

While our trade agreements go to great lengths to protect investors and to protect property rights, these agreements do not typically include enforceable provisions to protect workers, either in the United States or around the world. Yet, the Bush administration would employ the same corporatecentric process that has resulted in tried agreements like NAFTA.

In the global marketplace, labor and environmental concerns in the developing world are never on the list of corporate priorities. CEOs of multinational corporations tell us that allowing globalization will stimulate development and allow nations to improve their labor and environmental records. They say interaction with the developing world will spread democracy.

But as we engage with developing countries in trade and investment, democratic countries of the developing world are losing grounds to those with more authoritarian regimes. Democratic nations such as India are losing out to more totalitarian governments such as China. Democratic nations such as Taiwan lose out to authoritarian regimes such as Indonesia, where profits come before any kind of environmental regulations or human rights.

In manufacturing goods, for example, developing democracies' share of developing country exports fell 22 percentage points, from 57 percent to 35 percent. Corporations relocate their manufacturing bases to countries with more authoritarian regimes where even the most minimal labor, environment, and human rights standards do not exist.

Western corporations want to invest in countries that have poor environmental standards, have below-poverty wages, have no labor rights, and no opportunities to bargain collectively. As American investment moves abroad, American working families lose out.

Now President Bush says he will be asking for fast track authority that puts corporate interests before working American families. Future trade deals with a take-it-or-leave-it approach would only add to the long line of ill-conceived trade policies.

Flawed trade policies cost American jobs, put downward pressure on U.S. wages and U.S. working conditions, and erode the ability of governments to protect public health and protect the environment.

In 1998, under the leadership of progressive Members of this body, fast track was defeated in Congress overwhelmingly, 243 to 180. Fast track should be defeated in Congress again this year. More and more Members of Congress are joining the ranks calling for trade agreements that respond to the social ramifications of a global economy.

We need to press for a U.S. trade policy, Mr. Speaker, that is good for American families.

#### BIRTHDAY OF A CUBAN HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today is the 40th birthday of a brave human rights activist and pro-democracy leader, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, who at this moment finds himself serving a prison sentence in a Cuban gulag for peacefully protesting for democracy in Cuba, after being taken before a farce of a trial in Havana on February 25 of last year.

Dr. Biscet was born in Havana on July 20, 1961. In 1985, he obtained a degree in medicine, and late in that decade he began to openly oppose the totalitarian regime that oppresses the Cuban people.

In 1997, Dr. Biscet was one of the founders of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights, a humanitarian organization created to demand fundamental human rights from the Cuban totalitarian regime.

In February of 1998, Dr. Biscet was officially expelled from the Cuban health system and he was prohibited from practicing medicine. That same year, he and his family were thrown out of their home, and his wife was fired from her employment due to her pro-human rights activities. Both of them, in fact, were forced to depend on the charity of their friends and of those who wished to see Cuba free.

On October 28, 1999, Dr. Biscet held a press conference before the Ibero-American Summit began in Havana. During the press conference, along with other pro-democracy activists, Dr. Biscet announced that they would carry out a march calling for the release of all political prisoners and for the respect of the human rights of the Cuban people.

During the press conference, two Cuban flags were exhibited upside down as a symbol of protest for the innumerable human rights violations that the regime commits continuously.

On November 3 of 1999, just a few days later, Dr. Biscet was arrested and taken to a dungeon known as "Cien y Aldabó", where he was thrown into a cell with common criminals for the alleged crimes of "abuse of national symbols, public disorder, and inciting delinquency."

Dr. Biscet represents the noblest aspirations of the Cuban people. His efforts as founder and leader of the Lawton Foundation for Human Rights have won him the respect and admiration of human rights activists throughout the world, and have inspired many to continue the struggle for freedom in Cuba.

The Castro tyranny, fearful of the effectiveness of Dr. Biscet's message, has arrested him more than two dozen times in the last few years. It has fired him from his job, along with his family, thrown him out of his house, he has been subjected to psychiatric examinations, and has been constantly pres-

sured by the regime to leave the island, something that he refuses to do.

Before being sentenced at his farcical trial, Dr. Biscet asked all Cubans, those living in the oppression on the island and those in exile, and all others throughout the world who support freedom for Cuba, to unite in prayer for the freedom of all political prisoners and of all the Cuban people. From his cell, he has remained firm in his principles and has asked the international community to demand justice for the people of Cuba.

It is most appropriate that as we send our message of solidarity to Dr. Biscet today on his birthday, we commit ourselves to working with all devotion and dedication so that freedom-loving individuals like Dr. Biscet do not have to spend their precious lives in the isolation and inhuman conditions of totalitarian dungeons.

There is a program that has been set up to try to help Cuban political prisoners by having families in the United States adopt, if you will, the family of a Cuban political prisoner for at least a year.

A well-known pro-democracy activist, Vicki Ruiz-Labrit, is coordinating the program. They have a phone number. We all should help. It is 305-461-6700. We should all help by adopting the family of a Cuban political prisoner, and in that way, helping the most suffering, those who suffer the most in the totalitarian island just a few miles from our shores.

Dr. Biscet, on your birthday, inside your prison cell I know that you cannot now hear my words, but I salute you and express my profound admiration for you, and through you, for all Cuban political prisoners.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair must remind all Members that remarks in debate should be addressed to the Chair and not to others.

□ 1030

#### FEMA FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago we voted on the emergency supplemental appropriations; and I voted yes, partly of course to acknowledge the fact that the debate we had a couple of weeks ago had been vindicated. That debate was over whether or not FEMA was running out of money or whether or not they could stand a \$329 million cut in their budget.

