

there is shared responsibility for the failure. The President, along with the leadership in our State Department, should have carved out a realistic financial program to give Haiti the tools to build a sustainable democracy. What is needed is a unique program—designed to fit Haiti's particular needs and requirements. In foreign policy, we need to get away from the cookie cutter mentality that expects all foreign countries to be the same. When we look at the nations of the world, we can see that they have different histories, cultures, and assets. Haiti is the eyesore that will not go away; and the United States cannot continue to turn its back. To do so is foolish because no wall is high enough to keep tragedy from spreading onto our own shores when we refuse to help a neighbor.

As the world grows smaller, the Caribbean region comes closer. Today we stand facing one another; it is increasingly difficult to turn away—even if we do not wish to see the appalling poverty, lack of education, and other serious difficulties.

Haiti's crucial needs include: One, land reform that will make the most of land in fertile areas; two, transportation assistance for a modern, safe transportation infrastructure; and three, administrative reform that includes considerable assistance from the World Bank and other international lending institutions. Only as we face the reality of Haiti's dire needs will we, as a nation, develop a deep, lasting, and beneficial partnership with Haiti. I also implore the media to grant fair coverage to the tragedies in this country. It is time to quit making news, and instead begin covering the news. My prayers right now are with the families of those who have died, and I urge the leaders of this great Nation to reach out to our neighbors whose catastrophes go unnoticed day after day.

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

[Mr. HULSHOF 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 Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### IN MEMORY OF SCOTT McCABE

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Madam Speaker, it is with a deep sense of loss and great sadness that I come to the floor of the House this evening to acknowledge the tragic and senseless death of a young man I knew well. Scott McCabe served in the district office of the Sixth District of Arizona as an intern in the spring of this year. Before that, he selflessly gave of his time and talents as a volunteer in our 1996 reelection campaign.

Madam Speaker, regardless of our political philosophy and partisan stripe, one miracle of our electoral process can be found in the willingness of so many to join in our cause. Such a man was Scott McCabe. I have memories of him beginning in the early morning hours helping with post hole diggers and using his brawn to erect campaign signs and then coming back to the office and making telephone calls and working literally from dawn to dusk and beyond because he believed in this grand experiment that we call America.

On Sunday of this week, Scott was killed near his home while attempting to foil a burglary. Words cannot describe my shock and sadness upon hearing of this awful event. It should serve to remind all of us of the terrible scourge of violent crime which still plagues our society and it should renew our commitment to stand firmly for the rights of victims of crime, who like Scott and his family, cry out for justice. They deserve no less.

Scott was a wonderful and unique person. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. Everyone who was touched by his life walked away knowing they had spent time with a man of character and commitment. Scott's death is deeply saddening in so many ways. In his late 20's, he was really just beginning to find his way in this world. He was continuing his college education. He operated a small but growing business, and he was preparing to be married.

His loss is a great one, not only for his family and his loved ones but indeed, Madam Speaker, for all of us. I firmly believe this world would be a better place if only it were blessed with more people like Scott McCabe. He stood firm in his convictions. He worked hard to achieve his goals. He was loved by all who knew him. His passing leaves a void that cannot be filled. He will be missed.

My wife Mary and I join with members of our staff who served alongside shoulder to shoulder with this remarkable young man Scott McCabe. We send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to his family. Our lives are richer for having known him, if only for all too brief a time. We will not see his like again. He represents the countless thousands who care enough about this constitutional Republic to give of their time, their energies and their passions for this wonderful Nation called the United States of America.

□ 2145

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

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

#### AMERICAN PATENT PROTECTION BEING LOST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, over the last 3 years, I have been involved in organizing support behind the right of the American people to maintain the legal level of protection that had been their right as American citizens since the founding of our country over 200 years ago.

In this particular case, what is being diminished is the American people's rights to own their own creations. What is being diminished is the patent protection that Americans have had since the writing of our Constitution.

Three years ago I did not know anything about this issue. I knew absolutely nothing about patent rights. It was brought to my attention that in the GATT implementation legislation that was being brought before Congress there was a provision that would dramatically change patent law in the United States of America.

I could not believe this was happening, because changes in our patent law were not required by the GATT implementation legislation. We had been promised by the administration that the only thing that would be put into the GATT implementation legislation that went before Congress to implement the GATT agreement would be those items that were specifically required by the GATT negotiations.

