

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

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.

This legislation makes it a Federal offense to knowingly transport a minor across a State line with the intent that she obtain an abortion in circumvention of a State's parental consent or parental notification law. CIANA also requires that a parent or, if necessary, a legal guardian be notified pursuant to a default Federal parental notification rule when a minor crosses State lines to obtain an abortion unless one of several carefully drawn exceptions are met.

A minor who is forbidden to drink alcohol, to stay out past a certain hour or to get her ears pierced without a parental consent is certainly not prepared to make a life-altering, hazardous and potentially fatal decision such as an abortion without the consultation or consent of at least one parent.

My legislation will close a loophole that allows adults not only help minors break States' laws by obtaining an abortion without parental consent but also contributes to ending the life of an innocent child.

I am hopeful that in this 109th session of Congress we will be successful in securing the rights of parents. As an ardent advocate for human rights for all, especially those suffering political and religious persecution, I join our Holy Father in his desire to see a world where all may live and work together in a spirit of peace, mutual respect and solidarity and where the sanctity of human life is preserved at each and every level.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). 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.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

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

There was no objection.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know it should be no secret to anyone in this body that immigration reform is a top priority for millions of Americans, and I doubt that most of us have had a single town hall meeting during this past recess when we have not been asked by our constituents to address

the concerns of illegal immigration. I can tell you, I have heard time and again from my constituents who want to know why it is so incredibly difficult and it seems so difficult for the Federal Government to enforce these immigration laws that are currently on the books. They absolutely cannot understand why some politicians in Washington seem to fail to understand that illegal immigrants are in fact breaking our laws and if they do indeed actually cause a security risk.

As our constituents are preparing to pay Federal income tax, as millions of Americans are preparing to pay their Federal income tax this week, I was asked time and again in town hall meetings this weekend if we did not consider the costs, the extra cost to the American taxpayer of illegal immigration. And I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, I certainly sympathize with my constituents and I empathize with their concerns and their consternation, and I truly share their frustration when I read some of the things I read about illegal immigration.

We have an obvious flouting of the laws, and yet there are some who think that we should actually ignore this problem. Thankfully, we have made some progress this year, and we should credit the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for much of his hard work and the Committee on the Judiciary for much of their hard work when they worked on the Real ID Act. This body passed that, and certainly it will beef up the identification security measures, many dealing with our driver's license provisions. It will speed up the construction of border barriers, and it will make it tough for those with terrorist ties to gain asylum in the United States. But, Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that that is absolutely not enough.

Just yesterday morning, the Washington Post ran a story with the headline "Probe Faults System For Monitoring U.S. Border."

Now I have been working with my colleagues here in the House to target waste, fraud and abuse in government spending; and I have also been a proponent of tackling our enormous illegal immigration problem. The Washington Post story contains just an astounding level of waste, fraud, and abuse in spending; and it should be a wake-up call for those who do not think immigration reform is a priority. Clearly, the system we have got is not working.

According to a General Service Administration investigation, American taxpayers footed the bill for \$239 million surveillance system across our borders. And what do we have to show for that, sir? A lot of broken equipment and lax border security. This is absolutely incredible.

You have got a bunch of concerned citizens who got tired of all the excuses so they have gone down to the Arizona border to observe illegal immigration and report to the border agents, and

apparently they have been pretty effective. Meanwhile, the Federal government has a \$239 million pile of useless equipment.

This is waste, fraud, and abuse; and this is lack of attention to border security. This is an issue that has my constituents talking at length in town halls, talking about how we are spending the tax money that they are writing the check for this very week.

This article is further confirmation of our belief that the borders are too open, our system is too easily abused and our government is not doing enough. I hope that my colleagues will join me in my effort to eliminate the seemingly endless examples of waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, to those who have been opposing immigration reform for years now, the time has come for America to address the growing problem of illegal immigration. Our constituents and our national security demand it.

SMART SECURITY AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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, last year the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations bravely stood up to the White House by rejecting the administration's request for new nuclear weapons funding.

The White House had requested over \$70 million for research on the robust nuclear earth penetrator, also known as the "bunker buster" and other nuclear weapons initiatives.

The Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations zeroed out the President's nuclear weapons initiative; and, just as importantly, they have boldly rejected all funding for the supremely misguided bunker buster nuclear bomb, labelling it provocative and unnecessary.

I credit the subcommittee's chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON). He courageously stood up to the White House on this issue. But President Bush did not let that stop him from once again requesting funding for the bunker buster bomb in this year's 2006 budget proposal.

This year the President has requested \$4 million to study the feasibility of constructing the bunker buster and another \$4.5 billion for bunker buster testing in the Air Force budget. The President's budget also notes that he may request another \$14 million for the bunker buster in fiscal year 2007.

What could the Bush administration possibly be thinking? The United States already possesses the most sophisticated and modern military ever created, yet sometimes it seems like President Bush and his allies still think we are fighting the Cold War. Fortunately, there are still many,