

Mr. Speaker, there is no one right way to solve this problem, but we must solve it. We must focus our collective energy, the House, the Senate, and the White House, to solve this problem for the sake of all of our children. Let us come together and make a real commitment to find a solution. Let us put aside partisan differences, and let us join together to help each and every one of our children.

None of our children, not one, should be left out or left behind. We can, we must work together to provide health care for all of our children. The future of our children and the future of our Nation depends upon it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the House stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Ronald F. Christian, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we acknowledge that You have made us in Your own image, so we pray: Look with love and compassion on Your whole human family. Take away from any of us the arrogance we may have for our own importance and significance. Dissolve any hatred that infects our hearts and inflicts our spirits. Break down the walls that may separate us one from the other. And, through our struggle and confusion, use our work to bring about Your purpose, so that in Your good time and season our work and our efforts and our decisions may serve the common good of all Your people, and in quiet harmony may they promote Your will and goodness. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT 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.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the provisions of 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), the Chair appoints the following Members of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Messrs. STARK, HAMILTON, HINCHEY, and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 10, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I request that I be granted a leave of absence from the House Committee on Small Business in order to accept an appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM ELIMINATION ACT

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, a lot of the backroom deals in this town involve taking money away from middle-class people who work for it and then giving it to special interests who lobby for it.

One of the most outrageous transfer programs around now is called the Market Access Program, or MAP. In this particular scheme the Government takes money away from taxpayers and gives it to corporate trade associations to advertise their products overseas. We are dipping into the pockets of average Americans in order to subsidize private, politically preferred business dealings. So when I say the program is outrageous, I mean just that. It should cause outrage. It is about as close to legalized theft as you can get.

If businesses want to advertise overseas, great. They should do it, but with their own money. They should not beg Congress to squeeze the taxpayers even more than they are already squeezed with the high taxes we have in this country.

That is why the gentleman from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] and I have introduced H.R. 972, the Market Access Program Elimination Act. If you want taxpayers to be able to keep more of their

own money rather than having it go to groups like the Dry Pea and Lentil Council, please join us in this effort. Let us get rid of the Market Access Program.

AMERICA SOLD LOCK, STOCK, AND PORK BARREL

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, news reports say that China tried to influence and buy last year's Federal elections, including the Presidency. All of America is in an uproar. Newspapers are in shock and people are calling the talk shows on the radio and saying they believe America is for sale. Can you blame them?

China gets most-favored-nation trade status but sells missiles to our enemies. Japan keeps raping our marketplace, approaching \$70 billion in surpluses, and they keep denying our products. Mexico gets billions of dollars from us and they ship narcotics to our streets. And now American companies overseas are advertising in the newspaper for American workers to move overseas and get a good, livable wage job.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. America is not for sale. I think America has already been sold, and I think Congress should start looking into it. Sold, lock, stock, and pork barrel.

PROTECT AMERICA'S BORDERS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I like those last remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I am outraged, also, at the President's lack of leadership in protecting our borders from the invasion of Mexican drug lords.

An article in the Dallas Morning News yesterday illustrated the national disaster we now have on the Texas border. Our ranchers, their families, live in constant fear. Their cattle and dogs are being killed by the drug guys. Their houses are being robbed. Recently a Border Patrol guard was gunned down by drug smugglers. These Americans live in a virtual war zone with no relief in sight.

Eight months ago our drug czar stood in Texas and announced swift action must be taken. Congress responded by authorizing 1,000 new drug agents in each of the next 5 years. Guess what? Our President only actually implemented 500.

It is time for this President to stop paying lip service to a problem that demands attention now. No one in America should be held hostage in their own house. We protect the borders around the world. It is time we started protecting our own.

HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

(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, during the time it takes me to give these remarks today, two American children will lose their health insurance. One minute, two children. Three thousand three hundred every day of the year added to the ranks of the uninsured. Children are losing their health insurance at twice the rate of adults. This is truly a national crisis.

Last weekend in Hershey, PA, Members of the Congress from both sides of the aisle came together for a bipartisan retreat. We talked about the importance of working together and finding common ground on important issues that face American families.