But when I called the administration repeatedly to find out if there would be provisions in the GATT implementation legislation that changed our patent law, I was told time and time again that it was none of my business and that they were not going to tell me, or they did not know, or that that decision may be made and it might not be made; but, most of all, it was their decision to make and not mine as a Member of Congress, and, thus, I was not going to be privy to the knowledge until it was actually presented to Congress.

This is what they said to the elected Representative of 600,000 Americans, who represents a high-tech area in California. The people who were telling me this were unelected, appointed, officials.

This should tell you something about the changes that are coming about in our country and the changes that are symbolized by that provision, which they did eventually sneak into the GATT implementation legislation.

What was put in that bill, which was not required by GATT and which we were presented as either you accept everything in this bill or you have to vote against the entire World Trade Organization, the entire apparatus of world trade throughout the world and leave America on the outside, what provision was put in was a change in

the patent law which stated that Americans have a right to a guaranteed patent term.

This is 3 years later, and most Americans do not understand that from the time of the founding of our country until 3 years ago, they had a right to a guaranteed patent term of 17 years, and they no longer have that right. Their rights have been diminished. It is a very hard law to understand if you do not have an invention, so most Americans let it drift by.

What replaced this guaranteed 17-year term, to describe it, was traditionally that no matter how long it took you to clear your patent application through the bureaucracy, no matter how long it took the Government to issue your patent after you applied for it, at the end you would still have 17 years of a guaranteed patent term. That was replaced by a provision that said that you have 22 years of protection, but the clock is ticking against you the minute that you apply for a patent.

So with breakthrough patents and breakthrough technologies that guarantee those patents, what we have is a situation where the process could take 10 years, and the inventor might be left with, instead of 17 years, or 22 years, might be left with 12 years. Or, in some cases, where it has taken two decades for major pieces of technology to clear the Patent Office, the inventor would have nothing to show, much less 17 years of protection.

The laser, for example, took many, many, many years, I think perhaps over a decade and a half, to receive a patent. The inventor of that laser would have been left out.

Also, the microprocessor. Of course, what happened recently was the inventor of the MRI was tied up in court for 20 years with a major corporation that was trying basically to steal his right to the invention that he invented, the MRI, that has changed the lives of people throughout the world, bettered our health care so you do not have to have so much cutting surgery. That inventor would have been out all of the money, because the major corporation would have tied him up long enough for his patent to be worthless in terms of the time that was left for him to enjoy the fruits of his creation.

So that was changed. That raised my antenna, and I began to investigate why this happened, and how was it so that Americans were seeing their fundamental rights that were guaranteed by law diminished in front of their eyes without so much as a whimper from the people because they did not see what was happening, and that the elected Representatives of the people here in the Congress did not even know what they were voting on when they voted on this provision.

There was no debate, there were no hearings. Instead, it was snuck into the GATT implementation legislation.

What I found out when I investigated was that there had been an agreement

that was signed between Bruce Lehman, the head of our Patent Office, the head of the Patent Office of the United States. When he was appointed by President Clinton, he went to Japan, and one of his first acts, maybe not one of his first acts, but he went to Japan very shortly after being appointed and made an agreement, signed an agreement with his Japanese counterpart, to harmonize American patent law with Japan's.

This is an unelected official going to Japan and signing an agreement that he, representing the administration, will do what he can to harmonize American law to Japanese law.

This was not a case where America had weak protection and the Japanese had strong protection. In fact, the Japanese had one of the weakest protections for their inventors of any country in the world and America had the strongest protection of any country in the world.

Our representative, the person hired by the President of the United States to watch out for our interests, went to Japan and agreed to lower our standards to theirs.

Now, I would agree that harmonization is a good idea. But if we are going to be harmonizing laws with other countries, we should be bringing those countries up to our standards, instead of us bringing our standards down to theirs.

Now, in Japan they do not invent very many things. In fact, in Japan they are known for copying things and improving some new technologies, but just improving them, not inventing new technologies. That is because in Japan, the big guys have run roughshod over the little guys, and every time there is a new invention, someone comes up with a new idea, if it is a small guy who is out of the clique, he is surrounded and beaten into submission by the powers that be, by the economic shoguns of Japan.

They want to change our law, our patent law, so that the American inventors, the people of the United States who are inventing things, the average person who has this option in order to improve their lives by coming up with something that will improve the lives of everyone, they want to make those little guys vulnerable to the big guys, just like they are in Japan.

