

Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. Almost one-third of the present area of the American nation, nearly a million square miles, changed sovereignty."

That is more than worthy of note and remembrance.

But, even unvarnished, Texas history is a magnificent story in and of itself. And that is too often lost in these days of headline news and semi-literacy and our natural preoccupation with the present.

When Gen. Sam Houston and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, and their respective armies, met on the field that day, the combat lasted but 18 minutes—the killing went on for more than two hours. Knowing and understanding the reasons why, indeed the reasons there was a battle in the first place, ought to be at least as much a part of modern Texans' knowledge base as, say, what the weather might be tomorrow.

But, sadly, it far too often is not. Yes, we remember the Alamo, but too few of us these days can remember and recount exactly why.

And so, we pick a day of anniversary, a day of remembrance to give more than just a passing thought to what and why and how what we see before us, both the good and the bad, came to be.

We observe San Jacinto Day with good cause here in Texas, our Texas.

CEREMONIES TO MARK BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court will deliver the keynoted address today during a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.

The 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the San Jacinto Monument is to honor the Texans who died April 21, 1836, when a small force led by Sam Houston surprised and defeated a larger Mexican force led by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

The Mexican leader fled during the battle but was captured a short time later, leading to Texas' independence from Mexico.

Today's ceremony also will salute the 30th anniversary of the modern-day Texas Army, which appears in costume at such events and performs cannon and musket salutes.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Skylarks and by K.R. Woods and the Fathers of Texas. A barbecue also is planned, for which tickets are \$10. Admission to the ceremony is free.

On Saturday, the San Jacinto Volunteers will present their ninth annual re-enactment of the Battle of San Jacinto. The living history camp will feature Texan and Mexican armies beginning at 10 a.m., with uniformed characters demonstrating camp cooking, candle and soap making, weapons and other activities from the Texas Revolution era.

A narrated "battle" is set for 3:30 p.m. with cannons booming, muskets firing and battle drums echoing to signal the clash of Texan and Mexican cavalry and infantry. The day concludes with a re-enactment of Santa Anna's surrender to Houston and a ceremony honoring those who died in the battle 163 years ago.

The San Jacinto Battleground is on Texas 134, or Battleground Road, north of Texas 225. For more information call 281-479-2431.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FAIR TRADE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, the headlines are very grim today. We are facing in America a record trade deficit, one that threatens to cut the economic growth rate of this country. This is in the context of an international economic malaise in which unfair trade practices and naked mercantilism have proliferated on the part of our trading partners.

What America needs, Mr. Speaker, is not only a stronger trade policy but stronger legal protections put in place to guarantee a level playing field in this challenging international environment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, on behalf of myself and six bipartisan cosponsors, the Fair Trade Law Enhancement Act of 1999. This bill takes a broad approach to trade law reform and includes important necessary changes to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws. These reforms are essential if we are going to keep the trade laws effective and relevant to current conditions in a newly turbulent global economy.

America's trade laws have long been critically important to U.S. jobs in both the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. These laws form the last line of defense for U.S. industries, which must operate on market-based principles even though their foreign competitors frequently do not, against injury caused by unfairly traded imports.

The basic covenant at the heart of U.S. trade policy holds that while America maintains an open market to fairly traded goods of any origin, our trade laws will ensure that our industries and workers will not be subject to injury from unfairly traded imports.

□ 1430

Unfortunately, American industry and our working men and women have suffered because we have failed to update these laws even as the world economy continues to change. The trade laws must now be strengthened to prevent unfairly traded imports from undermining our manufacturing and agricultural base.

The last general reform of the U.S. trade laws, unconnected to any particular trade agreement, occurred more than a decade ago. In that time, the problems to which these laws must respond have changed considerably, as underscored by the recent Asian and Russian economic disasters and the steel trade crisis that has ensued. It has become painfully clear, for example, that the current trade laws are not capable of responding to the kinds of sudden import surges, causing dramatic and rapid injury, which now seem to be part of the international economic scene.

The reforms in my bill are fully consistent with WTO rules and fall into three categories: One, amendments to the safeguard law; two, amendments to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws; and, three, provisions establishing a steel import notification program.

The safeguard amendments update the remedy in section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 to make it more effective for U.S. industries trying to deal with damage in import surges. In particular, the amendments conform some of section 201's unnecessarily stringent standards to the more appropriate standards in the WTO safeguards agreement.

The antidumping and countervailing duty law amendments would amend Title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 in light of some of the new global economic realities and conditions to which those laws must now respond. Some of these changes reverse flawed court decisions that have limited the laws' remedial reach in a manner never contemplated by Congress. Again, the primary focus of these reforms is to eliminate unnecessary obstacles American manufacturers and farmers face in securing relief under current law, and to assure through WTO-consistent means that U.S. firms and workers can face their foreign competitors on a level playing field.

