

Passing H.R. 3005 is a necessary step in continuing to expand exports to foreign markets, including new and emerging marketplaces. W.S. Darley & Company is just one of more than 14,000 Illinois companies that rely on exports and are eager to find new opportunities in the global marketplace. Passing TPA will give U.S. negotiators the credibility they need to make agreements that will create those opportunities.

GRANT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY TO PRESIDENT

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

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak on granting Trade Promotion Authority to the President. Free trade is good for our overall economy; but as chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, I would like to focus this morning on how important trade is to our country's vital financial services sector.

Ambassador Zoellick gave a compelling presentation to our committee just recently on the advantages of trade and services. Note, for example, that our financial services trade surplus was \$8.88 billion last year. That is a surplus. Financial services exports have seen an overall net increase of 273 percent over the last 10 years.

Clearly, we want to encourage continued growth in this vital industry. In my home State of Ohio, Columbus has had the distinction of being one of the fastest growing cities in the country, partly because of its emergence as a financial services center. But U.S. exports of financial services also help to promote the development of capital markets, open economies and democracy across the world.

When the President does not have Trade Promotion Authority, other countries are reluctant to enter into new agreements with the United States, so it is more difficult to get the kind of trade agreements that open up new markets for our financial services companies; and ultimately, that threatens U.S. preeminence in the international financial world.

We cannot afford to lose that standing. It is just one reason why this Congress needs to approve TPA tomorrow.

OPPOSE FAST TRACK TRADE AUTHORITY

(Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will vote on a bill offered by the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means which concedes to the executive branch this body's constitutional authority to negotiate trade agreements. My role in Congress is to represent the voices and

values of the working men and women of Minnesota's fourth district, not to abdicate my vote to the President.

I want an opportunity to have input on agreements that promote global trade. Trade agreements are essential to our economic well-being, to our role as a global leader in promoting workers' rights, human rights and healthy environment. This Fast Track trade authority requires no congressional approval prior to the signing of a trade agreement, only consultations. This body may only vote to certify that the administration has failed to consult with Congress.

I was not elected to Congress to be a consultant. We are the House of Representatives, not the House of Consultants. I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3005.

TIGHTENING BORDER CONTROL

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

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, we have taken many good steps since September 11 toward protecting our country. As our focus returns to the domestic issues, let us not overlook one critical piece missing from our Nation's security plan, tightening border control.

Each day, countless travelers freely cross our borders without proving their right to be in our country. Our ability to screen these people, even when this is an option, is severely compromised and must be addressed by bolstering the technology and intelligence capabilities at our ports of entry.

I, along with some of my colleagues, have introduced the Enhanced Border Security Act to strengthen our border security and monitor foreign nationals, particularly those on student visas visiting our country.

Our legislation would allow government law enforcement and intelligence agencies to share background information through a shared database. Additionally, this legislation will track foreign students receiving visas from educational institutions to ensure they are accounted for upon their arrival, during their study, and when their visa expires.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this comprehensive legislation that will help ensure the safety of our Nation.

SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I just heard the gentlewoman from Minnesota commenting about Trade Promotion Authority, and there were a couple of comments that she made that I think need clarification.

One of these is the President has trade negotiating authority and has al-

ways had trade negotiating authority. What TPA does is let us participate in the process during the negotiating process, with consultation before, during and after the agreement is reached with another country.

The important thing to keep in mind is we had President Clinton go forward with his executive authority to negotiate that agreement with Jordan. He did bring it back, and we ultimately have the authority to vote it up or vote it down; that authority is retained.

I hope the gentlewoman will look at this, because TPA gives us greater opportunity for involvement in the process than anything that we have done in the past. Please, we need support on both sides of the aisle. It is a bipartisan issue.

FREEZING COPAY FOR VETERANS' PRESCRIPTION COSTS

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

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I think veterans across this country would be upset to learn that at a time when we are giving multi-billion dollar tax breaks to wealthy corporations, we are in fact contemplating increasing the cost of prescription medications available to our veterans by a whooping 250 percent. We are in the process of increasing the copay for our veterans from \$2 per prescription to \$7 per prescription.

Now, many veterans receive 10 or more prescriptions per month. Ten times seven is \$70 a month. This is absolutely outrageous and unacceptable, when we are providing billions of dollars in tax breaks to profitable corporations, we would burden the veterans in our country by increasing the copay for their medications by 250 percent.

This House should support my bill, H.R. 2820, which would freeze the copay for 5 years at its \$2 per prescription level.

THANKING THOSE SERVING AND WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, it has been quoted as saying that war is hell. We mourn the reported deaths of our soldiers in Afghanistan. We know the risks of combat. We know that wars are fought and won on the battlefield, and it is only on the rarest of occasion that in warfare we do not lose some of our own.

