

UNITED STATES-PERU TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The dollar is dropping like a rock. We're borrowing \$2 billion a day from overseas to buy things we don't make anymore. We've lost 4 million manufacturing jobs. Millions of middle-class Americans are seeing their pay stagnant or declining.

Our current trade policy is a dismal failure. It's a failed engine for our economy. Now comes the Peru Free Trade Agreement. The advocates tell you the burgeoning middle class of Peru, all three of them, are going to go out and be a huge market for the goods we don't make in America anymore.

They tout the breakthroughs on modest labor and environmental provisions. Well, the destructive multinational-written chapter 11 provisions remain at the center of this trade agreement. If trade is the engine that drives our economy, it needs an overhaul. Instead, with this bill, we are getting a new hood ornament, some side-view mirrors and a misbegotten cousin of NAFTA as a trade policy.

WELCOME TO FRENCH PRESIDENT
NICOLAS SARKOZY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome French President Nicolas Sarkozy and thank him for addressing the joint session of Congress this morning.

As a person of French heritage, I know we are all grateful for his tribute to American veterans. France was our first ally in the American Revolution, as symbolized by the portrait of Marquis de Lafayette here in the Chamber. France remains an important partner in international affairs and a major investor in the American economy.

I am grateful that the midlands of South Carolina is home to three Michelin tire manufacturing plants. The Associated Press has recognized President Sarkozy as a blunt and uncompromising pro-American conservative.

With his leadership, I am confident our historic alliance will be strengthened as we pursue common goals of global economic development and face down a common enemy in the global war on terrorism.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and our friends of France in promoting our vibrant partnership.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

“PRESIDENT NO” ATTEMPTS TO
USE VETO PEN AS DISTRACTION
FROM HIS FISCAL MANAGEMENT

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of weeks, President Bush has turned into President Veto, saying “no” to a bill that would provide 10 million children access to health care and then saying “no” last week to a bill that would protect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans from the devastating impact of flooding.

After 6 years of signing any bill that came to his desk and disregarding the impact legislation would have on our Nation's fiscal well-being, President Bush is now trying to claim the mantle of fiscal responsibility.

Who, exactly, is the President trying to fool? He turned a \$5.6 trillion surplus that he inherited from President Clinton into a \$3 trillion deficit. That's a reversal of fortune of \$8 trillion.

When Democrats took control of Congress, we vowed to restore fiscal sanity, and we began by restoring sensible pay-as-you-go rules. Every bill that we have brought to this floor has complied with these rules, but the President continues to imply that he is more fiscally responsible than this new Congress.

The American people should not and will not be fooled by this change in rhetoric.

THE FRENCH PRESIDENT AND THE
AMERICAN SOLDIER

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, the French president addressed a joint session of Congress today, and he, like General Lafayette before him, talked about the American soldier, the warrior's courage, determination, resilience and love of freedom more than life itself.

As we approach Veterans Day, French President Nicolas Sarkozy's words are appropriate to show how the world, that has benefited from the American GI, view our military.

He said this morning:

“The men and women of my generation heard their grandparents talk about how in 1917 America saved France at a time when it had reached the final limits of its strength.

“The men and women of my generation heard their parents talk about how in 1944 America returned to free Europe from the horrifying tyranny that threatened to enslave it.

“Fathers took their sons to see the vast cemeteries where, under thousands of white crosses so far from home, thousands of young American soldiers lay who had fallen not to defend their own freedom but the freedom of all others, not to defend their own families, their own homeland, but to defend humanity as a whole.”

Mr. Speaker, the world's freedom fighter has always been the American soldier.

And that's just the way it is.

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CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN
LEADERS ARE NOT COMMITTED
TO A STRONGER CHIP BILL

(Mr. WU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, last night big, rich tobacco companies killed health care in Oregon for little poor kids. Now we in Congress must and can do better for our entire Nation.

But Republican leaders refuse to allow bipartisan negotiators to reach a compromise that would give 10 million American children the health care they need and deserve. The Republican leaders' refusal to negotiate only highlights their continued opposition to health care for the children of low-income working families.

Unfortunately, President Bush also remains unmoved by the health care needs of our children. The President has routinely refused to meet with congressional leaders, even to discuss the children's health care insurance program.

While President Bush works against children's health care, Republicans and Democrats will continue to work together to identify a compromise that will afford health care to 10 million American children. A bipartisan majority of us realize just how important it is to ensure that children have access. The health care of the 10 million American children and over 100,000 children in Oregon is simply too important to ignore.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, every time the United States signs a free trade agreement with a developing country, this time the Bush Peru agreement, we end up outsourcing more wealth and more middle-class jobs. We're already in deficit with Peru under existing conditions. And just like Mexico, when we signed that agreement, we went from a surplus to a gigantic deficit.

If labor provisions in the agreement are so good, why are no trade unions in our country or Peru supporting the agreement? Could it be because the agreement does not require the Peruvians to comply with core labor “rights”, but rather, with vague and unenforceable labor “principles” which are then cleverly placed in the preamble or the declaration of the agreement and not in the enforceable and binding core standards, as do the International Labor Organization conventions?