Having effective and up-to-date trade laws in place is important to internationally competitive U.S. farm and manufacturing industries, especially the steel industry, where international trade has been more heavily distorted by subsidies, closed markets cartelization and dumping than any other economic sector.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fair Trade Law Enforcement Act of 1999. These fundamental reforms will help keep a credible and effective deterrent against unfair trade in place into the next millennium, and they deserve enthusiastic support from friends of America's manufacturers and farmers and workers all over.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED TO PEOPLE OF LITTLETON, COLORADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly shocked and saddened by yesterday's school tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, where two students opened fire on their classmates and then turned their guns on themselves.

The most common question we ask ourselves in a situation like this is "why?" Well, we do not know yet all the "hows" or "whys" of this tragedy, and we may never understand it. What we can do, without question and hesitation, is extend our thoughts and prayers to the families who have lost their loved ones, to the parents who

have lost their beloved children, to the wounded children and their families, and to the people of the community of Littleton, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I can empathize with what the people of Littleton are going through. There was an incident of senseless school violence in my own south Texas congressional district a little over 1 year ago. On January 13, 1998, two masked gunmen, armed with automatic assault rifles, stormed into a building at South Texas Community College and opened fire where students were registering for class. Two students were seriously wounded and one security guard died in that shooting.

In McAllen, Texas, this was certainly not something that we ever imagined possible on a community college campus. Shock and grief swept across our community in the immediate aftermath of the violent incident. To this day, it remains a shock and a horror.

In the days ahead, it is important that we do all we can to hammer home to our children and to young adults that violence is wrong. As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, school safety is an issue that I take very seriously. In fact, it is the number one educational concern of hundreds of my constituents I surveyed earlier this year.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as we struggle to understand this tragedy, our hearts go out to the people of Littleton, Colorado. On behalf of every man, woman and child of Texas's 15th Congressional District, please accept our deep condolences and sympathy.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in remembrance of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. I would like to thank the cochairs of the Armenian Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHN PORTER) for arranging this important special order in observance of this tragic event.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, between the years 1915 and 1923, the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire became a target of heightened persecution by the Ottoman Turks. These persecutions culminated in a 3-decade period during which more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homelands of 3,000 years and eliminated through massacres and deportation.

Mr. Speaker, this historic event can no longer be denied. Vast amounts of documentation exist in the United States archives, as well as in the public domain, which lend proof that the horrific event surrounding this period did in fact take place. It is important that

we, as Members of Congress, continue to officially recognize the genocide because it is an important part of our world history, just as historically important as World War II, and a prelude to the Holocaust that followed. It is a shame and an outrage that the Genocide is still not recognized by many, many nations.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important that we continue to mark this event on an annual basis. Although most of the survivors of the Genocide are unfortunately no longer with us, their relatives continue to remember and to mourn them to this day. I am proud that the State of New York is one of the few States which has offered a human right/genocide curricula for teachers and students to use at their discretion, which includes the Armenian Genocide. I was a sponsor of that curricula, and I believe educational programs such as this allow our children to learn more about the tragic events such as the Armenian Genocide, hopefully ensuring a peaceful existence for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot forget that the persecution and mistreatment of the Armenian people continues today in Nagorno-Karabagh. Since 1988, fighting there has left more than 1,500 Armenians dead and uprooted hundreds more, forcing them to flee to other parts of this unstable region. As a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I will work to end the repression of the Armenian people in Nagorno-Karabagh and will continue to support their efforts to ensure a stable future for their people.

COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as a Coloradoan and as an American, I am profoundly shocked and saddened by the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, yesterday. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families who have been victims of this terrible crime.

I can hardly imagine the horror and pain experienced by the families who lost loved ones in this tragedy, and as the father of two school aged children, I am deeply distressed by the prospect that our schools have become places where this kind of violence can take place.

Today, however, is not a time to rush to judgment about the causes or cures for this tragedy. I do believe, however, that parents, community leaders and policymakers at all levels, including school boards, State legislators and our national government need to come together in coming weeks and reflect upon this tragedy. We need a fuller discussion of the values we share as Americans, and we need to work more actively than ever before to make our

schools safe and to ensure that our Nation's classrooms are places for learning and for nurturing the full potential of our young people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as a Nation we will respond to this incident by looking beyond our prejudices and political leanings. My concern is that the violence that took place in Colorado has deeper implications for our future than we can fully fathom at this moment. I fear it goes deeper than observations about a decline in our values or moral decay as a society.

Ultimately, this tragedy will challenge us to carefully explore our understanding of rights and freedoms, whether it is access to the Internet or access to guns. Moreover, it will challenge us to place an even greater priority on the quality of our lives and the lives of our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY of New York) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise today to join my colleagues in the sad remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.

First, I would like to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), cochairs of the Caucus, for all of their hard work on this issue and other issues of human rights.

April 24, 1999 marks the 84th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. It was on that day in 1915 that over 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested and murdered in central Turkey. This date marks the beginning of an organized campaign by the young Turk government to eliminate the Armenians from the Ottoman Empire. Over the next 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians died at the hands of the Turks, and a half million more were deported.

As the United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr. has written, and I quote, "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race. They understood this well and made no particular attempt to conceal the fact."

As a supporter of human rights, I am dismayed that the Turkish government