The military accepts these risks, the military and our government. We do not like it, but it is reality. To serve and protect, that is what they do. Duty, honor, country. Our liberty is paid for by the blood of our sons and daughters.

I pause to thank those who are serving in the military and those who have served in the past.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2883, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2883) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, all Americans have witnessed our intelligence community at its best.

We have witnessed their loss, our first combat loss of an American hero in our war against terrorism, CIA agent Johnny "Mike" Spann. We must provide the resources needed to combat terrorism at the most basic level, intelligence.

This is a good bill. It provides significant resources to the intelligence community, which during the 1990s was underfinanced, understaffed, and underappreciated.

The 1990s was a "risk averse" period, during which the bullies of the world began to get the idea that the United States had gone soft, and no longer had a will to defend American lives and American interests.

The intelligence community often was not performing aggressively enough, though this was by no means the fault of the dedicated men and women who constitute the intelligence agencies' rank-and-file.

They are now doing a stupendous job of catchup, and they deserve the best support we can give them.

Regarding today's needs, we are providing logistical and technical resources for a worldwide campaign to root out terrorism.

Our intelligence officers are working on the ground in Afghanistan, as the American public is now aware—sadly aware with the news of our fallen CIA hero.

What the American public will probably never know is that American intelligence officers are working around the clock, worldwide, to neutralize terrorist cells and otherwise diminish the possibility of future attacks on innocent American citizens.

As for future needs, this bill provides resources for greater foreign language expertise, increased specialized training, increased analytical expertise to include measures to restore the intelligence community's ability to provide worldwide analytical coverage.

This administration and this Congress are acutely aware of the need for a strong intelligence capability. We on the Intelligence Committee have done our utmost to give the intelligence agencies what they need to do their job.

I urge your support on this motion.

□ 1030

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

From the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. GOSS, BREUTER, CASTLE, BOEHLERT, GIBBONS, LAHOOD, CUNNINGHAM, HOEKSTRA, BURR of North Carolina, and CHAMBLISS; Ms. PELOSI, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. HARMAN, and Messrs. CONDIT, ROEMER, HASTINGS of Florida, REYES, BOSWELL, and PETERSON of Minnesota.

From the Committee on Armed Services, for consideration of defense tactical intelligence and related activities: Messrs. STUMP, HUNTER and SKELTON.

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.J. Res. 76, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I would first yield to the gentleman from Florida for an explanation of his request, after which I have a series of questions I would like to put to him about it.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. This continuing resolution extends the current CR until December 15. The terms and conditions of the previous CR will remain in effect. All ongoing activities will be continued at current rates under the same terms and conditions as fiscal year 2001, with the exception of the agencies covered by fiscal year 2002 appropriations bills that have been enacted into law.

Mr. Speaker, this CR is non-controversial, and I urge the House to move the legislation to the Senate so that the government can continue to operate smoothly and efficiently and so that we can continue our work to finish those few regular appropriations bills that are still remaining.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, I would like to ask the gentleman several questions.

It is my understanding that the defense appropriations bill, and I do this because I think there are a lot of unrealistic expectations which are being directed at this committee by people who I do not think have sufficient appreciation for the detailed work that is required in order to produce legislation on, for instance, something as complicated as the defense bill.

My understanding is that that bill is 197 pages long and is expected, by the time the Senate is finished deliberating on it, to contain literally thousands of differences between the House and the Senate; is that not correct?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, let me ask another question under my reservation. Assuming that the Senate could pass the Department of Defense bill immediately, how long, in the gentleman's experience, does it usually take for the staff to put together the conference notes so that members of the conference understand what the differences are, and how long does it take usually after the conclusion of the conference for the staff to put together the required papers so that we know that what we vote on is what we actually agreed to in the conference?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. Surely.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the answer is, of course it depends on the bill and the situation with that bill. In the case of the defense bill that we are dealing with now, the basic bill, the \$317 billion defense bill, probably will not be that difficult to conference. Where there will be difficulty will be in the \$20 billion supplemental that we have dealt with here in the House and that the other body is now dealing with and is possibly changing considerably. So it could take 4 or 5 working days, or longer, just to get that bill ready to go to conference.

Once the agreements are actually reached in conference, it could take as many as 10 days in order to complete consideration of this bill. It is a major bill. Of our discretionary accounts, it is half of our discretionary spending. In most years we do not have a lot of differences going into conference on that bill, but this year, because of the \$20 billion supplemental that is a result of the September 11 attacks, there are substantial differences between the House-passed bill and what the Senate is probably going to consider today or tomorrow.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, I thank the gentleman for his comments. I think that they are most accurate and, to me, what it demonstrates is that, under the most optimistic assumptions, if the Senate could proceed virtually immediately to conclude its action on that bill, we are talking about at least a