When all is said and done, if we do harmonize our law with Japan, what we will have is our little guys will be susceptible to the same kind of bullying as the little people, as the regular people in Japan; not only bullying by our own huge multinational corporations, but by Japanese corporations, and Chinese corporations, and the People's Liberation Army, and anybody else who wants to come in here and brutalize Americans who are no longer protected with the legal protections that they have been afforded since the founding of our country, because those protections have been stripped away.

That is the agreement that was made with the Japanese.

It has always been part of our law that if someone applies for a patent, that, number one, he would have a guaranteed patent term; number two, whatever information he has in his patent application, he or she, that it is totally confidential.

In Japan, the system is once you apply for a patent, after 18 months that information is made public, so the big guys will know exactly what is being created by the small entrepreneurs and the little guys throughout the society, and they can take action to steal it.

But our people have had the right of confidentiality. In fact, releasing information from a patent application before the patent is actually granted has been a criminal offense.

In Japan, it is the other way around. They give out all the information. In Japan, once the patent is issued, they can attack it from all directions. There is reexamination in Japan.

So what do we have? We have an agreement where this administration, with Bruce Lehman, who heads our Patent Office, to change our patent law to that of Japan. And that, what I saw in the GATT implementation legislation 3 years ago, was only step one in accomplishing this goal.

We found out what step two was a little bit later, in the last session of Congress, in a bill. It was called the Patent Publication Act, and they found out, oh, my gosh, that is too explanatory. The purpose of the bill is to publish everybody's patent, and nobody wanted to do that.

Everybody understood that if you publish a patent application, you are asking for everybody in the world to steal it. So they changed the name of that this session of Congress to the 21st Century Patent Reform Act and they brought that up.

But the people of this Congress and the people of the United States were not fooled. I brought to the attention of the people of the United States in forums like this, and speech after speech after speech, and going out to talk radio shows and to the news media and any audience that would listen to me, I spread the word, and the American people expressed their opinion to their elected Representatives. And even though the Fortune 500 companies and this administration and the powers that be came down like a sledgehammer on my colleagues, when it came to a vote on the floor, we managed to defeat some of the essential ingredients of that 21st Century Patent Act.

We defeated especially the provision that would have required that any American who applied for a patent, after 18 months, whether the patent had been issued or not, it was going to be published, so that every thief in the world would have been able to steal our most valuable technology. We managed to get that out of the bill.

We managed to get out of the bill the provision that would have required the

change of the rules that would have permitted companies to come in and attack the patents that were already issued by our Patent Office, the reexamination provisions.

Thus, we were able to take out most of the bad parts of that bill in an amendment introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR].

There were still some pretty bad things in the bill. The bill would privatize the Patent Office. It would turn our Patent Office, which has never had a scandal, they have never had a scandal in the 200 years it has been around, they were going to turn that into a quasi-private, quasi-government corporation, like the post office, in which the poor patent examiners, who are now shielded from outside influence, would have been opened up to all kinds of influences.

□ 2200

That privatization still stayed in the bill. That type of restructuring still was in the legislation that passed Congress. That legislation, after it passed here, and as I say, we were 60 percent successful, but 40 percent of the bad stuff is still in that bill, it went to the Senate.

But tonight I am here to alert my colleagues and the people of the United States who are listening and reading the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah is continuing his attempts to get this bill, in its worst possible form, in the form that would expose all the information of our inventions to the enemies of the U.S. and to our economic adversaries, and to the big multinational corporations here. He is trying to get that bill in its worst form passed through the United States Senate. He is trying to attach it to other pieces of legislation. The American people have to be aware that if he succeeds, it will be coming back to the House of Representatives.

In fact, tomorrow 60 CEO's will be hitting Capitol Hill of major corporations to have their will and to try to talk to Congressmen, Members of the House, Members of the Senate. The American people have to know that the enemy has not given up.

Why has the enemy not given up? They have not given up because a long time ago they realized that America's greatest asset was what? It was the creative genius of our people; the creative genius of the American people was our secret weapon in our economic struggle.

Our adversaries figured it out. They said, how come America is always out front? How come they control the economic scene? How come? Our people work just as hard as Americans; how come they are the ones who are always ahead and control the economy of the world? How come their people have such a high standard of living and our people do not?

