

but you will be hearing shortly from the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) as well as other Members with respect to the results of our e-hearing.

Much of the talk surrounding the current crisis facing U.S. automakers revolves around the toll that wages, health insurance and pensions place on companies. A loss of these benefits would be a devastating blow for workers and their families. Consider what my constituent, Betty Payer of Parma, Ohio, said during our committee's recent e-hearing.

She said, "The way the auto industry is going affects us in so many different ways. If my husband was to lose his job, we would not be able to raise our children properly. I don't even know how we would be able to give them the proper education. We can barely afford to buy them clothes and get them the things they truly need the way it is. My oldest son is getting ready to turn 3 and he needs speech therapy and physical therapy the way it is. Without insurance, we would not be able to take him to those because we cannot afford to pay for them. He has to go once a week until they see an improvement in him."

That is from Betty Payer of Parma, Ohio.

But the discussion about the auto industry is not served when certain individuals mischaracterize the actual labor costs. There is a myth put forward by the CEO of Delphi about the overpaid auto workers. He is claiming that \$65 per hour is a typical wage Delphi pays for blue collar labor. The problem is Delphi doesn't pay \$65 an hour. Rather, this figure is a creation of Delphi's media consultants and it lumps together all of Delphi's labor costs and payments to unemployed and retired workers, but falsely allocates them only to Delphi's much smaller workforce. That inflates the average labor cost.

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Actual average wage for current Delphi workers is about \$23 per hour. So whatever Delphi's financial problems, one thing that is not a cause is workers earning \$65 per hour. And it is misleading of Delphi's CEO to say otherwise.

But bad faith characterizes the Delphi CEO. It was bad faith that he filed motions in bankruptcy court to break his labor contracts. Negotiations with the union had not reached an impasse. Rather, the opposite was true. GM and Delphi had just reached an agreement with the union on a Special Attrition Program. Don't you think that one agreement could lead to another?

If Delphi's CEO is notorious for his drive to beat down the wages and benefits workers have won through their unions and impose a wage scale that is more in line with that of China, then he has been greatly helped by the official policy of the United States, both in terms of trade law and labor law.

We have a trade policy that actually permits foreign based companies to export an infinite number of goods and services to the United States, with no expectation that goods and services made in the United States will find buyers overseas. So companies locate in low wage countries, such as China, and export without limit to the U.S. Predictably, the U.S. is, in turn, suffering from a record-sized widening trade deficit with China and the world. Our trade deficit is approaching \$750 billion. Workers are threatened by plant closures, and plant owners can plausibly threaten they are going to move to Mexico where they can find lower wages, lower legal standards, and export to the U.S. what they used to manufacture in the U.S. What is needed is balance. There should be some kind of a balance between our imports and our exports. What we import from China, for example, should be roughly in line with the value of what we export to China. Our trade policies should be guided by what you could call a principle of reciprocity.

We also have a labor policy that enables foreign-owned companies to threaten and intimidate American workers when they try to organize themselves into unions. The leading foreign automakers have plants in the U.S., but they are all non union, thanks to the anti worker slant of U.S. law. That gives them an unfair advantage over the unionized American auto companies. Why do we tolerate giving Honda and Toyota such an advantage in our own country? If workers were allowed join unions, as they do in Canada, when a majority signed cards attesting that that is their wish, foreign auto companies would be less able to squash an organizing effort. Then GM and Toyota would be on a level playing field as far as labor costs were concerned.

Here in Congress, we cannot compel automakers to design cars people want to buy. We hope that they can find the people to design such vehicles. Clearly, the American automakers have made serious errors. Auto workers didn't make the errors because they are told what cars to make.

But we can make sure that the playing field is level so there is fair competition in the auto industry.

Our trade policy, Mr. Speaker, and I am speaking of NAFTA, CAFTA, WTO, for starters, has had a consistent effect. Know what that effect has been? To deindustrialize the United States. We are losing our industry, not because of the laws of nature or the invisible hand, but due to trade policy established here in Congress.

Our labor law is also responsible. American-owned companies are losing market share to foreign-owned transplants because of the viciously anti-worker environment this Congress has unfortunately established.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing my other colleagues about what we can do to protect American industry and American auto workers.

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

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

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COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPTURE OF SERGEANT KEITH MATTHEW "MATT" MAUPIN IN IRAQ

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have Mr. MCHENRY's time, please.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special tribute to Sergeant Keith Matt Maupin, an Army reservist from Batavia, Ohio in my congressional district, who has been missing, captured in Iraq since April 9, 2004, 2 years ago this Sunday.

Matt Maupin's convoy came under attack by Iraqi insurgents, and he has been missing ever since. Matt went to Iraq because he believed in the freedom of the Iraqi people, and to make America a safer place. We are proud of him and his enormous commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy.

I also represent Matt's parents, Keith and Carolyn Maupin. Keith is a veteran, and Matt's brother, Micah is a Marine. They are a tremendous family, and are an extraordinary example to all of us.

To support all families of the many brave servicemembers in harm's way, Keith and Carolyn Maupin lead a non-profit organization called the Yellow Ribbon Support Network. Offering moral support, helping to raise morale and coordinating communication among families, the Network has literally sent thousands of packages to the military personnel overseas. As I am speaking here tonight, they are working back in Eastgate, Ohio, assembling packages for those brave men and women.

