

rest of this session working for families instead of against them.

TIME TO JUST SAY NO AGAIN

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

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, we have a problem, a very serious problem that has cast a long, dark shadow over our great land. The problem, Mr. Speaker, is drugs. The United States has seen an 80-percent increase in the use of illegal drugs in the last 4 years.

This is an unconscionable statistic, a statistic that we can no longer afford to ignore. Cocaine use up by 166 percent and marijuana use up by 141 percent.

Last year 1 in 10 kids used drugs regularly. That is too many. Our children are the real bridge to the 21st century, and they are being torn down by these drugs. It must end if we intend to give them a bright future.

I knocked on 3,500 doors while I was back in Omaha during the August recess. I can't tell you how many people in Nebraska said to me one thing: find a way to fight the drug war.

This is not an east coast or a west coast problem, an urban or a rural problem; it is a national problem.

We live in the greatest Nation in the world and can ill afford to let this problem continue. It's time we said just said no again.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 6 of rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

TOLL FREE CONSUMER HOTLINE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 447) to establish a toll free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 447

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLL FREE NUMBER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—If the Secretary of Commerce determines, on the basis of comments submitted in rulemaking under section 2, that—

(1) interest among manufacturers is sufficient to warrant the establishment of a 3-year toll free number pilot program, and

(2) manufacturers will provide fees under section 2(c) so that the program will operate without cost to the Federal Government,

the Secretary shall establish such program solely to help inform consumers whether a product is made in America or the equivalent thereof. The Secretary shall publish the toll-free number by notice in the Federal Register.

(b) CONTRACT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract for—

(1) the establishment and operation of the toll free number pilot program provided for in subsection (a), and

(2) the registration of products pursuant to regulations issued under section 2, which shall be funded entirely from fees collected under section 2(c).

(c) USE.—The toll free number shall be used solely to inform consumers as to whether products are registered under section 2 as made in America or the equivalent thereof. Consumers shall also be informed that registration of a product does not mean—

(1) that the product is endorsed or approved by the Government,

(2) that the Secretary has conducted any investigation to confirm that the product is a product which meets the definition of made in America or the equivalent thereof, or

(3) that the product contains 100 percent United States content.

SEC. 2. REGISTRATION.

(a) PROPOSED REGULATION.—The Secretary of Commerce shall propose a regulation—

(1) to establish a procedure under which the manufacturer of a product may voluntarily register such product as complying with the definition of a product made in America or the equivalent thereof and have such product included in the information available through the toll free number established under section 1(a);

(2) to establish, assess, and collect a fee to cover all the costs (including start-up costs) of registering products and including registered products in information provided under the toll-free number;

(3) for the establishment under section 1(a) of the toll-free number pilot program; and

(4) to solicit views from the private sector concerning the level of interest of manufacturers in registering products under the terms and conditions of paragraph (1).

(b) PROMULGATION.—If the Secretary determines based on the comments on the regulation proposed under subsection (a) that the toll-free number pilot program and the registration of products is warranted, the Secretary shall promulgate such regulations.

(c) REGISTRATION FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Manufacturers of products included in information provided under section 1 shall be subject to a fee imposed by the Secretary of Commerce to pay the cost of registering products and including them in information provided under subsection (a).

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of fees imposed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) in the case of a manufacturer, not be greater than the cost of registering the manufacturer's product and providing product information directly attributable to such manufacturer, and

(B) in the case of the total amount of fees, not be greater than the total amount appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for salaries and expenses directly attributable to registration of manufacturers and having products included in the information provided under section 1(a).

(3) CREDITING AND AVAILABILITY OF FEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Fees collected for a fiscal year pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be credited to the appropriation account for salaries and expenses of the Secretary of Commerce and shall be available in accordance with ap-

propriation Acts until expended without fiscal year limitation.

(B) COLLECTIONS AND APPROPRIATION ACTS.—The fees imposed under paragraph (1)—

(i) shall be collected in each fiscal year in an amount equal to the amount specified in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year, and

(ii) shall only be collected and available for the costs described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 3. PENALTY.

