

would have to be properly licensed for carrying a concealed weapon in his home State and would have to obey the concealed weapon laws of that State they are entering.

If the State they are entering does not have a concealed weapons law, the national standard provision in this legislation would dictate the rules in which a concealed weapon would have to be maintained. For instance, the national standard would disallow the carrying of a concealed weapon in a school, police station, or a bar serving alcoholic beverages.

My bill also exempts qualified former and current law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns. Now, this language was adopted during debate on the juvenile justice bill last year.

Mr. Speaker, right-to-carry laws are an effective deterrent to these mass killings and random murders. States which have adopted such laws, on the average, have 24 percent less violent crime, 19 percent less homicides, and 39 percent less robberies. These are precisely the type of statistics which gun control supporters refuse to acknowledge.

Yesterday, the President stated that he is "subdued, frustrated, and very saddened" as he reflected on the lack of pending gun control legislation in Congress.

Mr. President, we, too, are frustrated, frustrated that those who seek to curb gun violence refuse to acknowledge the one effective deterrent, the right to carry.

So, as I stated earlier, the right-to-carry defense should not be confined to State boundaries. A law-abiding citizen legally carrying a concealed firearm in his or her State should be entitled to the same protection in any State.

I urge my colleagues to support my bill.

CORPORATE INVESTMENT IN AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COOKSEY). 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, it is an interesting time to be in our Nation's capital. There are more chief executive officers, more CEOs, of the country's largest corporations roaming the halls this week and next week than perhaps anytime in recent American political history.

The reason? The United States Congress is considering giving Permanent Most Favored Nation status trading privileges to the People's Republic of China.

When it comes to competing for U.S. trade and investment dollars, democratic countries in the developing world are losing ground to more authoritarian countries in the developing world, like China.

The CEOs that come to our offices and implore us to support permanent trade advantages for the People's Republic of China and its communist regime tell us that China is a lucrative market, with 1.2 billion potential consumers.

What they do not tell us, but what is the most important to them, is that China is a nation of 1.2 billion potential workers, workers who are paid 30 cents an hour, workers who do not talk back, workers who cannot form unions, workers who do not benefit from any worker safety legislation or environmental laws or food safety standards.

In the post-Cold War decade, the share of developing country exports to the U.S. for democratic nations fell from 53 percent to 34 percent, a decrease of 18 percentage points.

American CEOs prefer doing business in totalitarian countries like China because western investors enjoy the benefits of child labor and slave labor and 25-cent-an-hour wages.

In manufacturing goods, developing democracies' share of developing country exports fell 21 percentage points, from 56 to 35 percent. American CEOs prefer doing business in countries like China, authoritarian countries like China, where workers can never speak up, where human rights are dismissed, where worker rights are simply nonexistent.

Nations that do not support democracy have gained five percent of U.S. investment over the last 10 years. China was responsible for 95 percent of foreign investment gained for non-democratic countries.

American CEOs prefer doing business in authoritarian nations like China with an obedient, docile workforce that has no ability to organize unions. Western corporations have shown they want to invest in countries that have below poverty wages, poor environmental standards, no opportunities for unions. They love to invest in authoritarian countries that suppress labor rights, allow slave labor, allow child labor, pay 25 cents an hour.

The United States talks a good game about democratic ideals worldwide through all of our trade programs. But, as developing nations make progress toward democracy, something we say we applaud in this institution, the American business community penalizes those countries that are becoming more democratic by pulling its trade and investment in favor of totalitarian countries like China.

CEOs tell us that engaging with China will bring more democracy to that country and more freedom and more enterprise and all of that. But who are the real decision-makers in China? Who gains from the system the way it is in China? Who is in charge in the People's Republic of China?

First, the Chinese Communist Party makes most decisions in that country; second, the People's Liberation Army, which owns many of the export businesses in China, the big manufacturing

concerns; and third, the western investors are very influential that have businesses set up in China.

Which of those groups wants to see change? Which of those groups wants China to democratize? Which of those groups wants workers in that country to have more rights, to have more ability to speak up, to be able to form unions and bargain collectively and bring their wages up? The Chinese Communist Party? I do not think so. The People's Liberation Army? I do not think so. Western investors in China? I do not think so.

Those three groups, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, western investors, lump them all together and they are all aiming for the same thing. They like doing business. They like the synergism that results when the three of them work together. They like the way things are in the People's Republic of China.

That is why we should vote "no" on Permanent Most Favored Nation status for China.

Shame on us, shame on this Congress if we give Permanent Most Favored Nation status trading privileges to the People's Republic of China, a communist government that flies in the face of all human rights, that cares nothing about its workers, that exploits child labor, slave labor, that persecutes Christians, allows and encourages forced abortion. Shame on us in this Congress if we give Permanent Most Favored Nation status to that country.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 11 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 11 a.m.