The answer is easy. The American people have at their disposal the best

technology that is available anywhere in the world because Americans have been the inventors and the creators and the genius behind technological change.

Our enemies saw that and our enemies set out to change the fundamental law that made that a reality, that made it exist, that gave us that technological genius, because the American people are not more creative, they do not have any more genius than anybody else; after all, we come from every culture.

But what we have had since the founding of our country are the legal protections for our technological development that ensured that the average person knew that he could use his creative genius to make things better and that he or she would benefit from it. Thus, we had the major inventors in our country. This is where the Alexander Graham Bells and the Samuel Morses and you name it, the Wright Brothers, the Thomas Edisons, these are the people who benefited by the legal protection, and thus were able to use their genius to keep America a step ahead of all the competition and ensure the American people good jobs, because their jobs were involved with the best technology. We were able to outcompete our adversaries.

Now they want to change all of that. They tried to change it in the most underhanded way that I have ever seen. A piece of legislation came through this body. First, they put it into the GATT implementation legislation when it was not required by GATT. That in itself was a betrayal of the rest of us, when we were told, if you give fast track to us, we will only put in the legislation that which is required by the treaty.

Then they tried to sneak the bill through, with very little fanfare, just slid right on through the committees, changing the name of the bill from the Patent Publication Act, which was too explanatory, after all, now we are exposing the fact that we want to publish everybody's patent, no, they changed the name to the 21st Century Patent Reform Act.

That is not the way we need to make law, and when we want to change law and diminish the protections our law affords the American people, we must step up to the plate and discuss it with them, rather than take part in this type of underhanded maneuvering.

The patent law in our country has been unique because we have had a higher level of protection from the time of our Constitution. The Japanese, when they figured it out, have decided, we have to change that. The Chinese, we have to change that.

We have had an army of lobbyists in this city; millions of dollars have been spent to influence Members of the House and now Members of the Senate, in order to convince them to change the patent law, and changing the patent law to "harmonize" our law with other laws, harmonize, to bring down the level of protection.

I want to share with the Members a story about a friend of mine who has a new invention. He told me about it this weekend. This friend of mine, an average person, has a small company out in California. He came up with an idea of how to protect meat, how to protect the consumer of meat from consuming bad meat.

It is an ingenious idea, and I cannot explain it on the floor of the House because his patent has not been granted yet. But if his patent had been granted and this was on the market, all I can say is the American people, every housewife in this country, every restaurant in this country, would be confident that the meat they were consuming was untainted meat at a very low cost, almost no cost.

It is a new idea. It is a great idea.

For 2 years this patent has not been issued, which means that if the new laws that Senator HATCH has tried to push through the Senate right now, and which some of our colleagues have tried to push through this House were in effect, after 18 months his idea would have been exposed to everybody in the world, and the Japanese and the Chinese and people all over the world would already be copying his idea, putting it into production, and his patent has not even been issued. They would be using the money they made from his invention to drive him out of business. That is what is going to happen across the board in our economy if we permit this catastrophe to happen, this abomination of American freedom.

But my friend has confidence we are going to beat it back. He has invested his time and effort to try to get this patent. If he succeeds and we do not disclose this information, so that he can benefit, we will have other such inventions in the future from people like my friend that will change our lives, that will save the lives of little children who are eating that meat.

How about my other colleague in California, another friend of mine, who came to me when he heard about the fight over patents and he said, DANA, I have a new system of killing bugs, bugs, termites and the rest, without the use of chemicals. This is a man who is going to save the soil at our homes from being poisoned with chemicals. But he says, DANA, I am afraid because my patent is still pending, and if they disclose this information, it is going to be all over the place before I have a chance to capitalize. I cannot raise the money until I have my patent in hand, but these other people will get the money and they will be in business before I do.

How long do Members think it is going to be before the inventors of this new system to check tainted meat or the new system to make sure that we do not have chemicals being spread in our soil to kill the bugs, or in our homes to kill bugs, how long will these inventors keep coming up with their ideas? They will not come up with their ideas, and we will be stuck; we

will be like the Japanese, run by a group of economic elitists who hold the little guy down because the little guy has no economic protections and there are no inventions. The standard of living not only of our country, but of the entire world, will go down if we lose this battle.

As I say, Senator HATCH is still trying to get this through in its very worst form, through the U.S. Senate. This has been a very tough battle, because it has been the battle of the little guy versus the big guy. It has been part of an overall effort to change American law.