Surely we can all agree that there is no issue more important to our families than our children, for they are the future of this Nation. Let us pledge to work together, Democrats and Republicans, to see that every child in America has basic health care coverage. Let us come together and pledge to strengthen our families and to put the expansion of health care for children at the top of our legislative agenda.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PASCHAL

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

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man and a great institution, Robert Paschal, the founder and owner of Paschal's Motor Hotel and Restaurant, who recently passed away.

Mr. Paschal moved to Atlanta at a young age and opened a soda fountain and a hot dog stand. The small stand grew into an Atlanta institution, an establishment famous for its fried chicken. He helped build a business the old-fashioned way, the hard way, through hard work.

My first meal in Atlanta was at Paschal's during the civil rights movement. This man practically fed the entire movement. Paschal's was one of the few places blacks and whites could socialize and discuss the order of the day. It was there we talked about the Selma march, the Poor People's Campaign, and the Mississippi summer project. It was there we checked the pulse of the movement. Paschal's was referred to as the Paschal precinct, and to this day it is a meeting place, a gathering place for all Atlanta.

So when Robert Paschal left us, we lost a part of Atlanta, part of our history and our hearts. He will be missed by our city and our State.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5 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.

WAIVING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF TRADE ACT OF 1974 RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 5) waiving certain provisions of the Trade Act of 1974 relating to the appointment of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 5

Whereas paragraph (3) of section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(b)(3)) became effective on January 1, 1996, and provides certain limitations with respect to the appointment of the United States Trade Representative and Deputy United States Trade Representatives;

Whereas paragraph (3) of section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 does not apply to any individual who was serving as the United States Trade Representative or Deputy United States Trade Representative on the effective date of such paragraph (3) and who continued to serve in that position;

Whereas Charlene Barshefsky was appointed Deputy United States Trade Representative on May 28, 1993, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and was serving in that position on January 1, 1996;

Whereas paragraph (3) of section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 does not apply to Charlene Barshefsky in her capacity as Deputy United States Trade Representative; and

Whereas in light of the foregoing, it is appropriate to continue to waive the provisions of paragraph (3) of section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the appointment of Charlene Barshefsky as the United States Trade Representative: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (3) of section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(b)(3)) or any other provision of law, the President, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, is authorized to appoint Charlene Barshefsky as the United States Trade Representative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER].

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on Senate Joint Resolution 5.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of Senate Joint Resolution 5.

I strongly support Ambassador Barshefsky's nomination as USTR. In her capacity as Deputy USTR, Acting USTR and USTR-Designate, she has served the United States admirably, forging a number of important trade agreements which opened markets for U.S. exports.

Unfortunately, because of a provision adopted last Congress that amends the Trade Act of 1974, we must take action in the House today in order to permit Ambassador Barshefsky to serve as USTR. In very vague terms, current law bans the nomination of anyone as USTR or Deputy USTR if that person has ever aided, represented, or advised a foreign government in a trade negotiation or trade dispute. We must seek this waiver today because Ambassador Barshefsky had a minimal advisory role to the Canadian Government a number of years ago and would therefore be automatically precluded from serving as USTR despite this very, very minor role.

□ 1415

Now I agree we should not have individuals in positions of authority over our trade policy if there is any doubt of their loyalty to the United States and commitment to trade policies that benefit our economy, businesses and workers. However, I believe that this provision is an intrusion into the current confirmation process, which already permits Congress to consider the background of candidates and whether prior representation is relevant to the ability of an otherwise qualified individual to carry out the tasks of any of these positions. Indeed, it severely limits the pool of qualified candidates for these positions in a way that may well be unconstitutional.

In fact, when the provision was being considered last year, the Justice Department wrote to the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. HYDE] of the Committee on the Judiciary that the provision raises serious constitutional concerns because it limits the President's constitutional prerogatives to nominate persons to a senior executive position, particularly in the trade area, a letter that I am submitting for the RECORD today.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support the waiver of this provision for Ambassador Barshefsky's nomination as USTR. I believe she has done a good job in her other capacities, and I think she will do a good job in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

AGENCY VIEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 7, 1995.

Hon. HENRY HYDE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This provides the views of the Department of Justice on S. 1060, the "Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995," as passed by the Senate. We understand that the House may act on this legislation later this year.