Any manufacturer of a product who knowingly registers a product under section 2 which is not made in America or the equivalent thereof—

(1) shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$7500 which the Secretary of Commerce may assess and collect, and

(2) shall not offer such product for purchase by the Federal Government.

SEC. 4. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) The term "made in America or the equivalent thereof", with respect to a product, has the meaning given such term for purposes of laws administered by the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) The term "product" means a product with a retail value of at least \$250.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act or in any regulation promulgated under section 2 shall be construed to alter, amend, modify, or otherwise affect in any way, the Federal Trade Commission Act or the opinions, decisions, rules, or any guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission regarding the use of the term "made in America or the equivalent thereof" in labels on products introduced, delivered for introduction, sold, advertised, or offered for sale in commerce.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY].

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 447, a bill to establish a toll free number in the Department of Commerce to assist consumers in determining if products are American-made. This bill, introduced by my colleague from Ohio, Mr. TRAFICANT, was passed unanimously by the House during the 103d Congress, but unfortunately was never passed by the Senate.

The legislation reflects the bipartisan consensus reached in the 103d Congress that a toll free number which would provide consumers with information on products "made in America" would be a significant benefit, but that any such program should be funded by manufacturers and not taxpayers. Thus, the bill directs the Secretary of Commerce to canvass industry to determine the level of interest in establishing this kind of toll free number. If the Secretary determines that there is interest among manufacturers of domestic products sufficient to provide private sector funding, then the Secretary is directed to contract out the operation of the line to an organization that would charge a fee for listing

products as "made in America" and providing this information to consumers.

This legislation protects the American taxpayer from the threat of another program which drains the Treasury with limited benefit to the taxpayers. If there is sufficient interest on the part of manufacturers who would pay the operating costs, the program goes forward; if not, then it doesn't. Either way, the taxpayer is no worse off than before.

As some of my colleagues may be aware, the Federal Trade Commission is the agency charged with enforcing unfair or deceptive advertising of products as "made in America." About 1 year ago, the FTC began an effort to reexamine its decades-old standard of what constituted "made in America." The Commission is currently awaiting a staff recommendation on what changes—if any—are necessary in the FTC's "made in American" standard.

When Mr. TRAFICANT appeared before my subcommittee 2 months ago, he testified that he had no objection to ensuring that the definition of "made in America" used in the bill reflected the extensive work that the Federal Trade Commission has completed on this subject. The subcommittee later approved an amendment to ensure that the definition of "made in America" used for purposes of this toll free number is consistent with the definition used by the FTC, both now and in the future. This is part of an ongoing effort of the Commerce Committee to simplify definitions and statutes within its jurisdiction, in order to better allow average citizens to understand the law.

This legislation would establish an important service for consumers paid for by the manufacturers that it benefits. This is legislation which is simultaneously pro-consumer and pro-industry. But most importantly, it is 100 percent pro-American.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to bring this legislation to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 447, a bill to establish a toll free information service to assist consumers in identifying American-made products. With the very worthy goal of increasing the availability of information regarding American-made products on the market, this bill has real potential to aid the public in making purchases that most directly support the American economy.

H.R. 447 is a good bill that every Member can support. It simply requires the Commerce Department to assess private sector interest in a toll free service that consumers could use to determine which products on the market are made in America. This assessment is important because the program, if established, will be fully funded by modest fees imposed on manufacturers

who register their products for the service.

If the Secretary of Commerce finds that sufficient interest in the service does exist, the bill directs the Department to facilitate its creation by contracting out implementation of the program. Finally, because the toll free service will provide information on products made in the United States, this legislation maintains consistency with the Federal Trade Commission by applying the Commission's standard for such designation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. TRAFICANT, for developing this legislation. H.R. 447 appeals to Members on both sides of the aisle because it proposes to promote American-made products while aiding American consumers. This is a good piece of legislation, and as ranking minority member on the Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, I urge my colleagues in the House to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by thanking the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY], my colleague, who is not only one of the great Members, but now a great chairman, for taking the time to consider this legislation, and also my classmate and dear friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] from Queens. And I say to the gentleman, "Archie Bunker, I think, was your constituent, and Woody Allen would even support this. So we go from the real extremes on both sides because I think it's a good piece of legislation."