First of all, let me explain the last point that I made. Ever since the end of the cold war, we have been hearing time and time again phrases that are kind of scary. The first phrase we heard was "the new world order." That came from a Republican. That came from George Bush.

I do not know how other people felt about it, but when I heard our President talk about a new world order, I said to myself, something is wrong here. I am not working for a new world order. I am working for the people of the United States who elected me. There is something wrong here.

The new world order? It sounds like we are giving up authority to a higher authority than the Constitution of the United States of America. The new world order?

Since that concept went down in flames, along with the presidency of George Bush, we have heard time and time again of the global economy, the global economy. In it, we have all kinds of powerful interest groups pushing to create a global economy. What does that mean, a global economy? That means that decisions that were made locally not only have been turned over to State government, who then turn it over to the Federal Government, but now we are thinking about turning decisions that are made by people who have been elected to office in the United States over to some unelected bureaucracy somewhere in the United Nations or in the World Trade Organization or the world labor organization or the world environmental organization, or whatever organization it is that has been set up in order to watch out for the global environment or the global economy, you name it; and these people will be making decisions, and this type of world will be people who have never faced the electorate.

If Americans will blink their eyes, some day they will find that their rights have been diminished and that power has been granted to some unelected official who may or may not be an American, but who the average person here has absolutely no recourse against if a decision is made in the wrong way.

This concept of a global economy, the idea of free trade between peoples of the world, is a good idea. The idea of creating a global economic system

which will be controlled and regulated is a bad idea. It is not a good idea, as well, by the way, I might add, for us to be trading in a free trade relationship with a mammoth dictatorship like China.

But then again, the world economic trade regulators, once we have established this global economic system, may think entirely differently. They may think a transfer of wealth from the rich United States to the poor countries is a good idea.

Madam Speaker, this change in the patent law is only one step toward harmonization of law. It is a step in the wrong direction. This concept of diminishing the rights of Americans in order to create a new world order is a threat to the rights, the freedom and the prosperity of each and every one of us.

The patent fight is the first fight, because it has been the first one we have been able to identify where actual legal protections enjoyed by Americans are being diminished in order to have a harmonization of law overseas. That in itself would be wrong. But the side effects of giving huge multinational corporations and foreign corporations the power over Americans to steal their new ideas, which will undermine our economy, not even to mention what it does to the lives of these poor inventors who spent their whole lives trying to develop something, this shows that it is a bad idea on a number of levels.

As I say, this will be just the first fight. This is just the first fight in our battle to maintain the rights and freedoms of the American people and the prosperity of our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GRANGER). The gentleman from California [Mr. ROHRBACHER] has been allotted another 30 minutes, and is so recognized for that additional time.

The Chair would also remind Members not to refer critically to individual Senators.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I do not believe that I referred critically to any individual Senator. I think I have just outlined the positions of Senators. I do not think I used any pejorative descriptions of any U.S. Senator. It just happens that this legislation that I am describing has someone who is very opposite in opinion, on the other side of this particular issue.

Madam Speaker, let me talk a little bit. Now that I have an extra half hour, I would like to discuss a little bit about this whole concept that I was ending up with when I thought I just had 30 minutes. That is the idea that we are going to be facing more and more challenges to our freedom and to our prosperity as Americans from those who are trying to foist off on us the necessity of transferring authority and power to world organizations and to multinational organizations.

□ 2215

In the area of our national defense, there are those people who, for exam-

ple, are trying to expand NATO. And these are many of my friends. Many of my colleagues, Republican colleagues, have been pushing for the expansion of NATO. I am sorry to say today that I think that is a bad idea. I am sorry to say that, because many of my colleagues I know honestly believe that it is a good idea for the United States now to stay in NATO.

It is not time for us to become part of world organizations and put our people under U.N. command or NATO command. It is not time for us to be involved in multinational approaches. But instead, the United States should, no, not be going it alone, but we should instead be trying to be as effective as we can be individually, and on a bilateral level, with other countries of the world.

NATO is a good example. NATO's purpose was what? NATO's purpose was to prevent the Soviet Union from rolling across Europe at the height of the cold war. NATO worked. I am very grateful that our forefathers had the courage and the commitment to build an organization like NATO that thwarted the aggressive tendencies of the Soviet Union during the cold war.

