

to provide their children with the things they need.

As I have stated before, this crisis does not just impact steelworkers and their families. The shortage or the imports affect outside contractors, suppliers and everyone in the community that depends on these steel mills. I recently read a statistic that for every one million tons of domestic steel lost, nearly 5,000 U.S. jobs are directly or indirectly affected.

The highly competitive United States steel industry cannot compete with massive foreign subsidies, closed home markets and industrial cartels that protect an enormous worldwide overcapacity. It is now time for Congress and our government to step in and take the steps necessary to provide the U.S. industry a fair and level playing field in the global marketplace.

I urge the other body to complete action on H.R. 975. I further urge the House to take up other important trade law bills, including H.R. 412, which I introduced; H.R. 1120, which was introduced by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON); and H.R. 1505, which was introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

The current steel import crisis must be stopped, and we must ensure that such a crisis will not happen again in the future.

I might add, I thought it was interesting that President Clinton even took the time to take this subject up with the Prime Minister of Japan because of their dumping practices.

STEEL IMPORTS ONCE AGAIN ON THE RISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) is recognized during morning hour debates for 3 minutes.

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the steelworkers in Northeast Arkansas and all over this country are frustrated, and they are the most productive steelworkers in the world. They have lost faith in their government's promise to uphold its basic trade laws.

The steel import figures for March show that imports are once again on the rise. Imports for March are 25 percent higher than the imports in February. Imports from Japan rose 36 percent; from Brazil, 54 percent; from Korea, 11 percent; from Indonesia, 339 percent. Compared to July of 1997, before the crisis began, Japan's imports are up 22 percent; Brazil's are up 25 percent; Korea, 77 percent; Indonesia, 889 percent.

Clearly, the steel crisis is not over.

Although they continue to assure us that they are negotiating and consulting with these nations, we continue to see higher rates of steel entering this Nation.

The President warned Japan Monday to reduce its steel shipments to the United States on a consistent basis or the government will act to block them. The President also said during a news conference that the U.S. would act to keep Japanese steel out of U.S. markets if those imports continued to exceed the levels existing before the Asian economic crisis.

How long does this crisis have to go on? Something must be done. We must take action now.

Arkansas steelworkers have lost faith in their government because we have failed them by failing to enforce our own trade laws.

The administration continues to sit on this problem without offering a substantive and timely remedy. Steelworkers need solid, immediate plans to end the flow of underpriced steel that is flooding our market. We cannot simply solve the world's financial crisis on the backs of the steelworkers of the United States. The time for action is now, as I have already said, strong and decisive action. For the sake of American steelworkers and their families, we must end this import crisis.

THE CONTINUING STEEL IMPORT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I would like associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and also the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY).

We rise today to discuss the steel crisis that continues to grip the steel industry and its workers.

On March 17, this past year, 289 House Members passed the bipartisan Steel Recovery Act. This bipartisan legislation calls for quotas to be placed on foreign steel to get back to its pre-crisis levels of July, 1997.

The bill would also set up a steel monitoring system that would track the amount of steel imports into the United States by foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to go into detail this morning about the reasons why our steel industry and its workers find themselves in this serious crisis. We have been through that in the months leading up to the vote on March 17. What I am here to say and to join the others in pointing out is that there still is a steel crisis in the United States and that we need something done immediately.

As many as four major steel companies are in bankruptcy right now, and we know that when those good-paying jobs disappear they disappear forever.

The need for our steel bill was clear on March 17, and today it is even more clear. 289 House Members believed that something must be done to stop these imports, as we continue to see higher rates of steel entering the country each and every day.

The administration may argue that the amount of steel imports for the month of March represents a 30 percent drop in imports since November of 1998; and, while that may be true, shipments from countries such as Brazil and Japan showed a significant increase.

It is important to point out that just yesterday the President warned Japan that the United States will take action if the steel imports are not returned to their pre-crisis levels. I believe that is an absolute positive step in the right direction, and I applaud the President for this action.

We must continue, though, in our action to make sure that passage of the bill that the House sent over is approved in the Senate and signed by the President of the United States.

On behalf of the American steelworkers and their families, I ask our administration and the Senate to act to end this crisis. This is not about free trade. It is about fair trade.

THE ITC SHOULD RULE DECISIVELY IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 1 minute.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, today the International Trade Commission holds a hearing into illegal steel dumping. Well, let me report, I was in the northern panhandle yesterday. The pain, both economic and personal, continues from illegal dumping of steel in this country by foreign nations. Over 10,000 jobs have been lost nationwide. Weirton Steel alone has lost over 750 jobs. Net sales for Weirton Steel are down \$76 million this quarter over last year, and as of March of this year the level of steel imports from Japan and Brazil were up 22 and 25 percent. These numbers show clearly this crisis, this steel crisis, is nowhere near over.

The decision from today's International Trade Commission hearing will not be given until mid-June, but I am urging the ITC to rule decisively in favor of the U.S. steel industry and its \$70 billion contribution to our economy and to Weirton Steel and to many others.

When we see a crime, we call 911. Well, this time West Virginia steelworkers need some help from this international assault.

TIME TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTION IN YUGOSLAVIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, late last week this House took up a resolution to continue the administration's policy of bombing Yugoslavia, and by a

vote of 213 to 213 the measure failed to endorse that policy.

