

judgment call on something he did not see?

Mr. Speaker, I have put in a resolution, H. Res. 167, to support Lieutenant Pantano as he faces yet another difficult fight for his life. I hope that my colleagues in the House will take some time to read my resolution and look into this situation for themselves. I believe a great unfairness has occurred here; and as the United States House of Representatives, we stand by our brave men and women in uniform as they protect and serve our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, before closing, I would like to say that there is a Web site that his mother has established. It is called defendthedefenders.org, and may God continue to bless our men and women in uniform and bless America.

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.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

There was no objection.

CAFTA

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, a bowling ball weighs about 170 times the weight of a slice of sandwich bread. It does not take a physicist to see the mismatch between a bowling ball and a slice of bread. And it does not take a trade expert to see the economic mismatch between the United States and the nations that make up the Central American Free Trade Agreement: Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

The way that CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, proponents talk, you would think Central America was one of the biggest economies in the Western Hemisphere. CAFTA nations are not only among the world's poorest countries, they are among its smallest economies.

Think about this: this big trade agreement that President Bush wants, CAFTA, the combined purchasing power of the CAFTA nations is almost identical to the purchasing power of Columbus, Ohio.

Tomorrow, the Senate will hold the first congressional hearing on CAFTA. Congress typically has voted within 55 days of President Bush signing a trade

agreement. May 28 will mark the 1-year anniversary of when the President signed CAFTA.

The other trade agreements were all done within only about 2 months. Because CAFTA is so unpopular and trade policy in this country is so wrong-headed, the President still has not sent CAFTA here for a vote. Clearly, there is dissension in the ranks, and for good reason.

CAFTA is the dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement, continuing a legacy of failed trade policies.

Look at NAFTA's record: one million United States manufacturing jobs lost to the North American Free Trade Agreement. One million. NAFTA did nothing. NAFTA: Mexico, Canada, the U.S. NAFTA did nothing for Mexican workers as promised. They continue to earn just about a dollar a day, while living in abject poverty. Not exactly a great market for U.S. products.

And yet the U.S. continues to push for more of the same, more of the same job hemorrhaging, income-lowering trade agreements, more trade agreements that ship U.S. jobs overseas, more trade agreements that neglect essential environmental standards, more trade agreements that keep foreign workers in poverty.

The only difference between CAFTA and NAFTA is the first letter. Madness is repeating the same action over and over and over and expecting a different result. We hear the same promises on every trade agreement. This Congress, somehow barely, in the middle of the night, passes them. We see the same bad results.

But do not just take my word for it. Look at the numbers. Numbers do not lie. The U.S. economy, with a \$10 trillion GDP in 2002, is 170 times bigger than the economies of the CAFTA nations, at about \$62 billion combined. It is like pairing a bowling ball with a slice of bread.

CAFTA is not about robust markets for the export of American goods. It is about outsourcing. It is about access to cheap labor. We send our jobs overseas. The workers overseas get paid almost nothing, not able to raise their living standard. U.S. corporations make more money, American workers lose their jobs. It is the same old story.

Again, the combined purchasing power of the CAFTA nations is about that of Orlando, Florida. Trade pacts like NAFTA and CAFTA enable companies to exploit cheap labor in other countries, then import their products back to the U.S. under favorable terms.

American companies outsource their jobs to Guatemala, outsource their jobs to China, outsource their jobs to Mexico. It costs American workers their jobs. It does almost nothing for the workers in those countries, yet profits at Wal-Mart and GM and those companies continue to rise.

CAFTA will do nothing to stop the bleeding of manufacturing jobs, except make it worse, will do nothing to stop

the bleeding of manufacturing jobs in the U.S., and will do even less to create a strong Central American consumer market for American goods.

Throughout the developing world, workers do not share in the wealth they create. If you work at GM in the United States, if you work at a hardware store in the United States, you create wealth for your employer and you share some of that wealth. That is how you get a middle-class existence.

But in the developing world, workers do not share in the wealth they create. Nike workers in Vietnam cannot afford to buy the shoes they make. Disney workers in Costa Rica cannot afford to buy the toys for their children. Ford workers in Mexico cannot afford to buy the cars that they make. Motorola workers in Malaysia cannot afford to buy the cell phones they make.

The United States, with its unrivaled purchasing power and its enormous economic clout, we, in our country, are in a unique position to empower workers in the developing world while promoting prosperity at home.

When the world's poorest people can buy American products, rather than just make them, then we will know our trade policies finally are working. Vote "no" on the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about an issue that is very important to me as a Member of Congress and as a consumer: financial literacy.

Last week we passed a resolution I cosponsored with overwhelming bipartisan support, H. Res. 148. This resolution supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Tonight, on the eve of the debate of our Nation's bankruptcy laws, I believe it is only fitting to support Financial Literacy Month and speak on the benefits of personal financial literacy.

In our Nation today, half of all Americans are living from paycheck to paycheck. The average college senior has approximately \$7,000 in consumer debt, and only four out of every 10 workers is saving for retirement.

As individuals incur debt, they are less likely to be prepared for retirement and more likely to become dependent solely on the Social Security system to support them into retirement.