The cold war is over, and like any other organization that is established on a multinational level, the organization does not want to disappear once its purpose has ended.

Instead of spending tens of billions of dollars stationing troops in Europe, we should be spending those billions of dollars in developing the technologies in the United States, whether it is SDI or whether it is building a new aircraft carrier or whether it is building a new fighter or whatever type of technology is necessary for the protection of the people of the United States. That is what we should be developing, rather than wasting tens of billions of dollars in an alliance that has already, already served its purpose.

NATO is meant now, supposedly, we hear, for the stability of Europe. Well, when my colleagues visit Europe, they will realize that Europe and the European Community have a gross national product higher than that of the United States. Let them defend themselves. Let them pay for their own stability.

The United States should play an active part in the role, and I am not advocating isolationism in the least. But giving our powers up to NATO, or up to the United Nations, is a mistake. We should not be giving up our military power, and our ability to make decisions that are necessary, up to multinational organizations now that the cold war is over.

That grand alliance was designed to defeat Soviet communism. Soviet communism has been defeated. This is nothing more than yet another example. There are also calls for us to join another world organization. In fact, I will be giving another 1-hour presentation in the near future on the global warming treaty, the climate change treaty that some people are trying to stampede this Congress into signing.

That treaty is based on the idea that mankind is using so much energy, that we are altering our environment to the point that the world is getting warmer. It is called global warming. Having been the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and Environment in the Committee on Science, and having gone through hearing after hearing on this, I can tell my colleagues that I have heard experts on both sides of this issue, and I have come to the conclusion that global warming at best is unproven and at worst it is a bunch of liberal claptrap.

Even the most strong advocates of global warming, once you get them in a question-and-answer situation, will admit that they are not sure. But they are willing, however, to try to push America into policies that will drain billions of dollars from our economy, drain billions of dollars from our economy, and that money will be gone forever.

People do not understand the meaning of these tens of billions of dollars or hundreds of billions of dollars. That means the amount of money that is spent for education. That means the amount of money that is spent for true environmental programs. These are things that will be defunded in the case of a United States commitment to a treaty that is designed to solve a problem that does not exist.

In one of the most interesting aspects of the global warming treaty that I found so far in examining the proposal that we are looking at, is that a provision has been added, a strange provision has been added to the global warming treaty. What is that provision? Guess what? Somebody has added to this global warming treaty, and they are discussing, a provision that says we should harmonize all patent law. Well, is not that a coincidence?

Somebody suggested that this is going to be part of a global warming treaty, meaning a harmonization of the patent law which I have just spoken on and demonstrated the disastrous effects that it will have on the economy of the United States of America and the disastrous effects it will have on the level of protection that American citizens are afforded; protection that they have been afforded since the time of our Constitution.

This is amazing. Well, it really is not so amazing, because the same people who are pushing for all of these commitments by the United States of America to multinational organizations, and giving away our authority from our own elected officials to unelected foreigners, are the same ones who are pushing the diminishing of our American patent rights.

Now, who are these people? Well, many of them are Americans, interestingly enough, and many of them are Americans who work and control huge multinational corporations. I am afraid that people who run multinational corporations today, whether they are American citizens or not, are not the

ones that we can trust to make the decisions about our future. Because these individuals may be very efficient at running their multinational corporations, but they do not seem to care one iota about the American people. They do not seem to care one iota whether or not they have succeeded, based on the protection of their rights that the American people have given them over these last 50 years and, yes, over the 200-year life span of our Republic.

The multinational corporations now have allegiance to the new world order or the global economy, not to the American people. And these multinational corporations, these huge corporate entities are pushing to change the patent law, and pushing to change other laws that I am talking about, because they can influence these distant decision-makers in the new world that they are creating. But the little guy, the American people, will never be able to influence, not at the ballot box and not in the marketplace.

Madam Speaker, these big multinational corporations, many of them in our Fortune 500, have made an enormous effort on this patent bill and in other things. For example, as we all know, the United States has been in an unfair trading relationship with the mainland of China for two decades. And the cold war is over. During the cold war there was an excuse for us to be in a relationship with Communist China.

It is the same excuse that we had when we were in a relationship with Stalinist Russia during World War II in order to defeat Hitler. That excuse is that we needed to make sure that our potential enemies were divided and that they were not united against us.

