

Bush's administration has placed on this research.

I talked to Dr. Connie Davis, who works with kidney and liver transplantees, who told us about the potential that this research could bring for the health of citizens, who said, why can people not make their own decisions? When you donate a kidney or you donate embryonic cells, she said, it should be the same thing.

We should pass, tomorrow, a commonsense measure that removes these restrictions that put handcuffs on our researchers right now where we are falling behind the rest of the country. Folks who have diabetes and Parkinson's know what is at stake tomorrow. Let us pass the bill.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

OPPOSITION TO CAFTA

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight, joining with many of my friends on the Democratic side, because I am opposed to CAFTA; and I would like to take just a few minutes to explain why I am opposed to CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement; and I like to quote from a gentleman I have great respect for, particularly when it comes to protecting American jobs, Pat Buchanan.

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The title of his article is called "CAFTA: Last Nail In The Coffin?" And I will read a few paragraphs from the article. He says, "As I write, the Department of Commerce has just released trade deficit numbers for February of 2005. Again, the monthly trade deficit set a record of \$61 billion. In January-February 2005, the annual U.S. trade deficit was running \$100 billion above the all-time record of \$617 billion in 2004."

Let me go read a little bit more from his article. "Between 1993 and 2004, the United States trade deficit with Beijing, China, grew 700 percent to \$162 billion. Since NAFTA which passed a few years ago, the U.S. trade surplus with Mexico has vanished and the annual trade deficit is now running above \$50 billion that we owe Mexico. One-and-a-half million illegal aliens are caught each year crossing our borders and 500,000 make it in to take up residence and enjoy all the social programs generous but over-taxed Americans cannot afford to pay.

"The highest per capita income in Central America is \$9,000 a year in Costa Rica, which is less than the U.S. minimum wage, but CAFTA will enable agribusiness and transnational companies to set up shop in Central America to dump into the United States and drive our last family farmers out of business and kill our last manufacturing jobs in textiles and apparel."

Mr. Speaker, I also want to read just a paragraph from a letter I received recently that was not signed. It is a full page and a half. I will read one paragraph. I intend to come to the floor day after day after day to talk about this issue.

He says, "Dear Congressman JONES: It is my understanding that you share my deep concern that our country is losing its industrial base. We are losing the vital jobs that are so important to support our economy and ultimately preserve the excellent standard of living that prior generations passed on to us. My view is that leaders in government and business are doing an inadequate job of protecting America's industrial base."

There is no question about that, Mr. Speaker. The gentleman that wrote this letter knows because he is a subcontractor.

Mr. Speaker, I want to show in my great State of North Carolina, which I am very proud to be one of 13 representatives, that since NAFTA we have lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs. The United States itself, since NAFTA, has lost 2.5 million manufacturing jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this first chart shows you Pillowtex, which happens to be in the district of my dear friend, the gentleman from North Carolina's (Mr. HAYES), in July 31 of 2003. It says, "Pillowtex Goes Bust, Erasing 6,450 Jobs." The subtitle says, "5 North Carolina plants closing in largest single job loss in State's history."

Mr. Speaker, we need to get serious about what is happening to the manufacturing jobs in America, and I am very disappointed that this administration does not seem to get it.

I will also say that 2 weeks ago in my home county of Wilson County, which I share with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), it says, "VF Jeanswear Closes Plant, Last 445 Jobs Gone By Next Summer." It further states in the article that operations performed in Wilson, which in-

clude fabric cutting and finishing garments, will be moved to Central America.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we in a bipartisan way can defeat CAFTA, and I will do everything I can to help my friends, Republican and Democrat, to defeat CAFTA because it is about time that we care about the American workers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform and their families.

CHEMICAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, in 2003 the U.S. General Accounting Office released a report that was done at the request of myself and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and, I believe, other Members of Congress that found with regard to terrorist threats that no Federal agency has assessed the extent of security preparedness at chemical plants and that no Federal requirements are in place to require chemical plants to assess their vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce them.

I wanted to talk briefly tonight about this issue of the need for security at chemical plants. I was pleased to note yesterday in the New York Times the lead editorial addressed this issue. I wanted to read from some sections of that editorial and comment on it.

In one part of the New York Times editorial yesterday it says, "There is no way to guarantee that terrorists will not successfully attack a chemical facility, but it would be grossly negligent not to take defensive measures. The question Americans should be asking themselves, says Rick Hind, Legislative Director of the Greenpeace Toxics Campaign, is, 'If you fast-forward to a disaster, what would you want to have done?'"

And this is what the New York Times and what Greenpeace say should be some of the priorities:

"First, tighter plant security. There should be tough Federal standards for perimeter fencing. Concrete blockades, armed guards and other forms of security at all of the 15,000 facilities that use deadly chemicals.

"Second, use of safer chemicals. Refineries, when practical, should adopt processes that do not use hydrofluoric acid, the chemical that is now putting New Orleans at risk. Some plants that once used chlorine, such as the Blue Plains wastewater treatment plant in Washington, D.C., have switched to safer alternatives.

"Third, reducing quantities of dangerous chemicals. An important reason that chemical facilities make such tempting targets for terrorists is the enormous quantity of chemicals they

have on hand. The industry should be encouraged and in some cases required to store and transport dangerous chemicals in smaller quantities.

"Fourth, limiting chemical facilities in highly populated areas. Many chemical facilities were built long before terrorism was a concern and when fewer people lived in their surrounding areas. There should be a national initiative to move dangerous chemical facilities, where practical, to lower population areas.