Recognizing the diversity in topography of this Nation and the weather of this Nation, we realize that those of us in the southern region are now in the

hurricane season, from the month of June through at least September or October. Throughout the Nation, because of the differences in weather and, of course, the potential of global warming, we have had erratic weather activities.

We, in Houston, a couple of weeks ago, experienced that with Tropical Storm Allison with the fall of 36 inches of rain that fell in our area in a 24-hour period. That caused an enormous amount of damage, some 5,000 homes damaged, water to the roof levels of many of our residential areas, and a whole litany of damage that was not expected.

For example, we noted that the medical center, one of the prized medical centers of this Nation, suffered about \$2 billion in damage, and that number is growing. In touring that site, we saw the enormous impact in research, in hospital beds, in emergency facilities that were lost.

Additionally, in the 18th Congressional District, which I represent, St. Joseph's Hospital, which is a pivotal hospital in the downtown community, the downtown business community, with thousands and thousands of employees, lost its level-three emergency center, which is still not open. In a tour that I took this last week, 154 patient beds were lost, as was their kitchen facilities, able to serve not only patients but employees, and, as I indicated, not only their emergency trauma unit, which leaves the downtown business community without a nearby trauma unit for emergency purposes, but also research and other laboratory facilities. Gone.

In addition to the medical centers of St. Joseph Hospital, we have found that the academic institutions, which are about to start to be opened, and the secondary schools in our public school systems, have been damaged. And, in addition, major damage has confronted our universities.

I toured the University of Houston. At that time they thought their damage was about \$100 million. Now it is rising to \$250 million, and insurance is way under \$100 million. In looking at that damage, I noted precious resources, such as books, research facilities, school classrooms, equipment, and teacher offices were damaged.

Texas Southern University, which is about to begin its mitigation process, likewise has an enormous amount of damage in their law library as well as the various buildings that have been impacted by the damage, mostly in the basement levels.

Mr. Speaker, I raise these issues because I think it would be foolish for this House to debate and play around with the needs of the American citizens. Houston may not be the only place that will suffer some sort of weather damage and some sort of catastrophe that warrants the intervention of FEMA. Right now, my district has a number of FEMA representatives and offices around the community try-

ing to work with those who have been devastated not only physically and property-wise but also psychologically.

I was appalled that we would stand on the floor of the House and actually debate cutting FEMA. My understanding is that we are trying to submit additional dollars into the VA-HUD bill for FEMA. And that is not only for Houston, Texas, but may be for other disasters that we certainly do not wish for but may happen. But the dilemma is the administration has not seen fit, along with FEMA, to stand up and request the dollars, to work with us in Congress to acknowledge that their funds are depleted.

I recall very vividly when we were on the floor debating and arguing against cutting FEMA that I had an amendment to add those monies back in, and we were then being told that FEMA had \$1 billion in its account. Twenty-four hours after that debate, we were told that, in actuality, they only had \$178 million and, in fact, even 24 hours later maybe that would be gone. We in Texas had to request that our matching dollars be lessened to 10 percent and that FEMA would pay up to 90 percent.

We are now in the midst of trying to rebuild lives. In fact, our local community agencies have come together to give washing machines and refrigerators and other necessities. In addition, I have been able to secure matching monies totaling \$4 million from one of our utility companies, Reliant, to be able to add dollars for people who have been displaced because of the damage, and also compounded by the enormous heat that we face in Houston.

This is time now, Mr. Speaker, for us to gather together, to take the smoke and mirrors away, to stand on the floor of the House and work for the monies for FEMA, but as well for the administration to be able to stand up and request these dollars so that all America can be protected in the time of disaster.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 180. An act to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan.

#### PAYING RESPECT TO SERGEANT STARNES

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

Mr. KERNS. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, we laid to rest an officer killed in the line of duty in Martinsville, Indiana. Today, I come to the floor of the House to pay respect to this brave officer, Sergeant Daniel Starnes. Sergeant

Starnes was taken from us after struggling 27 days to recover from infections caused by four gunshot wounds.

His death has brought the Martinsville community to its knees. Because of the dedication and the courage of men and women in law enforcement, like Sergeant Starnes, all too often we take for granted our family's safety and the safety of our police officers. It is through their commitment to serve and protect us that we have peace of mind and a sense of security. We must also always remember that behind the badge is a human being. Sergeant Starnes was more than just a model law enforcement officer, he was a husband and a father and a friend to so many, and his loss weighs heavy on us all.

Over this past weekend, thousands of law enforcement officers from across Indiana and our great Nation turned out to honor Sergeant Starnes. And while his death has shocked people in Morgan County and throughout Indiana, it has also brought the community together in an outpouring of support and love for the Starnes family and those in law enforcement who put their lives on the line each day.

During the funeral procession through town, people lined the streets with either their head bowed, their hand over their heart, or flying an American flag to pay respect. During such a difficult time, it was uplifting to know that the community cared and demonstrated its respect for Sergeant Starnes and his fellow officers.

Today, our thoughts and prayers are with the Starnes family, the Morgan County Sheriff's Department, and the entire Morgan County community for their loss. While words alone may not console Sergeant Starnes' family and friends, I hope that the knowledge that he is now with Our Father in heaven gives us some comfort and gives them comfort as well.

During times like these, it is only natural to ask why, why do we have to lose such an outstanding person and an officer? While I cannot begin to answer such questions, I can only say that I find collective strength in my faith, and I pray that God grants the Starnes family and their friends both comfort and strength during this time of mourning.

#### DEBT RELIEF

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, from July 20 to July 22, President George W. Bush will be meeting with the heads of government at the G-8 Summit in Genoa, Italy, to discuss international economic issues. I urge the President to support the complete cancellation of the debts that the world's poorest countries owe the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.