Many of those of us who voted against the policy made a deliberate, considered vote of protest against incessant bombings that have not accomplished much of anything except to kill innocent civilians and destroy the infrastructure of Yugoslavia that in the end the U.S. will likely be asked to spend billions of dollars to rebuild.

Forty-one days of intensive bombings have not been successful in removing Milosevic's forces from Kosova, nor has it achieved the stated purpose of the bombing and that is to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovars. Even our own NATO commanders have stated clearly that, except for weakening the air defense system in Yugoslavia, the air strikes have not been successful; and Serb forces continue to commit atrocities; and hundreds of civilians, men, women and children, are being killed by these bombs.

Contrary to the wishful thinking of those who supported that resolution, the bombing has not stopped the murders. It has not stopped the violence. Instead, the bombings have exacerbated both.

Thus, the question is, how long will the world support a war in which the only victims are civilian men, women and children?

Now, Reverend Jessie Jackson returned from Yugoslavia and was successful in obtaining the release of three servicemen, and he brought a letter from Mr. Milosevic to give to President Clinton asking that they meet and talk about this issue. So I would say, Mr. President, the time has come to take a decisive action by stopping the bombs and initiate a committed, comprehensive effort to find a diplomatic solution to what is going on in Yugoslavia.

CHINA WANTS ACCESSION INTO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, BUT WITHOUT PLAYING BY THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself also with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. WISE), the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) in imploring the ITC to rule for the United States steel industry.

There is another trade issue that soon will be in front of Congress. Corporate jets are starting to land at National Airport one after another after another, filled with CEOs coming, descending on Capitol Hill to lobby on behalf of the Chinese Communist Government's accession to the World Trade Organization.

One prominent Chinese dissident who had spent many years in a Chinese jail

simply for exercising what he considered his right to speak out about oppression and speak out against the Chinese Government and its policies, this dissident said that American corporate executives were in the vanguard of the Chinese Communist Party revolution, arguing in this body for special trade advantages, so-called Most Favored Nation status for China, arguing in this body that China should be admitted to the World Trade Organization.

Let us step back for a moment, Mr. Speaker, and look at a little bit of the history of China's attempt to join this world trade body and play by the rules that the United States and other countries around the world play by.

For 5 years, the People's Republic of China has courted the United States, trying to convince the United States that China, the Chinese Communist Government, should be admitted, acceded into the World Trade Organization, but look what they have done in those 5 years as they in a sense have been courting the United States: illegal sales of nuclear technology to Pakistan; smuggling of AK-47s into the harbor at San Francisco; child labor; slave labor; shooting missiles into the Straits of Taiwan when Taiwan was holding its first free election, something that the People's Republic of China is very unfamiliar with.

As China has been courting the United States, this is the way they have been acting. They have violated every norm, every reasonable standard that is accepted in the international community, standards that our country lives by, standards that the great majority of countries around the world live by.

China, while she has been courting the United States, has acted this way, yet they want accession into the World Trade Organization.

At the same time, China has exported last year \$75 billion worth of goods to the United States. We have sold to China, exported to China, only about \$12 billion worth of goods. We sell to Belgium more than we do to China, because China simply will not let most of our goods and services in their country.

China takes that \$60 billion trade deficit, that surplus for them, in a sense that gift of \$60 billion, turns around and buys more or less \$60 billion worth of goods from Western Europe; generally, our western European allies. Then when we have a problem with China, when there is a human rights violation or some sort of theft of property rights or something that clearly China has acted not according to the rules of international trade, those European countries never are on our side in those trade disputes because they are such a big customer for China.

Understand that China has a \$60 billion trade surplus with us. They make \$60 billion in goods and services from us, turn around and spend that \$60 billion in Western Europe; in a sense, buying allies in their quest around the world in the trade arena.

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Mr. Speaker, what we need to do before granting China World Trade Organization is not listen to what they say, because they always make promise after promise after promise saying that they will behave, that they will play fair, they will stop the human rights abuses, they will stop the forced abortions, they will stop the religious discrimination, they will stop their war against the Tibetans, they will stop what they do against Taiwan, they will stop the child labor, their slave labor.

They promise that every year. Every year this country gives them Most-Favored-Nation status. Every year they break those promises. Mao Zedong liked to quote his ideological communist mentor, Vladimir Lenin, the Soviet leader. He said, promises are like pie crust, they are made to be broken. That is what has happened with China as they have courted the United States to join the World Trade Organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the administration, I ask the President, I ask Republican leadership in this body, I ask the American business community, which is so strongly supportive of World Trade Organization entry for China immediately, I ask them to step back and let us see if China can behave for one year, if it can stop the human rights abuses, stop the slave labor and the child labor, can stop shooting missiles at Taiwan, can stop the nuclear sales to Pakistan, can stop the human rights violations.

Let us see if China can stop for 1 year and join the community of nations in its behavior for 1 year. Then let us talk about World Trade Organization accession. Do not let them in based on their promises, let them in based on their actions.

MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WIC PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM) is recognized during morning hour debates for 2 minutes.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure today to rise to mark the 25th anniversary of the WIC program, the women, infants and children. I am proud to join my colleagues in support of this very valuable and extremely successful program.

Several years ago when I served on the Committee on the Budget I had the opportunity to hear several CEOs of Fortune 500 companies testify in support of the WIC program. These executives talked about the difficulties they had in finding a qualified work force and the amount of money they had to spend to educate and retrain their employees.

They told us that while improving our educational system was an important part of the solution, our educational system can only do so much if