With the Soviet Union having collapsed, there is no longer an excuse for us to put up with an unfair trading relationship like we have with the Communist Chinese mainland, the mainland of China.

Most Americans do not know when they hear our huge corporations talking about how important it is for them to be able to sell their goods in China that they are not really talking about selling American goods in China. What they are talking about is their right as multinational corporations to set up factories in China, factories that will take our technology and put it at the disposal of the Chinese and then will be used to out-compete the United States of America and put our own people, our own people out of work.

Most people do not understand that the things that are produced in China enter the United States with a 3 or 4 percent tariff. But when we want to export manufactured goods to China, they have a 30 to 40 percent tariff on our manufactured goods. Who would want to give even a democratic country that kind of an edge over the people of the United States of America, much less a Communist dictatorship that threatens the security of the world and the prosperity of our people?

But we have continued to give them Most Favored Nation status. Why do

these multinational corporations who put pressure on all of our colleagues to vote for Most Favored Nation status, the same ones who are pushing to change the patent law and the same ones who are pushing for all of these different global arrangements, why is it that they want Most Favored Nation status with China?

First of all, they have no allegiance with the American people. They are going to put them out of work. It is even worse. They want Most Favored Nation status so they can receive Government guarantees for their investments in China.

Madam Speaker, the Export-Import Bank, the World Bank, other institutions that get our tax dollars from the working people of the United States, those tax dollars are being used to guarantee the investments of our businessmen in China in factories that will be used to put Americans out of work.

This is the worst kind of hypocrisy. This is the worst blow, the worst insult to the American people. Not only are we permitting an unfair trade relationship to go on, which is draining billions of dollars of worth out of our system and giving it to the Chinese, even as they commit genocide in Tibet and genocide against the Muslim people in Xinjiang Province, in East Turkestan, and as they butcher their own dissidents and repress the Christians. No, we still have to have Most Favored Nation status and the tax dollars of the American people are being used to guarantee investments against our own people.

This is a sin against our own people. But it is also a sin that these same interests are trying to change American law to diminish the rights of the American people and the American people do not even know that that is what is going on.

The American people ought to say, well, if IBM and Kodak and all of these big companies are in favor of changing that patent law, it must help us in our technological struggle with our adversaries. No, no, because those companies are just as interested in taking the ideas of our inventors and using them for their benefit without paying royalties, as are the big Japanese companies, as are the big Chinese companies and all the rest of the economic thieves throughout the world.

It all ties in. It all ties in. But let me tell my colleagues tonight that they have forgotten one fundamental aspect that has made this world a decent place to live in. They have forgotten the role of the United States of America. Our Founding Fathers who wrote into our Constitution patent protection, our Founding Fathers who wrote in individual freedoms into our Constitution and into our Bill of Rights, the people who led our country throughout these years of our independence and during the time period as we developed as a Nation. These people understood that if there was to be freedom anywhere in the world, it would

depend on a strong United States of America.

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If there is to be decency and honor and integrity anywhere in the world, it will be because the United States of America has set the standard. It will be because those standards are protected by law in the United States of America.

Without the people of the United States of America and their commitment to freedom, there would be no freedom on this planet. The Nazis would have won. The Communists would have won, the isms and the tyrannical forces that have been at play for this last 100 years would have overwhelmed the west. But it has been the strength of purpose found in the souls of the people of the United States of America that has preserved all of those forces of good and decency on this planet.

If our business elite, now with their multinational corporations, have given up on the American people, because in order to run a plant here and maintain our standard of living, they will only make a 5 percent profit, but if they go to a Communist dictatorship they can earn a 15 or 20 percent profit with, of course, the taxpayers guaranteeing their investment, pretty soon the American people's standard of living will decline and the American people will feel justifiably betrayed.

We cannot let that happen. The battle over the patent is only one of the fights that we will be having in the next few years. But we have to make sure that the American people maintain their standard of living, that decent, high tech jobs are available here, that our wealth is not drained from our society to give frivolously to others, that our technology is not taken from us to be used against us in competition, economically and militarily. Because if we lose the battle here in the United States of America and the American people lose faith in those principles that our Founding Fathers established 250 years ago, well, then the future of freedom on this planet will be short-lived indeed. The future of things that have made this a planet not dominated by the likes of Mao Tse Tung or some petty dictator that now occupies his seat in Beijing, but instead reflect the value of our people which created a White House that does not look like, I looked in the oval office.

