

It is clear that these countries are not very impressed with America's resolve to enforce our trade laws. What about our steelmakers? How are imports affecting them? Thanks to imports, LTV is reporting a first quarter loss of \$29 million; Bethlehem a loss of \$26 million, and in my district, Weirton Steel is reporting a loss of almost \$28 million, the worst in 6 years. Seven hundred Weirton Steel employees remain out of work, putting a terrible strain on communities all along the upper Ohio Valley.

Mr. Speaker, our trading partners do not care about our communities. They do not care about our families. They do not even care about following our trade laws. But this Congress and this administration must care, because when the playing field is level, we can compete with anyone on Earth.

This Congress must come full circle and pass tough trade legislation, and this administration must use every tool at its disposal to enforce basic, fair, trade laws. I repeat, Mr. Speaker, the crisis is not over. We cannot afford to act like it is.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 11 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 pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

In this world where life contains what seems to be so much turmoil and tribulation we long for that tranquility that lives beside the still waters of peace, and yet we know that grace exists besides turbulence and healing exists besides pain. O gracious God, the creator of everyone, we laud and praise those who use their ability to bring peace and healing to our communities and to all the neighborhoods of our world. May Your spirit, O God, unite each person so we share our concerns and our hopes as one people with one creator. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RUSH 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.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

FRED STEFFENS

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 509) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land comprising the Steffens family property.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 509

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 80-acre parcel known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(c) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is hereby revoked with respect to the lands described in subsection (b).

With the following committee amendment in the nature of a substitute:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 80-acre parcel known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(c) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is hereby revoked with respect to the lands described in subsection (b).

Mr. BALLENGER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN R. AND MARGARET J. LOWE

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 510) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land so as to correct an error in the patent issued to their predecessors in interest.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

H.R. 510

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF LOWE FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior is directed to issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the land described in subsection (b): *Provided*, That all minerals underlying such land are hereby reserved to the United States.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the approximately 40-acre parcel located in the SW¼SE¼ of Section 11, Township 51 North, Range 96 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 509 and H.R. 510, as introduced in the House, mirror the bills introduced by Senators MIKE ENZI and CRAIG THOMAS that passed last year in the Senate by unanimous consent.

The first bill, H.R. 509, transfers eighty acres of public land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to the estate of Mr. Fred Steffens.

The property outlined in the bill has been a part of the Steffens' family working farm since the land was purchased in 1928. Mr. Steffens was issued a warranty deed to the property by Mr. Frank McKinney, predecessor of interest.

Unfortunately, Mr. McKinney knowingly had neither title to the property nor an assignable right of entry. However, the fact that Mr. McKinney did not own the land did not stop him from selling the property or issuing the warranty deed.

In good faith, Mr. Steffens purchased the property and, according to the Big Horn County Assessor's office, paid taxes since the date of purchase in 1928.

Upon Mr. Steffens' death, in an attempt to settle his estate, it was discovered that a patent had never been issued for these lands. Mr. Steffens' sister and representative of the estate filed a Color of Title application with the BLM's Wyoming state office, but the title was rejected.

The reason given was that the lands at issue were, and continue to be, withdrawn by

the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) for the Shoshone Reclamation Project. Regulations specifically preclude claims under the Color of Title Act when lands are withdrawn for Federal purposes.

The only option to remedy this situation is to pass H.R. 509. Both the BOR and the BLM support the transfer of title to the Steffens' estate. The bill preserves the rights of the federal government to own the mineral interests and transfers the right, title and surface estate to the Steffens.

Mr. Steffens' and his family occupied this property in good faith. I believe it's time for the issue to be resolved and ask my colleagues to favorably report the bill to the House floor.

H.R. 510 is another bill that the BLM supports which transfers forty acres of public land in Big Horn County, Wyoming, to John and Margaret Lowe.

Although there is a confusing history to this particular parcel, there is abundant evidence that the Lowe's claim to the land is justified.