As my colleagues know, I do not think there is any secret to the fact that I opposed NAFTA and GATT, and I still believe that we have sent and shipped jobs overseas; they continue to go overseas. I do not know how many read and follow up on trade statistics. Japan is over \$6 billion surplus; China is creeping in, now approaching \$40 billion surplus in trade with America. We had a \$2 billion surplus with Mexico several short years ago. It is projected to be a \$20 billion deficit this year. Canada is approaching \$16 billion trade surplus with America.

So look, just beam me up. I do not know who is calling all these shots, and everybody has all these rosy pictures. I am an old quarterback who looks at the scoreboard, and I think we are losing. We have done nothing.

This is a very common sense message that basically says maybe the American people can get energized by becoming aware and realizing the importance of buying products made by American workers who get an American paycheck who pay American taxes who keep this American train coming down the track. H.R. 447 does that. What it says:

If a family in Chicago is going to buy a refrigerator, they can call that 1-800

number and say: Hey, look, is there still a refrigerator left that is made in America; and, if so, what is the model number?

My colleagues might be surprised that there is not a television, typewriter, VCR, or telephone now that is made in our country.

I am hoping that the Commerce Department is energized by this legislation and moves hard to assess not only the consumer information of the public, but my goal, which is to energize the American consumer to shop, to literally ask when they are shopping, what is made in America?

So with that I want to thank again the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY]; I want to thank the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON]. I would hope that we get the other body moving on this legislation. I think it is some alternative, and by God, if we cannot get it done, maybe the American consumer will do something.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, having no more requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman OXLEY and the ranking member, Mr. MANTON.

As the author of H.R. 447, I am honored and pleased that the bill has—once again—made it to the House floor. The bill establishes a toll-free, 1-800 number for consumers to get information on products made in America.

H.R. 447 is identical to legislation approved by the House in the last Congress. Unfortunately, the other body never acted on the bill and it died at the end of the 103d Congress.

H.R. 447 directs the Commerce Department to canvass American companies to gauge their interest in participating in a 1-800 Buy American Program. After determining that there's sufficient interest, the bill directs the Department to contract out the program.

Under an amendment adopted by the Commerce Committee, the bill would rely on the Federal Trade Commission to define an American-made product based on a forthcoming determination on standards for "Made in the USA" labels.

Only those products with a sale price of \$250 or more would be included in the program. The bill would subject any companies providing false information to Federal penalties.

One of the key components of H.R. 447 is that the program would be self-financed through the imposition of a modest annual registration fee on participating companies.

The bill will not require the Commerce Department to hire more people or create a new unit. The program will be contracted out and run by a private company.

When making a big purchase, most Americans want to buy American. The bill will help them make an informed and patriotic decision.

H.R. 447 makes good, common sense. I urge my colleagues to support it.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 447.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 447, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered as withdrawn.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3553) to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to authorize appropriations for the Federal Trade Commission.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 25 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57c) is amended by striking "and not to exceed" and inserting "not to exceed" and by inserting before the period the following: "; not to exceed \$107,000,000 for fiscal year 1997; and not to exceed \$111,000,000 for fiscal year 1998".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. MANTON] each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. OXLEY].

(Mr. OXLEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3553, the Federal Trade Commission Act of 1996, is a straight 2-year reauthorization of the agency. This legislation, cosponsored by my distinguished subcommittee ranking member, Mr. MANTON, authorizes appropriations of \$107 million in fiscal year 1997 and \$111 million in fiscal year 1998 for the operations of the Federal Trade Commission. These amounts reflect a current services budget for the agency and include no funding for an expansion of activities or personnel.