I used to work in the White House. I remember walking into the oval office with my friend 10 years ago and just looking at the oval office. And what I saw looked like some sort of a library or some sort of a sitting room in somebody's home. I said, does this not look like someone's living room here? We both agreed that in every other country in the world, the offices of the chief executive looked like a palace of power. It looked like a place where

boots could be worn or heels clicked and salutes given.

Instead, where the first executive of the United States sat at a desk, it looked more like someone's living room, like someplace with a family.

These are the values of decency that come with human freedom. We would not put up with some gestapo Communist dictatorship in this country because our people believe in freedom. But if the freedom that we have permitted our multinational corporations is used to destroy the prosperity of our people and if we think that now we have an allegiance to free trade so that people can use guarantees by the American taxpayers to build up the economy in dictatorships, the American people will lose their faith.

If we are going to win this battle, the American people have to be a part of it. One of the reasons we were able to defeat this drastic change that they were trying to make in the patent bill, as it went through the House, one of the reasons why the Kaptur amendment passed, the Kaptur amendment which gave us 60 percent of what we wanted passed in a vote, was that the American people called their representatives and said, for goodness sake, do not vote for that patent bill, the Steal American Technologies Act that Congressman Rohrabacher is talking about. Vote to kill it.

That is what people have to do to the Members of the House and the Members of the Senate, because it is still alive in the Senate and that means it probably will come back to the House.

The American people have got to remain alert to this and the other threats that we face, because there are some very powerful forces at play in this world. There are some very powerful forces at play in this city.

The only thing that turned the tide in this last battle on the floor of the House were the thousands upon thousands of phone calls that came from all over America to the House of Representatives and said, defeat this attempt to give away American technology.

The American people have every right to be proud of themselves. So tonight we stand on the threshold of finishing that fight, because it is still going on in the Senate. It may come back here to the House if they succeed. Tomorrow, as I said, Capitol Hill will be invaded by some of these multinational corporations and some very hifalutin sounding people. But small businessmen throughout this country, university professors, people who are engaged in research and development of new ideas understand how important patent protection is, and they have tried their best here, even though we have not had very many resources behind us.

I would just close by asking my colleagues to be alert as the patent bill comes back from the Senate and, if there is any influence they can exert on the Senators on this piece of legisla-

tion, to please talk to the Senator from their State to ensure that they know just how dramatic the effect of diminishing our patent rights will be and that that indeed is the purpose of the legislation that is now being pushed in the Senate.

#### FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GRANGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I begin my 60 minutes by yielding to the gentleman from Cooperstown, NY [Mr. BOEHLERT].

A TRIBUTE TO RICHIE "WHITEY" ASHBURN.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Speaker, I pause in these deliberations to give some well-deserved recognition.

Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to announce the passing of baseball Hall-of-Famer Richie Ashburn. Richie Ashburn was my first boyhood hero when he began his career with the Utica Blue Sox back in 1945.

Mr. Ashburn played center field, primarily with the Philadelphia Phillies from 1948 to 1962. Ashburn became the starting center fielder in 1948, after the incumbent and previous year's batting champion, Harry "The Hat" Walker, broke his foot in spring training. By the time Walker was ready to return, Ashburn had won the job by hitting .348 and was the only rookie named to that year's All-Star game.

Ashburn finished the year hitting .333 and led the league with 32 stolen bases and was named by the Sporting News as rookie of the year. In his 15-year career, Ashburn hit .300 or better nine times, won two batting titles, and finished with a lifetime batting average of .308. Despite these impressive hitting numbers, Ashburn was best known for his fielding skills. He set new records by recording 500 or more putouts in 4 different seasons and 400 or more putouts in 9 different seasons.

He tied a major league record by leading the league in that category nine times. He was in some very distinguished company. The only ones who did better were Max Carey, Willie Mays, Tris Speaker, and Ty Cobb.

In 1962, Ashburn's final season, he became an original member of the New York Mets and was the Mets' first All-Star. He finished his career with six All-Star appearances and a World Series appearance with the 1950 Phillies pennant-winning team that was affectionately known as the Whiz Kids. Ashburn continues to hold that Phillies record for consecutive games played at 731.

After retiring, Ashburn considered running for public office, but I think he thought better of it, in his home State of Nebraska. Instead he began a career as a broadcaster for the Phillies where he remained until his death.