The latest evidence comes at the hand of a Big Horn County assessor who wrote that based on other entries in the county records, the legal description of the land being transferred by the original patent should have included the forty acres under consideration.

The Lowe family, since acquiring the land in 1966, have paid taxes on the land since that time.

H.R. 510, although not the only alternative the Lowe's have in acquiring the forty acres, is the only alternative that will bring minimal additional expense to either the Lowe family or the BLM.

As I mentioned before, the BLM supports the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 1999.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 30, 1999 at 10:21 a.m. that the Senate passed S. Res. 88.

Appointment: Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk.

AMERICANS AND THREE RECENTLY RELEASED SOLDIERS OWE REVEREND JESSE JACKSON THANKS

(Mr. LEWIS of California asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, there are three American soldiers who are celebrating freedom today. These young men have now been reunited with their families and are receiving needed medical care in Germany.

America is very proud of Steven Gonzales, Andrew Ramirez, and Christopher Stone. Like so many others now in harm's way, they served at considerable risk to their own personal safety. They suffered physical harm at the hands of their captors, and they emerged from captivity with crisp salutes to their superior officers with their heads held high.

As we celebrate their safety, let us not overlook one fact: These soldiers were released through the efforts of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

While I will continue to support our troops in their actions abroad, I applaud any potential avenue for peace. Reverend Jackson is not our Secretary of State, but in recent days he has achieved diplomatically what had not before been possible. America, like these three young men, owes him our thanks.

RESIDENTS IN NEW YORK BANNED FROM FLYING FLAG

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, residents of Brookshire Condominiums in Washingtonville, New York, have been banned from flying the American flag. Banned, ladies and gentlemen. In fact, they will be charged \$25 for every day that they fly the flag beyond the five holidays allowed. Unbelievable.

The sad fact is in America today we can burn the flag, but we may not be allowed to fly the flag. Beam me up. Is it any wonder America is so screwed up?

I yield back the lives of thousands of heroic Americans who gave their lives in battle while carrying Old Glory into battle.

HONORING AMERICA'S TEACHERS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's teachers, those people who rise every day to open up the world of learning to our children.

As a former public high school math and science teacher myself, I can attest to the amount of time, energy, creativity, and patience that it takes to take our students to the next step of discovery, be it in literature, calculus, music theory or physics.

Today, I would like to especially honor one teacher from my district in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania,

Elaine Savukas, from Hempfield High School.

Year after year, Ms. Savukas has brought a winning team of civics students to Washington to take part in the "We the People, The Citizen and the Constitution" 3-day academic competition on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as is shown in this picture of her class.

Her students know the Constitution probably better than many Members of Congress know it. She has instilled in her students a love of our history and brings civics alive. She stirs her students to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, there are excellent teachers like Elaine Savukas all over this country, and we are compelled to honor them not only this week but throughout the year as they help shape the minds and motivation of our leaders of the next millennium. I thank all our teachers.

SUPPORT JOINT EFFORT OF CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS AND RUSSIAN DUMA COUNTERPARTS TO FIND SOLUTION TO BALKAN CRISIS

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a window of opportunity to find a peaceful solution to this conflict in Kosovo was opened this weekend in Vienna, Austria.

For my congressional colleagues and my Russian Duma counterparts who participated, those meetings represent a real and attainable step toward a lasting peace.

Obviously, this conflict represents one of the most serious challenges to international security since World War II. Most Members realize the power that many constructive Russian-American efforts can offer in finding a solution.

In that light, this bilateral conference agreed on a course of action which would withdraw Serbian troops from Kosovo, cease all military activities of the KLA, and end NATO bombing.

Once these measures are complete, the repatriation of the refugees, administered by an international peace-keeping force and the international community, can begin the healing and rebuilding process.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support this joint effort to find a diplomatic solution to the Balkans crisis because, in my mind, peace is an exit strategy everyone can understand.

PASS EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AND HELP DESPERATE, DESERVING FARMERS

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