

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3111, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 provided that all periodic reports provided to Congress will sunset on December 21, 1999, unless reauthorized by Congress. The intent of the act was to spur Congress to reexamine all the periodic reports it receives and eliminate the obsolete reports.

After careful review, the Committee on the Judiciary determined that about 40 reports, out of the thousands of reports subject to subset, are required for the committee to perform its legislative and oversight duties. Examples include the U.S. Department of Justice's annual report on crime statistics and the Immigration and Naturalization Service's annual statistical report.

This bill in its present form is a manager's amendment that includes 16 additional reports requested by my Democratic colleagues. Again, the bill merely continues existing report requirements. It does not authorize any new reports.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims of the Committee on the Judiciary. We have worked out the differences in this measure.

I have to let the RECORD show that it would have been nice to have held hearings on this measure; but, nonetheless, H.R. 3111 is a bill supported by myself, introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary. We think that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 requires the end of the submission of various periodic reports to Congress by December 21 of this year.

The Act forces Congress to reexamine the usefulness of the various reporting requirements that have been mandated of Federal agencies, including the Department of Justice. This review process is important and a practical exercise in that we must be sure that Federal dollars and personnel time are not being wasted on obsolete reports to Congress.

But all reports are not obsolete. So together we have reviewed and have

been able to agree on a reduced list of reports from the Department of Justice that will continue to provide information important to the legislative and oversight process.

One should not minimize the importance of these reports. For example, we have retained reports on pen register orders and wiretap applications to monitor the activities of the Department to ensure that its activities do not invade our society's expected right to privacy.

Other reports help Congress monitor the Department's undercover operations, the conduct of various justice programs in areas including immigration. These should not sunset.

So, again, my commendations to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the subcommittee chair, for the spirit of cooperation in working out this measure. The review process required to produce this bill represents an essential function of good government that we can all support on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the generous comments of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3111, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

MADE IN AMERICA INFORMATION ACT

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 754) to establish a toll free number under the Federal Trade Commission to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 754

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Made in America Information Act".

SEC. 2. 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 3, 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 3(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". 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 3, which shall be funded entirely from fees collected under section 3(c).

(c) USE.—The toll free number shall be used solely to inform consumers as to whether products are registered under section 3 as "Made in America". 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" in section 5 of this Act, or

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

SEC. 3. 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 "Made in America" in section 5 of this Act and have such product included in the information available through the toll free number established under section 2(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 2(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 regulation.

(c) REGISTRATION FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturers of products included in information provided under section 2 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 2(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 appropriation 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. 4. PENALTY.

Any manufacturer of a product who knowingly registers a product under section 3 which is not "Made in America"—

(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. 5. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "Made in America" has the meaning given unqualified "Made in U.S.A." or "Made in America" claims 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. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or in any regulation promulgated under section 3 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 unqualified "Made in U.S.A." or "Made in America" claims in labels on products introduced, delivered for introduction, sold, advertised, or offered for sale in commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 754, and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

I am pleased today to rise in support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act. The bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), should be commended for his commitment to American products and the American worker. This bill is a fitting tribute to that commitment.

The legislation is designed to assist consumers when they are thinking about purchasing a major appliance or other product. For instance, a family looking for a new refrigerator could call the number to find out which brands and models of refrigerators are manufactured in the United States. Consumers have consistently demonstrated their desire to purchase products made in America, and I believe that if this information is provided, they will use this as another major factor in their purchasing decisions.

An important feature of this legislation is that the creation of the service is conditional both on market demand

and the presence of private sector funding. This toll-free number will only be implemented if there is sufficient interest on the part of manufacturers in listing their products and funding the cost of the program through annual fees. Thus, there is no cost to the taxpayer for implementing this program to promote American-made products.