Mr. Speaker, I have often taken to this floor to defend the modern FTC. Shortly before the recess, my subcommittee spent several hours with

the Federal Trade Commission discussing their performance over the past few years and their plans for the future. I am pleased to say that under the leadership of FTC Chairman Pitofsky, and former Chairwoman Steiger, this agency has come a long way toward rehabilitating its tarnished image and I feel justified in coming to its defense. The agency today is one which is constantly reviewing old orders, rules, and guidance in an effort to eliminate confusing and outdated regulations. The agency is about half the size it was during the late 1970's, but now is effectively reviewing an unprecedented number of mergers. In short, this agency is doing more with less, and doing it smarter.

Further, the agency has continued to protect consumers from the fraudulent activities of criminals who masquerade as legitimate businessmen. For instance, the FTC, working with other Federal, State and local law enforcement officials, has spearheaded the effort to eliminate telemarketing fraud that the House began when it passed the Telemarketing Fraud Act in the 103d Congress. The agency has played an instrumental role in a number of sweeps conducted by law enforcement officials, including the recent "Operation Senior Sentinel" sweep which shut down a number of fraudulent telemarketing operations aimed at our senior citizens and resulted in numerous arrests across the county.

This agency should serve as a model to other Federal regulatory agencies in terms of how to accomplish their fundamental missions in an era of dwindling resources. I urge my colleagues to support this agency by casting a "yes" vote for this simple, straightforward legislation.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3553, the Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act of 1996. I was pleased to join the chairman of the Commerce, Trade, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, Mr. OXLEY, in introducing this legislation and I am equally pleased to participate in its passage today on the floor. This is good, bipartisan legislation that authorizes funding for the FTC through fiscal year 1998.

As one of the country's oldest independent agencies, the FTC fulfills an extremely important mission for the American people by protecting consumers from unfair or deceptive advertising and marketing practices, while also protecting business and industry from unfair methods of competition. The Commission has responsibilities under approximately 30 separate laws, in addition to numerous trade regulations and rules governing specific industries and practices. Under the leadership of Chairman Pitofsky, and his

predecessor, Janet Steiger, the FTC has done consistently good work while striving for continuous improvement in its operations.

H.R. 3553 furthers the commitment to the FTC that was demonstrated during the 103d Congress with the passage of the Federal Trade Commission Amendments of 1994 and the Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act. After a lapse in authorization of 14 years, these bills reestablished the important congressional role in addressing the responsibilities and authority of the FTC. The process of reauthorizing the FTC through this bill before us, afforded another opportunity to take a close look at the Commission's activities and evaluate its recent performance.

Over the past few years, the FTC has had significant success through enforcement activities directed particularly at telemarketing and credit fraud. In the area of telemarketing fraud alone, the FTC has brought over 100 enforcement actions against fraudulent business operations since the beginning of the year, potentially saving consumers many millions of dollars.

Also noteworthy, in these times of fewer available dollars for Federal activities, the Commission has bolstered its enforcement resources by teaming with State and other Federal agencies in pursuit of its mission. And finally, the Commission's efforts to streamline its operations through internal review of its own rules, orders, and administrative guidance with the goal of eliminating obsolete measures and improved efficiency has been substantial and should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3553 is a clean reauthorization bill that provides sufficient funding to ensure that the FTC has the resources it needs to fulfill its mission. I want to thank Chairman OXLEY for his efforts in bringing this bill to the House floor today and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. TAUZIN].

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, and congratulate the chairman of the subcommittee for an excellent bill, and the ranking minority member for the cooperation that has brought this forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise mainly to express some concern regarding activities that the FTC is now engaged in reviewing and approving the Time Warner-Turner broadcast merger proposal. The concern is one that is shared by quite a number of people, particularly those living in rural areas serviced by small cable companies. The concern has to do with the question of whether or not those consumers living in areas, particularly rural areas serviced by small cable companies, will have access to programming that this Congress has so