

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. DREIER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2005

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the United Nations High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change released a report to correspond with International Women's Day 2005, which is today, March 8, 2005.

Since March is also Women's History Month, it is important to discuss the proven link between gender equality and global security and development. There is an important link here, but it is one that we seldom discuss.

The UN's comprehensive report addresses the inter-connectedness of gender equality and the threats that most affect our world: International security, extreme poverty, environmental degradation and diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Because women constitute a greater proportion than men of the world's poorest people, women stand to gain the most from the alleviation of extreme poverty. And because women around the world experience higher illiteracy rates than men, they also stand to gain more from education programs, particularly in the world's poorest countries where opportunities to receive quality instruction are extremely scarce.

The link between poverty and illiteracy and global insecurity is clear. The bipartisan 9/11 Commission that addressed the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 acknowledged that poverty, illiteracy and despair do not cause terrorism, but they do breed conditions in which terrorism is created.

That is why any attempt to address international security must include a discussion about high poverty and illiteracy rates. And because women are burdened disproportionately by poverty and illiteracy, any attempt to ad-

dress those plights must begin by addressing the excessive degree to which women are affected.

Even in America, women who work full-time year-round earn only 76 cents for every \$1 that their male counterparts earn. And every day, in nearly every country in the world, women are beaten, raped and killed. This crisis of violence against women has reached the most dire magnitude in countries like Sudan and Congo and Angola, where rape and brutality towards women is used as a political tool and an act of war.

The international trafficking of women and girls is also a huge problem. Trafficking, the process by which women are sold into sexual slavery, is particularly rampant in Africa and in Southeast Asia.

For those who do not believe there to be an issue of concern for the United States, think again. The trafficking of women reinforces the vicious cycle that continually prevents women from earning a decent living wage, keeping them in slavery and keeping them from receiving the same quality of education as men. This in turn reinforces the root cause of global instability that often gives rise to terrorism.

Fortunately, there is a way to address this crisis. It is called SMART security for the 21st century. SMART is a Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. SMART security addresses the security of women by urging educational opportunities for women and girls. Studies have proven that the more girls that are enrolled in schools in developing countries, the more the population of that country stabilizes. And the more stable the country, the more violence decreases. In fact, domestic violence lessens and crime levels decrease in line with educational opportunities.

We must prevent future acts of the terrorism, and SMART security is a way to do it. Instead of trying to spread democracy through the barrel of a gun, like we have been in Iraq, let us spread it through books, by increasing educational opportunities for women and girls. Today, International Women's Day, let us make it a priority to ensure that women in the poorest countries receive the educational opportunities they need and deserve.

Just as important, women need to be encouraged and allowed to participate in the political process in every country if we are to see a more secure world. And above all else, we must remember that if international security efforts fail to include women, then they are excluding more than half of the world's population. Let us include all of the world's population and let us secure our world for the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

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

There was no objection.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL MANUFACTURING WEEK

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we all support American manufacturers; every Member of Congress should. But feel-good resolutions such as the one we are voting on this week will do little to cure our manufacturing ills.

We are running record trade deficits each year. When I first ran for Congress in 1992, the U.S. trade deficit, as you can see on this chart, was \$38 billion. The trade deficit last year, after 12 years of misplaced trade policy, 12 years of misplaced tax policy and 4 years of a Bush administration that has totally ignored manufacturing, we now see a trade deficit of \$617 billion. From \$38 billion to \$617 billion in a space of only 13 years.

The U.S. has become the world's largest debtor nation, over \$2.5 trillion in 2002. The dollar continues to lose value in world markets.

Last year, we had the opportunity to pass Crane/Rangel, a bipartisan bill to help the American manufacturing industry by encouraging them to produce goods in the United States. But instead, we passed an alternative that, as usual, gave handouts to multinational corporations and did little to nothing for our family-owned manufacturing facilities.

My State of Ohio has lost more than 170,000 manufacturing jobs since 2001, and the remaining small manufacturing businesses are struggling to keep the doors open. The manufacturing extension program, MEP, is an important resource that helps small manufacturers in Ohio and across the country to help improve efficiency, increase competitiveness and stay in business. Despite this success, the President is asking in his budget to eviscerate MEP.

In 2003, when MEP was funded at \$111 million, Ohio, although only receiving

a small fraction of that funding, that modest investment produced impressive results. MEP helped more than 2,700 Ohio businesses to create or retain more than 1,100 jobs, increase sales by \$20 million, cut costs by \$47 million, increase investments by \$58 million. That is exactly the sort of helping hand Ohio and the Nation's small manufacturers need.

Then the President proposed an MEP funding cut of 88 percent, ended up signing a law a couple of years ago that cut it almost that much. Not surprisingly, services to Ohio businesses dropped significantly. This year, the President's budget request asked for a funding cut of another 50 percent. Less than \$1 million per State will be left for MEP. We should be supporting a funding level five times that amount because it would mean more tax revenue, more jobs, more success for U.S. manufacturers.