On this second anniversary, we honor Matt Maupin, Keith and Carolyn Maupin, Micah Maupin and the entire Maupin family, and offer our prayers for Matt's safe return home.

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

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

## QUOTES FROM OHIO AUTO WORKERS

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. KUCINICH said earlier, we are continuing our Delphi E-hearing here, which we are going to share with the House of Representatives and the American people, stories that have come from families who are being affected by the shake-up in the auto industry in the United States of America.

I come from a district in Northeast Ohio, Youngstown, Akron, Warren, home of the original Packard car, the original Packard Electric Company. I would like to share a few stories and make a few comments, Mr. Speaker, because today not only do we have a concentration of Delphi employees in my district, today the local General Motors plant that has been in Lordstown, Ohio since the late 1960s, there was an announcement that 1,200 third shift employees would no longer be working at that facility, and it is tragic news for many, many families. And so we want to bring attention to the United States Congress and to the American people about the communities that are being affected and how the policies here under the big dome aren't exactly addressing the needs.

Let me share with you, Mr. Speaker, a couple of stories from back home. This is a letter. First of all, thank you for letting me voice my opinion. I hope someone will actually read this. I was hired in at GM, Lordstown, in January of 1971, with the negotiated promise that if I came to work for General Motors, I could retire after 30 years of service. It was always said as GM goes, so goes the country. "And I challenge all of you to look back and think of when you were young and innocent. My God, what has happened to the USA? You have the chance to stop this injustice, this rape of the American worker in its tracks. I pray that God give you the courage and wisdom to do the right thing. And isn't that what it is all about, doing the right thing? God help us all."

That is Stephen P. Medici in Lordstown, Ohio.

This is William Ruppel in Cortland, Ohio. "I was in the infantry in Vietnam in 1968. After going to college for a while, I was hired at Delphi Packard Electric in September of 1973. After working there for a while, we agreed in one of our contracts to an attrition. For every three people who retired, the company only had to replace one. This was to help the company's costs and to afford a decent wage. Next came the

movement to Mexico. The jobs would first come to us. We would work out the kinks, and then off to Mexico they would go.

Delphi, Packard Electric's 146,000 employees working for them outside the U.S. is just about exactly how many troops we have fighting in Iraq. Who is more important? Are these men and women who are supposedly fighting for democracy and fairness going to have their wages cut 60 percent, health care and pensions cut, or maybe have no job at all? I was in the infantry in Vietnam in 1968 and I support and sympathize with these brave people.

Do the rich ever get rich enough?"

"I just read where Delphi wants an extension on the reorganizations," said Charlie Stowe from Warren, Ohio. "This is not fair. I want a 30-year extension on my pension."

"With no support," this is Jean Wooler. "I have worked for Delphi Packard Electric for 38 years. It has allowed me to live a good middle class life and to raise my daughter with no support from her father. My daughter is now 21 and in college. I do not live lavishly. I have a 3-bedroom ranch and a nice car. I don't dress extravagantly. I live paycheck to paycheck as a single mother on the wages that I may make."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just say that data has come out now that the Bush tax cut has lowered the tax burden on the richest people in this country. If you made \$10 million a year in 2003, you got \$1 million back, Mr. Speaker, from the Bush tax cut. And if your average income in this country was \$26 million, you paid the same share in taxes as someone that made \$200,000. We need changes, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

## RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF GLADEWATER

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the town of Gladewater, Texas. Gladewater was incorporated on April 18, 1931. That was 11 days after oil was discovered 1 mile outside of town. With the discovery of oil, the town quickly experienced tre-

mendous prosperity. During the 1930s people began to flock to the small East Texas town with the population swelling from 500 to 8,000 strong.

With the depletion of petroleum reserves in the 1980s, the town was forced to attract and develop alternative forms of commerce. Gladewater, once known for its oil production, is now regarded as the antique capitol, with over 250 antique dealers and 16 antique malls. As a result of the Main Street Project and the downtown revitalization, the charming downtown area is now bustling once again with economic activity. Tourists from all over the southeast have now made this small Texas town a travel destination because of its shopping and its many attractions.

Gladewater is a town of leaders with vision and workers with determination. From the nationally famous Gladewater Rodeo to the Fourth of July boat parade on its city lake, to its local merchants and citizens, Gladewater represents the best America has to offer. I congratulate the town of Gladewater on the remarkable first 75 years, with many more to come. It is a pleasure and an honor to be able to serve the citizens of Gladewater in the United States House of Representatives and to have so many of its citizens that I can call my friend.

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

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

## CRISIS FACING THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. DINGELL's time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Mr. RYAN and Mr. KUCINICH in calling attention to the personal stories and the national hardship that is created by these plans to strip workers of their pensions.

Last December Representative MILLER conducted an on-line hearing so that General Motors and Delphi employees would have an opportunity to send to Congress their words about the meaning of these plans to strip them of their pensions and benefits. And the response was powerful.

Let me read from a few New Jersey constituents. Mr. Paluzzi from East Brunswick writes, "I have worked for GM Delphi for 34 years. And during the