As my colleagues know, the House has passed this bill on a number of previous occasions, but the other body has repeatedly failed to act. The bill before the House today is essentially the same bill passed by the House during the 105th Congress, and I hope that the other body will take this opportunity to send this important measure to the President. This legislation, as reported by the Committee on Commerce, creates a much-needed consumer service, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act. This legislation, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), is an important step in reversing the damage that unfairly priced imports are wreaking on workers and small businesses in this country. It is supported by three of my Democratic colleagues on the Committee on Commerce as cosponsors, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. BARRETT), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. Speaker, regardless of what mainstream economists say, regardless of what the media and talk show hosts say, the fact is there is no greater long-term threat to our economic prosperity than our ballooning trade deficit. Just ask the millions of American workers and small businesses that every month are being asked to compete against billions of dollars of goods that roll onto our shores, many of them made in places where trying to form a union or fight for environmental standards will land a person in jail.

In other cases, some of our workers and small businesses are competing against goods that masquerade as American made, especially those from Saipan, where we know that U.S. corporations exploit tens of thousands of, mostly, young women, and most with families in China, and force them to make garments for pennies an hour. We know this happens because of the efforts of their employers on Wall Street and their political allies here in Washington who continue to block our efforts to even give those very young women the minimum wage or provide the working conditions that we give to American teenagers working at a McDonald's.

Mr. Speaker, the premise behind H.R. 754 is very simple. It requires the Commerce Department to establish a toll-free telephone hot line to give the

American public, the men and women who vote and pay our salaries, help in determining if the products they are buying are, in fact, made by American workers. This hot line will take the guesswork out of whether or not a product that claims to be made in America is really made here or, conversely, assembled in a sweat shop in Saipan or somewhere else. Only those products that meet the Federal Trade Commission standard for making a claim that its product is made in the USA are eligible to be listed on the registry, which the Commerce Department will use to identify American-made products for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that, except for minor differences, H.R. 754 is the same legislation that has passed this Congress in each of the last three sessions. Unfortunately, the other body has never taken action on it, and the bill has not been enacted. I sincerely hope that will not be the situation in this Congress and that the bill finally can be enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for this legislation and urge my colleagues to support H.R. 754 and stop sacrificing fair trade on the altar of free trade.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), the author of the bill.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished chairman, who has done a great job, and I appreciate his helping me on this with all the other issues he has before him on his powerful committee. I also want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), who has worked hard on so many issues on commerce and education.

This is an unusual bill. Both the chairman and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) have mentioned the fact that we have passed it before. I am a little bit frustrated. I would like to talk briefly about that frustration and then talk about mitigating that frustration by the actions of our consumers.

The Congress of the United States has moved in a trade program, in my opinion, that is very flawed. It has produced a negative balance of payments over \$300 billion now, and we are now talking about \$330 billion next year as a trade deficit for 1 year, which will be a new record. In the last 3 months, an \$81 billion trade deficit. Think about that.

China is now taking \$7 billion a month out of America. Nearly everything our consumers buy is made in China. If China's is better, fine. But China is not opening up the doors to Uncle Sam. And while we wait for all of these legislative gurus to fashion some remedy, I think it is time to give the American people information and give the consuming public an opportunity

to at least be conscientious about American-made goods.

What this bill says is this: "Look, if you are buying a refrigerator in Chicago, you can call that 1-800 hot line and say, what refrigerators, if any, are still made in the United States of America." And then they would give that inquiring consumer a list. And maybe when they go out to buy, they would say to the retailer, "Do you have one of these refrigerators on sale? We would like to price them. We would like to look at their quality in comparison to the foreign-made product."

It is not a sophisticated program, for sure. It is not paid for by the taxpayers. It is paid for by the companies, whom I hope would be proud of still being in America and making and building a product in America. I think it is a straightforward bill.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY). He has a tremendous amount of important issues right now facing his committee, but he has always taken the time to give each and every Member an opportunity to appeal to that committee, and I also thank my neighboring colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. Speaker, I would appreciate the support, overwhelming support, on this bill.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 754, the Made in America Information Act, Introduced by Representative TRAFICANT of Ohio.

This important piece of legislation establishes a toll-free hotline consumers can call to determine if a product is "Made in America."

