing Chinese most-favored-nation status means renewing a status

quo in which the average Chinese tariff on U.S. goods is 35 percent compared to the United States tariff on Chinese goods as 2 percent. Is this what the State Department and those advocating MFN for China call engagement?

THE SHACKLEFORD BANKS WILD HORSES PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to share with my colleagues an important editorial from a newspaper in my district, the Carteret County News-Times. The editorial, titled "Listen Up, National Park Service," I submit for the RECORD demonstrates the importance of the Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Protection Act, a bill I have introduced to save a group of wild horses in North Carolina.

As the editorial says, the wild horses of Shackleford Banks are believed to be descendants of Spanish mustangs who swam ashore after Spanish galleons wrecked off the coast of North Carolina centuries ago. For years these beautiful horses freely roamed the 3,000 acre barrier islands without trouble until the North Carolina Park Service took control of the area to form the Cape Lookout National Seashore in the 1970's.

Today, the horses are threatened by the National Park Service, which seems to be more concerned with managing the vegetation on the island than the horses. They have already euthanized many of these beautiful animals for questionable reasons.

We must not allow the National Park Service to continue to destroy these horses. The National Park Service's management plan specifies that a representative herd of horses must be maintained, but I fear that this vague term does not sufficiently protect the horses. What is to keep the Park Service from reducing the horse population to a number that may not survive one of the many storms that passes over North Carolina's coast?

When the North Carolina Park Service first took control of the island, the horse population was 104. According to Dr. Dan Rubenstein, chairman of the Department of Ecological and Evolutionary Biology of Princeton University, this number of 104 is appropriate for the overall well-being of the island ecology and, most importantly, for the horses' survival.

Dr. Rubenstein has been studying the herd for more than 15 years. He is the expert on these horses for the Park Service. Even a genetic scientist hired by the Park Service believes that the herd should consist of at least 100 horses to remain a viable herd.

For this reason, my proposed legislation, the Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Protection Act, would require that the number of horses on the is-

lands be maintained at not less than 100 horses, and prohibits the removal of any horses unless their number exceeds 110. It also allows public input in the management of the horses through the nonprofit Foundation for Shackleford Horses, a group that truly cares about the horses and their future.

Mr. Speaker, the wild horses of Shackleford Banks were on this island long before people were. Clearly, they are a true historical treasure, one we must protect, just as we protect other national treasures such as the Grand Canyon.

The Shackleford Banks Wild Horses Protection Act is in the best interest of the horses and it is in the best interest of the visitors and residents who so enjoy viewing them in their natural setting.

As a Carteret County News-Times editorial reports, both Democratic Governor Jim Hunt and Democratic Secretary of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Betty McCAIN support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Let us protect the wild horses of Shackleford Banks for the children and the next generation, and let us save this national treasure.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article I referred to previously.

The article referred to is as follows:

[From the Carteret County News-Times, June 13, 1997]

LISTEN UP, NPS!

Some countians were skeptical when the National Park Service announced plans last year to test wild mustangs on Shackleford Banks for Equine Infectious Anemia, a debilitating disease of horses.

They believed the NPS's real agenda was to remove all the noble animals from the island, part of Cape Lookout National Seashore.

It appeared to many observers, including this newspaper, that those concerns were overblown, if not bordering on paranoia.

After all, it only made good sense to cull sick animals so that the healthy ones might thrive under improved conditions, without fear of contracting EIA from biting insects feeding off the sick horses. NPS said it had to cull the herd not so much because of the disease but because the horses were overpopulating and damaging vegetation, destroying the ecology of the island.

So the NPS plan went forward, euthanizing 76 of the 184 Shackleford horses who tests positive for the virus that weakens horses' immune systems, sometimes leading to death.

That left 108 health horses free to roam the 3,000-acre barrier island much like their descendants, Spanish mustangs who perhaps swam ashore after Spanish galleons wrecked off the coast centuries ago.

All seemed well, and fears of some countians dissipated while the NPS spoke neighborly about maintaining the remaining herd at about 100 or so members, chiefly through birth control measures.

To be on the safe side, however, Third District Congressman Walter Jones Jr., R-N.C., worked with Carteret County officials and horse lovers whose aim was to participate in managing the herd. It has always been and remains the wishes of countians, with support from the scientific community, to

maintain the herd at about 100 horses. Bolstering this are Dr. Dan Rubenstein of Princeton University and Dr. Gus Cothran of the University of Kentucky, Department of Veterinary Science, who believe the horse population should stay at about 100 horses.

Congressman Jones introduced legislation, H.R. 875, specifying that the herd be maintained at not less than 100 horses, prohibits removal of any horses unless their numbers exceed 110 and allows citizen input in the management of the horses through the non-profit Foundation for Shackleford Horses Inc.

Maureen Finnerty, NPS associate director for Park Operations and Education, told the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands April 10 that the NPS intends "to maintain a representative herd of free-roaming horses on Shackleford Banks," but if Congressman Jones' legislation passes Congress, NPS will recommend that the president veto the bill.