By encouraging informed choices and wise financial decisions, our Nation's consumers will have positive credit ratings, money management skills, and be on the road to a stable and prosperous life. They will be able to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, and start businesses. It is our goal to

educate the public about financial literacy.

In today's world, we must continue to expand access to financial institutions and provide all Americans with the tools they need to become productive members of society. These principles and goals are important to all of us.

The programs and seminars supported by the resolution will provide the guidance that is needed for so many Americans. I encourage those who supported this amendment and agree with these goals to work alongside us to educate Americans about finance and economics.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

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

There was no objection.

THE UNITED STATES TRADE DEFICIT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to agree with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN). The Commerce Department just announced another record trade deficit for our country. As an avalanche of imports comes in here and a whimper of our exports go out, we do not have free trade. We have a free fall in trade.

This month the Commerce Department sent out a press release saying this past month had a record-breaking trade deficit. The U.S. trade deficit soared to an all time monthly high of \$61 billion negative. The Commerce Department said that, in fact, the February imbalance was up 4.3 percent from the record gap in January of \$58.5 billion.

It looks like the executive branch's promises are faltering again. When it was proposed, free trade for China was promoted as a boon to America's exporters. But if we look at what is happening here, every single year the trade deficit gets deeper and deeper and deeper. And this year it is going through the bottom of the chart.

Once again, month after month, we see our manufacturers taking a hit. America truly is losing its economic

pro prowess and our economic independence. In fact, under President Bush's watch, America has lost another three million manufacturing jobs.

One of the hardest hit sectors is textiles. For February, imports of textiles and clothing from China rose by nearly 10 percent. One can honestly ask, Is anything made in America anymore, other than debt?

The Bush administration's so-called free trade agenda is on course to bankrupt our economy. For the first 2 months of this year, just the first 2 months, the annualized trade deficit is 3 quarters of a trillion dollars, a full 100 billion more than last year. And we are watching oil prices going up over \$50 a barrel, and that is adding to this growing deficit.

Combined with our faltering dollar, soaring fuel costs and an expanding Federal deficit, America is anything but independent. We are in hock to foreign countries that hold nearly half of our public debt, and we are paying them hundreds of billions of dollars annually now in interest.

The President talks about his risky plans to try to overhaul Social Security by borrowing trillions more dollars. Have they got a printing machine for money over there at the back room of the White House?

This is not the American Dream. It is the American Nightmare. Tonight Congress should be taking a stand against this irresponsible fiscal policy. The golden rule of trade should be trade balances, not trade deficits; and we should operate by the golden rule, free trade among free people.

We should reject CAFTA and any other trade bills that keep pushing American jobs offshore and pushing the trade deficit further into red ink. We should only support trade that is responsible and creates a level playing field and, at a minimum, trade balances and hopefully trade surpluses like we used to have.

Until this President can give us a plan for a healthy economy based on security and economic independence, we should say no thank you. No more NAFTAs, no CAFTAs, no more trade agreements that do not produce a balance and a surplus.

In fact, for every agreement that is currently on the books that is in the red, we ought to go back and require renegotiation if it has been in the red for 3 years or more, because it is not operating in America's interest. It might be operating in some global corporation's interest; but we should be worried about the American people and jobs here at home, both in manufacturing and agriculture, in resource and mining, in the real muscle of this country.

We should be here to fight for America's future. It is time the President and the entire Congress did the same.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman

from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, last week I was blessed to travel with a group of my colleagues to Rome to attend the funeral mass of his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, one of the greatest defenders of human life the world has ever known.

□ 1945

Pope John Paul II was a man of profound holiness, profound peace, and profound love. He not only served the Catholic Church as the Vicar of Christ on Earth, but also reached out and touched people of all faiths as he fought valiantly to liberate the oppressed, especially in his native Eastern Europe where he contributed significantly to the fall of communism.

Of all of his accomplishments, I am most appreciative of his unwavering commitments to the defense and protection of all human life, especially the most defenseless, the unborn.

The Pope came to Miami in September of 1987. I had just given birth to my youngest daughter, Patricia Marie, and so I wanted to be present to hear and see him at Tropical Park, which is located in my old State senate district, but the doctors told me I could not attend. However, as I watched on TV, I remember thinking how fitting it was that I would be holding my newborn baby in my arms while watching the staunchest defender of human life praying and saying mass in my hometown. It was a feeling I have never and I shall never forget.

The Holy Father can never imagine how he touched, in a most profound way, all those who heard and saw him wherever he traveled with his goodness and fierce protection for the sanctity of life.

In his letter, *The Gospel of Life*, John Paul II vigorously reaffirmed the value of human life and at the same time presents a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person to respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life.

He writes, "Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree."

"Upon the recognition of this right," he continued, "every human community and the political community itself are founded."

And as a wife and as a mother of two teenage daughters, I also seek to defend and protect the sanctity of an innocent human life; and to that end I have introduced the bill, House Resolution 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, CIANA, which currently has 127 cosponsors and which will be marked up in the House Committee on the Judiciary tomorrow.