The self-financed hotline established by H.R. 754 applies to those products with a sale price of over \$250, and the bill imposes a fine of up to \$7,500 on any manufacturer who falsely registers a product as "Made in America."

The Made in America Act has passed the House the last three Congresses, and enjoys strong bipartisan support.

Many Americans want to "Buy America," and we have an obligation to provide consumers with the information they need to make informed choices about how to spend their money.

Mr. Speaker, this is a win-win proposition, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support passage of the Made in America Information Act.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 754, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (2303) to direct the Librarian of Congress to prepare the history of the House of Representatives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2303

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. WRITTEN HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to available funding and in accordance with the requirements of this Act, the Librarian of Congress shall prepare, print, distribute, and arrange for the funding of, a new and complete written history of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Committee on House Administration. In preparing this written history, the Librarian of Congress shall consult, commission, or engage the services or participation of, eminent historians, Members, and former Members of the House of Representatives.

(b) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Librarian of Congress shall take into account the following:

(1) The history should be an illustrated, narrative history of the House of Representatives, organized chronologically.

(2) The history's intended audience is the general reader, as well as Members of Congress and their staffs.

(3) The history should include a discussion of the First and Second Continental Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, especially with regard to their roles in creating the House of Representatives.

(c) PRINTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall arrange for the printing of the history.

(2) PRINTING ARRANGEMENTS.—The printing may be performed—

(A) by the Public Printer pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of title 44, United States Code;

(B) under a cooperative arrangement among the Librarian of Congress, a private funding source obtained pursuant to subsection (e), and a publisher in the private sector; or

(C) under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(3) INTERNET DISSEMINATION.—Any arrangement under paragraph (2) shall include terms for dissemination of the history over the Internet via facilities maintained by the United States Government.

(4) MEMBER COPIES.—To the extent that the history is printed by the Public Printer, copies of the history provided to the Congress under subsection (d) shall be charged to the Government Printing Office's congressional allotment for printing and binding.

(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Librarian of Congress shall make the history available for sale to the public, and shall make available, free of charge, 5 copies to each Member of the House of Representatives and 250 copies to the Senate.

(e) PRIVATE FUNDING.—The Librarian of Congress shall solicit and accept funding for the preparation, publication, marketing, and public distribution of the history from private individuals, organizations, or entities.

SEC. 3. ORAL HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Librarian of Congress shall accept for deposit, preserve, maintain,

and make accessible an oral history of the House of Representatives, as told by its Members and former Members, compiled and updated (on a voluntary or contract basis) by the United States Association of Former Members of Congress or other private organization. In carrying out this section, the Librarian of Congress may enlist the voluntary aid or assistance of such organization, or may contract with it for such services as may be necessary.

(b) DEFINITION OF ORAL HISTORY.—In this section, the term "oral history" means a story or history consisting of personal recollection as recorded by any one or more of the following means:

(1) Interviews.

(2) Transcripts.

(3) Audio recordings.

(4) Video recordings.

(5) Such other form or means as may be suitable for the recording and preservation of such information.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) orientation programs for freshman Members of the House of Representatives should contain a seminar on the history of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Speaker of the House of Representatives should conduct a series of forums on the topic of the history of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

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

Mr. Speaker, this measure would require that there be created a history of the House of Representatives. The intent is to create a popular illustrated and chronologically ordered volume that covers the entire history of the House of Representatives. Notwithstanding the fact that the House has a House historian, this particular history is required in the bill to be prepared with no appropriated funds.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman for his comments and his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of this important legislation, sponsored by my good friend and our colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON). This legislation has 311 cosponsors, including the Speaker and the minority leader. I understand that a few more have been added even this day.

H.R. 2303 is an extraordinarily timely initiative, given the massive institutional changes which have affected the House over the last few years, and as we move into the 21st century.

Earlier this year, the House recodified its rules for the first time since 1880, another recent useful effort to re-examine and hopefully to improve things which we tend to take for granted. We benefit as Members of the House, and the American people benefit, when Members can take some