Ohio's Republican governors urge the President to change his position on MEP. Working men and women from my State and across the Nation understand that our economic future is at stake. We should pass a bill this week ensuring increased MEP funds over the President's request, but this body probably will not do it.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass a bill to stop China from manipulating its currency by artificially pegging it below the dollar. China starts outs with a 40 percent advantage over American manufacturers by this illegal act, not to mention having no minimum wage and forced labor camps and child labor and all the other advantages, artificial advantages if you will, in a free marketplace that China has. But I do not think that legislation to deal with currency manipulating will be on the House floor this week.

To support our Nation's manufacturers, we should pass such a bill making sure China plays fair and meets its World Trade Organization obligations, but I do not see a bill on the floor this week to do that.

To support our Nation's manufacturing, we should pass the bill of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Foreign Debt Ceiling Act of 2005, that would create an emergency trade review group at the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to develop a plan of action if the trade deficit is above 5 percent of U.S. GDP or if foreign debt climbs above 25 percent of GDP. But that is not being considered this week either.

The manufacturing industry is the backbone of our country. This industry, these workers, these communities built America. And when these industries suffer, our communities suffer, our families suffer, our schools suffer, our Nation is hurt. Yet many in Congress continue to support measures that move these jobs overseas. Let us be clear about whom we should support.

Congratulate manufacturers, is what the resolution on the floor will do and

nothing else this week, who have remained in the U.S. and refrained from sending manufacturing jobs overseas. But it is not just about keeping our middle class strong; we should be concerned about national security. Without a strong manufacturing base, there can be no strong reliable national security in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we, finally, in this Congress adopt a manufacturing policy.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

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

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hearing a lot of information about our Social Security system, and I am sure they have got legitimate questions: Is there a crisis or not? If there is a crisis, then is there a trust fund or not? If there is not a trust fund, where did it go, who took it and when?

There are, of course, those who say that there is no crisis, that we have a system that is awash in cash and can fund all future benefits but it needs minor tweaking to ensure solvency.

Perhaps crisis is the wrong word. Captive may be a better selection because certainly we are held captive by our demographics. If our current system is to work and work well, we need large numbers of young people to pay into the system, and we need retirees to live relatively short intervals after their retirement; but in fact, neither of these situations reflects reality.

Birth rates are down in this country, although not to the degree as seen in some Western European countries, still resulting in a smaller pool of younger workers to support retirees. Life expectancy is up, largely because of the unbelievable advances in medical care that have occurred in the last 70 years since 1935. Both situations are arguably good news, but they do portend a serious situation for our Social Security system.

For example, in the country of Japan there are now four retirees to be supported by every new job that is created. It becomes extremely difficult to remain competitive in such an environment. Raising taxes to deal with the Social Security shortfall arguably has been done several times in the past 70 years; but, unfortunately, that makes the problem even worse. The old axiom states that you tax what you do not

want, but surely we want jobs for tomorrow's Americans, but increasing the payroll tax may mean ultimately there are fewer such jobs.

In 1937, the Supreme Court ruled that excess Social Security funds were to be placed in the general revenue fund. Mr. Speaker, that is what happened to the trust fund. In fact, nonnegotiable government instruments housed in a metal filing cabinet in West Virginia represent the surplus in Social Security, and that surplus has been spent over the last several decades by Congress. Congress spent the money, Congress wrote out an IOU for the money, and we continue to write IOUs for the interest.

Mr. Speaker, where is the fairness in a system that holds captive 12 percent of the country's payroll and pays no interest on the money? This, I think, is the heart of the problem. What Albert Einstein described as the miracle of compound interest is denied to American workers.

What are the solutions that might be there for us to help with Social Security? We could cut benefits. I did not come to Congress to do that. We could raise taxes. Not this guy.

There are, of course, those who feel that growth in the economy will help those two workers that are going to have to support every retiree into the future; and I will tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I will bet on the American economy every time, but I am not sure if we can improve productivity to that degree.

Mr. Speaker, what we can do is take those excess funds being paid into Social Security and place them into individual accounts that would not be accessible to government spenders and not be accessible to congressional appropriators. Allow these accounts to earn interest by following a conservative investment strategy, and now perhaps we begin to see the opportunity to preserve Social Security and ensure its solvency well into the future.

The question is always asked how to pay for this transition. I have already excluded a tax increase or benefit cut as a viable mechanism. The money to finance the transition would have to be borrowed; and in fact, this does not represent new debt because the obligation has already been incurred. The borrowing is only to refinance an obligation that already exists, a situation analogous to refinancing a mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, we should always be for good government. The principle of good government would suggest that the current obligation is present, but we are not acknowledging its presence. By financing the transition, we can convert an unknown obligation into bonded indebtedness. It becomes a marketable instrument; and that, in fact, would be a commitment to good government.

Financial markets are not known for their courage. They do not like uncertainty; and, clearly, the uncertainty of