"Fifth, government oversight of chemical safety. The chemical industry wants to police itself through voluntary programs, but the risks are too great to leave chemical security in private hands. Facilities that use dangerous chemicals should be required to identify their vulnerabilities to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Homeland Security and to meet Federal safety standards."

Now, those are the five points that were mentioned by the New York Times yesterday in their editorial, and also by Greenpeace. But I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker, that more than 3 years have passed since 9/11 and Congress has yet to seriously address the need to secure our Nation's chemical plants. We are finally seeing some movement in the Senate, but not yet in the House. And it is time to take serious action to reduce the threat of an attack on a chemical facility which would endanger millions of lives.

Last month I reintroduced the Chemical Security Act, H.R. 2237, which requires the EPA and the Department of Homeland Security to work together to identify high-priority chemical facilities. Once identified, these facilities would be required to assess vulnerabilities and hazards and then development and implement a plan to improve security and use safer technologies within 18 months. Senator CORZINE has introduced this bill in the Senate.

Now, since the legislation was first introduced in the House in 2002, I have tried to get the Republican leadership to conduct a congressional hearing on chemical security. And I welcomed the announcement last week on the House floor during the discussion or debate on the Homeland Security bill, there was an announcement that the House Select Committee on Homeland Security chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. COX) said his committee would hold a hearing or start a series of hearings on chemical security beginning June 14.

I would also like to see my own committee, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over chemical facilities, to follow the gentleman from California's (Mr. COX) lead and schedule hearings or begin to have hearings this summer.

Hopefully, we will see some positive signs, some movement in the House, at least to have hearings on the issue, but it really is a very important issue, not only for New Jersey, my home State,

but throughout the country. I am also pleased that the New York Times has pointed this out.

Greenpeace, of course, has talked about a number of initiatives even beyond the ones that were mentioned in the New York Times, and I plan to spend some time over the next few weeks talking to Greenpeace about whether additional legislation is necessary to address some of their concerns.

HOLES IN NATIONAL GUARD BENEFITS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, last weekend I traveled back to Oregon, as I frequently do, and participated in an Armed Forces Day parade in Cottage Grove, Oregon. The particular focus this year was the return from Iraq of the 2162nd, a National Guard unit which is based in Cottage Grove, in the last 60 days. There was a good turnout among members of the community.

Of course, we are looking forward next week to Memorial Day, which will be a sober event, as we will honor some of those who have recently lost their lives in service to our Nation.

But one thing stands out in both of these celebrations and that is that there is tremendous support for our troops in uniform, but that support somehow is not getting translated in many ways into policy here in Washington, D.C., in the budgets proposed by the President that relate to offset of benefits for disabled veterans, a disabled veterans tax, that relate to other services for veterans or equity in benefits for the National Guard.

Today, as I got to the plane, I saw an article "Dental Problems Stymie Guard Call-ups." This particular article was about the National Guard in Washington State where 30 percent of the 4,500 called up were ineligible for active duty because of dental problems, 20 percent nationally. I do not know the percentage for Oregon; I have not seen it. But when I was meeting with members of the 2162nd, when they were down in Fort Hood prior to their deployment to Iraq, and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and I were meeting with them, this one fellow in the front says, I have a problem, Congressman; I would like you to try and help me out here.

He opens up his mouth really wide and he is missing a couple of front teeth. I said, What is going on there? He said, I had two bad teeth. I went to my predeployment physical. They said, You have those bad teeth; we have to take care of them. So they yanked his teeth out and sent him to Fort Hood. But at Fort Hood they said, You are not active duty military. We are not going to take care of your problem. You go to the end of the line and you will be in Iraq before we get around to it.

So he was going to go home to Oregon on his leave before he left to try to get false teeth inserted so he would not spend a year in Iraq with a big gap in his front teeth.

We need equity in benefits and better benefits for our Guard members. We are treating the National Guard indistinguishable from active duty forces, yet they still often suffer in terms of equipment and they definitely suffer in terms of equity of benefits, health coverage for our Guard members before they are activated. All Guard members should receive health benefits during their service in the Guard. That means they will be ready to defend the country at the drop of a hat. They are ready to deploy. But it also is a good way to induce and recognize the service of these people in our National Guard.

This morning when I got to the plane there was another Guard member there from Kingsley Air Force Base who does military police work, on his way to a conference. And he and I got in a little chat and we were talking about the proposed base closure in Portland. Then he said, When are we going to get recognition on our retirement benefits. The fact that Guard members have a set age instead of a set number of years of service, they are discriminated against.

Education benefits, they are discriminated against. Active duty military soldiers serve in Iraq, come back, leave the military, can get education benefits. National Guard soldiers serve in Iraq, come back having finished their contract in their term, want to get education benefits. No. They have to sign up for another term in the Guard.

But the active duty soldier did nothing to earn those benefits.

We need equity in education benefits. We need better health care benefits. We need better pension benefits. We have to begin treating our National Guard members like the essential component they are of the Nation's national defense today.

They are not an afterthought. They are the front line as much as the active duty military. And there can be no more fitting recognition by this House of Representatives coming up to Memorial Day, in the wake of Armed Forces Day, than to deliver on those changes in benefits and those improvements for our Guard soldiers and to better deliver veterans benefits for all of our Nation's veterans so that Lincoln's words do not become a hollow promise.

□ 1945

We will take care of our veterans. We can afford it in the greatest Nation on earth, and we should make good those promises before Memorial Day.

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