

Since April 21, more than 1,000 people have attended Capitol Hill news conferences asking the President to renegotiate this failed agreement. Democrats and Republicans, legislators from Central America, along with grassroots organizations representing workers and farmers and religious organizations in all seven countries, in the United States and in the Dominican Republic and in five countries in Central America. Those same voices delivered a common unified message: renegotiate the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

Why do they oppose this? The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) showed this chart earlier. One of the reasons we oppose this agreement is our trade policy is not working. A dozen years ago I first ran in Congress in 1992, 13 years ago. We had a trade deficit in this country of \$38 billion. Last year, just a dozen years later, that \$38 billion had exploded into \$618 billion. Clearly our trade policy is not working.

But make no mistake. Those of us opposed to this CAFTA do want trade with Central America, but we want an agreement that represents us all, not a select few. We want an agreement that deserves to pass Congress based on its merits, not based on arm twisting, not based on middle-of-the-night votes, not based on sleazy deals, not based on, as some cases we have seen on this floor, out and out bribery.

We want an agreement that promotes small business, family farmers, that promotes ranchers and workers, that promotes food safety and the environment and people of faith in all six CAFTA countries and in our country.

We want an agreement that stands in line with our faith and our values and promotes the principles of social and economic justice. This CAFTA will not do that.

The people supporting CAFTA, they love to make promises that with CAFTA jobs in the U.S. will increase. We will export more to the developing world and the standard of living in these poor countries will go up. They promised that every time there is a trade agreement. They never come true.

Here, really, is fundamentally the reason that we know, that American manufacturers know, that American small business knows, that American farmers know that we will not be exporting products to Central American countries. The average wage in the United States is \$38,000. The average wage in El Salvador annually is \$4,800; \$2,600, Honduras; \$2,300, Nicaragua.

The combined economic output of these Central American countries is about the same as that of Columbus, Ohio. They simply cannot afford to buy our products. This agreement will not allow workers in Central America to buy cars made in Dayton or Cincinnati or Toledo or Cleveland, Ohio. This agreement will not allow workers in Honduras to buy prime beef from Ne-

braska. It will not allow workers from Guatemala to buy software made in Seattle.

Mr. Speaker, this agreement is about U.S. companies moving plants to Honduras, outsourcing jobs to El Salvador, and exploiting cheap labor. Renegotiate this CAFTA and produce a better Central American Free Trade Agreement.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes. (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN.)

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

There was no objection.

#### OUT-OF-TOUCH DEMOCRATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a topic that I have discussed in this Chamber several times in recent months. As we enter the dog days of summer here in Washington, D.C. and the temperature continues to rise, so too does the rhetoric we hear from the other side of the aisle.

Democrats continue to say Republicans are out of the mainstream. However, from where I stand, I see nothing but hollow allegations and a complete lack of any legislative agenda for the American people from the other party. Meanwhile, Republicans continue to pursue a commonsense solutionist agenda that addresses important issues like securing our homeland, supporting our troops, growing the economy, and looking out for families and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a minute to read a quote from the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), from a recent press conference she held: "It is important for us to take down their numbers, to take down their numbers on Social Security, to take down their numbers on credibility. That was very important. If you are the challenger, you are not going to go up against the leader in full strength. You have to take them down first and then you move out in a positive way."

This quote has troubled me greatly over the past week. I strongly disagree with this type of leadership.

While Republicans remain committed to moving forward with a positive,

commonsense agenda, Democrats continue to rely on obstruction and partisan rhetoric. Republicans are concentrating on progress, and our results are hard to argue with. New jobs figures show that 146,000 new jobs were created in June. The economy has created over 3.7 million jobs since May 2003, and we have seen steady job gains for each of the last 25 months.

There are more Americans working than ever before. The unemployment rate fell to 5 percent in June, the lowest it has been since September 2001. The energy bill passed by Congress will create nearly half a million new jobs in the manufacturing, construction, agriculture and technology sectors by reducing our dependence on foreign oil while exploring different sources of renewable fuels and nuclear energy.

This legislation will also help eventually lower the cost of gasoline, a drag on profits that is hitting small businesses hard. Republicans have been working diligently on behalf of small businesses. According to a small business survey, over 80 percent of small businesses spend an average of \$25,000 annually on attorney consultant fees and life insurance premiums in an attempt to avoid the crushing blow of the death tax. We are working to repeal the death tax because we feel this money could do more if it remains in the hands of business owners and not in the hands of the government.

In addition, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 that President Bush signed into law will reduce the number of abusive and frivolous bankruptcy filings that have hurt the economy and small businesses by raising the cost of credit.

Republicans are improving our Nation's transportation and infrastructure. House Republicans passed the highway bill which will fund our Federal highways and help increase the quality of our transportation and infrastructure. This will allow small businesses to move products more efficiently and economists estimate that for every \$1 billion spent to improve our highways, 40,000 new jobs will be created.

House Republicans are working to facilitate job training for American workers. Hundreds of thousands of new jobs are being created under our watch, and we are dedicated to providing adequate job training for all Americans who seek it. The Job Training Improvement Act will break down barriers for millions of job seekers by streamlining bureaucracy and making sure more time is spent training for the jobs of the 21st century.

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In addition, the Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act will strengthen and improve the framework of current vocational and technical education programs, add new accountability measures, focus on academic achievement, and streamline Federal

funding to help States and local communities make the most of Federal resources.