□ 1100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE) at 11 a.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Prophets of old longed to see Your Salvation, O God. They investigated the times You revealed Yourself in history.

They searched for words to describe Your encounter. It was Your Spirit who gave meaning to suffering and brought forth rejoicing in the glories of humanity.

For decades historians have been unwinding the story of this Nation as the wisdom of its founders is taken to heart.

Immigrants and natives have toiled to fulfill its secret promise; parents still dream and plant hopes in their children.

Help us, ever-revealing God, to see with prophetic vision; to realize in our own day America's promise; and to bring to the rest of the world, respect for law, the sanctity of life, and the joy of freedom.

For You live in our midst now and forever. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. PASCRELL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PASCRELL 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.

PERMANENT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH CHINA

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the coming vote to expand our trade with China is a vote for the new economy. It is a vote that will clearly show whether the Members in this Congress are in favor of advancing America's high-tech economy or whether they want to flee from that future into the failed protectionist policies of the past.

Mr. Speaker, China is a key market for America's high-tech industry. It is now the second largest information technology market in Asia, second only to Japan.

It is an information technology market that is growing at 20 to 40 percent annually. Next year, China will be the third largest semiconductor market in the world, and by 2010 it will be the number two largest.

This is a boon for America and for the Chinese people. As information technology spreads in China, it will help the Chinese learn about their government and, more importantly, the world beyond. It will encourage democratic reform in China and help make China a more free and open society.

Mr. Speaker, our high-tech industry got everything it needed in the trade agreement with China. We must not throw that away.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to approve PNTR. A vote for permanent normal trade relations is a vote for the new economy.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in hopes that my colleagues will be moved by the stories that I tell and help bring our children home. Since February 16, I have been coming down to the floor and talking about American children who have been abducted to foreign countries, asking my colleagues, the media, and the American people to focus their attention on these kids, and the message is starting to get out.

Mr. Speaker, just this Sunday, The Washington Post ran a two-page article on Joseph Cooke and his two children, Danny and Michelle. I spoke about Joseph and his children on April 5, and this article details their tragic story of abduction to Germany.

Mr. Speaker, there are 10,000 American children out there whose stories are similar, 10,000 American children and their parents who experience the same kind of pain and devastation every day of their separation. These daily 1-minute, events and the resolution I introduced along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) are just the tip of the iceberg. This Congress must take action to solve this problem and help reunite parents with their children.

Mr. Speaker, we must bring our children home.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of my deep concern for America's national security. A recent Associated Press which ran on May 5 reported that the U.S. Air Force readiness to fight is now at a 15-year low, representing a 28 percent decline since the Cold War. Roughly 115 of its 329 combat units were not fully capable of performing their mission.

In the article, a senior military official blamed the budgets that did not allow enough for spare parts and did not offer service members salaries competitive in today's booming economy.

That is why I find it ironic that I also came across an article in the May issue of National Defense magazine which quoted Vice President AL GORE as saying the Pentagon's budget is currently in the "right zone" to meet today's national security needs.

Mr. Speaker, current White House advisers, as well as the Vice President, have publicly stated while ample financial resources to increase defense are available, they are not needed. It is this lackadaisical attitude that has contributed to the monumental problems that we now face.

As a Member of Congress, I am becoming more and more concerned about our national leaders' attitude and how they impact our ability to, as our Constitution states, "provide for the common defense" of this country.

This trend must be reversed. We must have strong leadership and redefine our national security policy. Resources must be provided to replace our aging ships, helicopters, tanks, artillery and other equipment.

Most importantly, we must begin to treat our servicemen and women and their families with the respect they deserve.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, this is National Hospital Week, when communities all across America honor the individuals that make hospitals the foundations of our community.

This year's theme sums it up very nicely: "Touching the Future With Care." It recognizes the health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals who are there 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, curing and caring.

An example of this dedication is the Caritas Connection at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic, New Jersey. The program won the American Hospital Association's prestigious NOVA Award, which recognizes hospitals' innovative and collaborative efforts to improve the health of their communities.

The Caritas Connection is a collaborative project created by St. Mary's Hospital and the Sisters of Charity to focus on the needs of a large urban immigrant population. The majority of the resident workers are in factories with low pay, long hours, and no benefits of job security.

It is this type of partnership that lifts us, and I felt it fitting during National Hospital Week to bring this success to the attention of my colleagues.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS FROM HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL ON PARTICIPATION IN "WE THE PEOPLE" COMPETITION

(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 to congratulate the students of Hempfield High School, who are here in Washington again this year. They are representing Pennsylvania in the national "We the People" competition. Elaine Savukas' AP government class is competing with other schools showing their knowledge about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. There are more than 1,200 students here from all over America.

The format is a simulated congressional hearing before a panel of scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders. I have met with these bright young Pennsylvanians and was impressed with their knowledge and interest in our unique form of government.