You know, this week the Peruvian miners are talking to us. They are on

strike; 6,300 miners who mine gold and silver and zinc and copper and molybdenum in that country. They're on strike but the Peru Labor Ministry has ordered them back to work or they will lose their jobs in 3 days. Isn't it time for us to hear the voices of the people of Peru as well as the voices of the people of our own country who have lost so many jobs due to these unfair trade agreements?

Peru doesn't intend to enforce international labor rights.

IMPEACH VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I brought articles of impeachment before this House. The articles have been referred to the Judiciary Committee, and the people of the United States now have a chance to become engaged in a broad discussion about the importance of this action.

People ask, why now? Well, recently, the administration asked for millions of dollars to be included in the defense budget to retrofit Stealth B-2 bombers with 30,000-pound bombs that can be used to bomb nuclear research labs in Iran at Natans and Bushir. Think of the humanitarian and ecological disaster that would come from that kind of a bombing.

This administration, which took license to go to war based on lies, must be held accountable. And the Vice President must be held accountable for his role in bringing about the war against Iraq and in trying to beat the drums for a war against Iran.

As has been pointed out here, we have so many needs here at home. We have people who are losing their homes, losing their pensions, losing their jobs, losing their health care, and we must bring discipline in this House to hold this administration accountable unto the law, so we can begin to focus on a domestic agenda and stop waging aggressive war.

Impeach the Vice President.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENTS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the President issued eight Presidential Medals of Freedom to eight great Americans. It was a beautiful service, and the President did our country proud at that program.

One of the recipients was the Reverend Benjamin Hooks, who's a resident of Memphis, one of my constituents, a great man who rose from a segregated South to the heights of the Federal Communications Commission and the NAACP in this country.

Also honored were Harper Lee, the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird," and

Mr. Francis Collins, who did the Human Genome Project. You know, we're 99.9 percent the same, and that's what the Human Genome Project told us.

President Bush asked Rev. Hooks what can we do to move race relations forward. I'll tell President Bush some of the things we can do, Mr. Speaker. We can care about children and pass a children's health care program, many of those children being African Americans and minorities. And we can pass programs that allow for scholarships for young people at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

There's much we can do, Mr. President. You did good on Monday. Let's keep doing good.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT OF 1967

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 40th anniversary of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. Congress passed the act to advance both communications technology and quality programming. It now invests in over 1,000 local radio and television stations, providing every American with access to commercial-free educational and thought-provoking programming.

For years, parents in my home of St. Louis, Missouri, have turned to KETC-TV as their children's developing minds are broadened by programs like "Sesame Street." These same parents depend on KWMU for in-depth news coverage of local, national and global events.

With its mission to provide programs which inform, enlighten and enrich the public, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting has contributed to the development of our children, the public's interest, and the understanding of our world and the implementation of a new and better communications technology.

As the bill was signed into law on November 7, 1967, President Lyndon Johnson so eloquently stated, "While we work every day to produce new goods and create new wealth, we want most of all to enrich man's spirit." Thank you to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for doing just that.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING ACT OF 1967

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague from Missouri in saluting the 40th anniversary of Public Broadcasting.

On the floor of the House we're surrounded by controversy on so many issues, but the unique achievement that is our system of public broadcasting really does bring us together.

In those 40 years we've evolved a powerful system with NPR and PBS, through the hundreds of stations around the country, 100 million viewers of public television a week. Many cities around the country especially my own Hometown, Portland, the number one radio station is its public radio station.

We have evolved a national voice that deals with issues of education, of music and public affairs. We've been able to prove empirically that the people who get their news from NPR actually have an identifiable, measurable, more accurate view of what's happening in the world.

Since public broadcasting was established in 1967, the Federal Government has spent trillions of dollars, but there is no investment during those last 40 years that has paid greater dividends for the American people.

SCHIP NEGOTIATIONS

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, what we're hearing about the SCHIP negotiations sounds like this Congress is getting ready to literally throw the baby out with the bathwater.

We started with a less than perfect bill that would have covered close to 6 million children who are eligible. We're now heading to just above 3. And the proposed changes threaten to put up barriers that would even lower that number: removing outreach dollars will never get to the children we need to cover. Requiring proof of citizenship will scare naturalized citizens and the poor that we're trying to cover away.

Taking away authority of States to have income disregards will cause children now covered to lose it. Not covering parents will threaten the health of their children, if they're lucky enough to squeeze through the sieve that the House Republicans are trying to create.

Too little money to the States will keep them from even reaching their most modest goals, and trying so hard to get Republican votes may cause the measure to lose key ones from Democrats.

I'm beginning to think it would be better to just extend the current CHIP until we have more people here who are willing to do what is necessary to ensure that our children have access to good health and the better life that we owe them.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3685, EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

Ms. CASTOR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 793 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 793

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the