The NPS management plan turns out to be a sleight of hand trick in that it does not define a "representative herd." NPS could claim to be meeting the management plan by allowing 20 or even fewer horses to remain on the banks.

It does indeed appear that the NPS is more concerned with managing the vegetation on the island than the horses.

This is high-handed arrogance. By law, the NPS owns the horses, but again by law, the NPS is mandated to manage the resources, which includes the island, its vegetation and the horses, all for the public good, not for the good of NPS.

Consider that—

Visitors to Carteret County spend an estimated \$150 per day generating over \$200 million annually in the county's economy.

Fifteen county businesses make an annual living taking visitors and residents to Shackleford to view the horses.

Both Gov. Jim Hunt and Betty McCain, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, feel it is incumbent to maintain "this cultural resource" for the future. They each support Rep. Jones' legislation.

The underhanded recalcitrance on the part of the NPS has caused us to rethink our initial belief that the NPS was acting in good faith.

It now appears that the initial protesters were correct and that the real NPS goal is to remove the mustangs from Shackleford Banks. What other conclusion can be drawn from the NPS' bull-headedness on this issue?

Congressman Jones will present his bill to the House Committee on Resources Wednesday. In an effort to prevent any citizen input in its management of the horses, the NPS is pulling out all the stops.

For a while, it seemed the NPS favored this management plan as well. But suddenly, the NPS objected to Congressman Jones' legislation. Calling Congressman Jones' legislation a "disturbing precedent that will lead to legislation being proposed each time a management decision is questioned."

If the NPS prevails, it will be a slap in the face to the caring citizens of Carteret County, and possibly a looming death warrant for the wild mustangs who have thrilled generations of countians and tourists who trek to the island to watch these splendid animals in their natural environment.

We strongly urge the NPS to back off and show good faith in this matter. To do less would invite unpleasantness, given the strong community feeling for these animals and their importance to the vanishing heritage of down east Carteret County.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Ms. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, NATCA, on the occasion of their 10th anniversary. NATCA represents approximately 14,000 air traffic controllers nationwide, including 893 in Florida. NATCA protects air traffic controllers' rights, benefits, and working conditions in nearly 400 facilities in the United States and its territories through strong contract negotiations, labor relations, and litigation.

Since its existence, NATCA has aggressively championed aviation safety with Members of the United States Congress, the White House, the Federal Aviation Administration, the media, and the flying public. I am especially proud to recognize the outstanding performance of the 893 air traffic controllers that work in 25 air traffic facilities throughout Florida.

Aviation safety is paramount for the flying public and this Congress. Air traffic controllers play a critical role in ensuring the safety of all who fly. Therefore, it is my pleasure to honor all of our dedicated air traffic controllers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HORN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HORN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DAVIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEATH OF TWO ORCA WHALES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington [Mr. METCALF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern over the capture of orca whales off the coast of Taiji, Japan. I brought this matter to the attention of the House in February, when five orca whales were netted and separated from their whale family, called a pod. Since that date, two of these orca whales have died, both within the past week.

As Members know, the orca whales are small whales, 20, 25 feet long, and we have them around the Puget Sound area and of course in the north Pacific.

The capture of these orcas was allowed under a permit to gather them for research purposes. However, the

whales turned up at a marine amusement park. Clearly, the use of whales for business and entertainment purposes blatantly violates the condition of the permit.

The village near where these whales were captured has a history of annually slaughtering whales. Since the February capture, there have been no sightings of orca whales off the coast of Taiji. It is my understanding that orca pods appear very infrequently in Japanese waters. Therefore, almost nothing is known about those orca populations living off Japan.

I strongly condemn the permanent removal of a family group from an already uncertain ecosystem, where they are definitely not in good supply.

On June 14, the youngest of the captured orcas died, with a female to follow on the morning of June 17. She was pregnant at the time of her capture, and reportedly had a miscarriage in April. She refused to eat during the entire 4 months in captivity, and had become so weak that she could no longer float by herself. At the time of her death, she was held up by a canvas sling in order to breathe.

The Japanese consulate in Seattle yesterday confirmed the death of both orcas. However, the amusement park has neither confirmed nor denied their deaths, nor has the park reported on the three whales still alive. Japanese conservation groups are calling on international animal protection groups to pressure the Japanese Government to return the three remaining Taiji orcas to the wild before they, too, die.

The International Whaling Commission is a world body which governs the harvest of whales worldwide, and has continually asked Japan to end the hunting of whales in the southern Antarctic Whale Sanctuary and other Pacific locations.

While the Japanese whale merchants claim they are conducting research, most of the whales end up on a menu or as an entertainment item. I think this practice is unacceptable. I think that the commercial whaling in the world, we are not ready to go back to real commercial whaling. I think we should do everything we can to urge the Government of Japan to release those whales as soon as possible before they, too, die.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Washington [Mr. DICKS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LIFETIME LEARNING AFFORDABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. ROTHMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.