Republicans are also dedicated to national security and the war on terror. We are promoting responsible government spending and are committed to upholding vital American programs like Social Security. Democrats are committed to rhetoric that does nothing to keep America safe or grow our economy.

It has even come so far that the minority leadership is willing to contradict themselves in order to block growth. On March 6, the House minority leader stated on Fox News Sunday that "we must stop robbing the Social Security Trust Fund of its money to pay for other things." Yet in the June 24 edition of Congress Daily she stated, "There is nothing wrong with Social Security lending money with the prospect of returning it."

This week, I sat down in my office to do some reading and came across a series of editorials from leading Republican and Democrat Members. It was the sharp contrast in our ideologies that I saw when reading these articles that made me want to come to the floor tonight.

One of the Democrat's editorials claimed that the first 6 months of the 109th Congress will be remembered as legislatively unproductive. This is not only untrue, but it demonstrates the complete unwillingness of the House minority to acknowledge and join in the effort for progress in America.

Republicans are proud of our vast accomplishments in the first half of the 109th Congress and we hope we can work with our friends on the other side of the aisle to bring forth ideas for the betterment of the Nation. I am proud of our accomplishments not just because they represent good policy but also because so many of them attracted bipartisan support. More than 40 rank-and-file Democrats voted with us to enact some of the most important measures of this Congress—despite opposition from their leadership. I want to thank those on the other side of the aisle who acted in this Nation's best interest and put politics aside.

We are working towards solutions that will create a stronger America that we can hand down to future generations with pride. We want to preserve vital programs like Social Security, continue to create jobs, lower taxes for hardworking Americans, and address the security issues facing our country. I look forward to the day that the minority joins us in a bipartisan effort to strengthen our Nation and stops attempting to block progress for the sake of partisan politics.

In the meantime, I hope the American people will examine the record so that they can see which party truly is out of the mainstream. When they do, they will come to one and only one conclusion—that the Republican principles of progress and solutions are benefiting the entire Nation, while the Democrat tactics of obstruction and stonewalling contribute nothing. It is the Washington Democrats, Mr. Speaker, that are truly out of the mainstream—not the Republicans.

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

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

#### SMART SECURITY

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, I rise to register my continued sadness and frustration with the Nation's Iraq policy. As much of Washington now focuses on a Supreme Court nomination, and as many Americans prepare for August vacations, I hope none of us forget the sacrifice of our men and women in uniform and the disastrous decisions that put them in harm's way in the very first place.

We are fast approaching 1,800 deaths in Iraq, Mr. Speaker, and for what? Are we any safer from terrorism? The recent attacks in London would seem to indicate that we are not. If the Iraq war has done so much to enhance American Security, why did we have to expand the PATRIOT Act last week and clamp down even further on our civil liberties?

The truth is our military presence in Iraq is contributing to the chaos there, not alleviating it. The occupation has sparked more intense feelings of anti-Americanism and breathed new life into the insurgency. A recent government report even voices concerns that terrorists and insurgents are succeeding at infiltrating the Iraqi police force.

Like all of my friends in Congress, I believe nothing is more important than supporting our troops, but I believe the best way to support them is to bring them home to their families as soon as possible. Ending the war should be the first step in a complete overhaul in our approach to a national security policy. We must redirect our priorities and our resources so that peace and diplomacy, not aggression and chest-beating, become the guiding lights of our foreign policy.

I have come up with a plan that I have labeled SMART Security, with SMART standing for Sensible, Multilateral American Response to Terrorism. There are five components to SMART.

First, stop future acts of terrorism, not by arbitrarily invading sovereign nations, but by collaborating with NATO and the U.N., by strengthening our intelligence capabilities, and by enhancing efforts to cut off financing of terrorist organizations.

Second, stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction, not by deposing regimes that do not have them, but with diplomacy, enhanced inspection regimes, and regional security arrangements. The United States should also

work more closely with the states of the Soviet Union to secure loose nuclear material, and we should set an example for the world by living up to our own international nonproliferation commitments.

Third, address root causes of terrorism, like instability, despair and hopelessness. So SMART includes an ambitious international development program, debt relief, democracy building, sustainable development education, especially for women and for girls, and more for poor nations.

Fourth, shift U.S. budget priorities. Does it make any sense at all, Mr. Speaker, that we continue to invest billions of dollars in a missile defense shield? The Cold War is over, and our defense priorities should reflect the new threats of a new era. Among other things, we ought to be investing in renewable energy sources that will help wean the Nation from Middle Eastern oil. It is unbelievable to me that the Congress may soon pass an energy bill that costs us billions of dollars, but barely addresses the problem of dependence on oil imports.

Fifth, pursue alternatives to war. At its core, SMART is about choosing peace over war and resorting to force only in the most extreme circumstances. So it includes an emphasis on effective conflict assessment, early warning systems, multilateral response mechanisms, and other tools that will help avoid military action.

Mr. Speaker, our current national security posture is not only morally questionable, it is functionally flawed. My objection is not just a philosophical one, but a practical one. What we are doing now is not making America safer.

It is time to get smart about national security. It is time for a new strategy that protects America by relying on the very best of American values, our love of peace, our capacity for global leadership, our belief in freedom and opportunity, and our compassionate fellowship with the people of the world.

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

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

#### CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in strong support of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, known as CAFTA. This trade agreement will help boost American exports, create more American jobs, help fuel economic growth, and, perhaps more importantly, help preserve