

The point of order is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York [Mr. McNULTY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1086. An act to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code;

H.R. 1787. An act to assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants;

H.R. 2731. An act for the relief of Roy Desmond Moser; and

H.R. 2732. An act for the relief of John Andre Chalot.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 497. An act to repeal the Federal charter of Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., and for other purposes; and

H.R. 867. An act to promote the adoption of children in foster care.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1026) "An act to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States."

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and concurrent resolutions of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 508. An act to provide for the relief of Mai Hoa "Jasmin" Salehi;

S. 759. An act to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress concerning diplomatic immunity;

S. 857. An act for the relief of Roma Salobrit;

S. 1193. An act to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the authorization of the aviation insurance program, and for other purposes;

S. 1258. An act to amend the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 to prohibit an alien who is not lawfully present in the United States from receiving assistance under that Act;

S. 1304. An act for the relief of Belinda McGregor;

S. 1347. An act to permit the city of Cleveland, Ohio, to convey certain lands that the United States conveyed to the city;

S. 1487. An act to establish a National Voluntary Mutual Reunion Registry;

S. Con. Res. 58. Concurrent resolution expressing the concern of Congress over Russia's newly passed religion law; and

S. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 399.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. SOLOMON. Madam Speaker, I would like to announce the intentions to call up the following bills under suspension today:

S. 714, Homeless Veterans;

S. 1139, Small Business;

H.R. 1129, Microcredit;

H. Con. Res. 22, Scientology;

H. Con. Res. 239, Expo 2000;

H. Res. 245, Elections in Sahara;

H. Con. Res. 156, Afghanistan Women;

H.R. 1377, SAVER Act;

H.R. 2920, Immigration Deadline;

S. 1231, U.S. Fire Administration;

H.R. 112, Stanislaus County;

H.R. 1805, Auburn Indian Restoration;

H.R. 2402, Water-Related Technical

Corrections;

H.R. 2283, Arches National Park;

S. 669, Jimmy Carter Historic Site;

H.R. 2834, Cleveland Airport Transfer;

H.R. 2626, Pilot Records Improvement;

H.R. 849, Uniform Relocation;

H.R. 2476, Foreign Irlene Family; and

H.R. 1502 James Foreman Courthouse.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, reserving the right to object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York is only making an announcement pursuant to House Resolution 305.

Mr. SOLOMON. Madam Speaker, if I might continue:

H.R. 861, Adoption;

S. 1026, Ex-Im Bank Conference Report;

H.R. 2472, EPCA; and

The FDA Commerce Report.

And one final bill, Madam Speaker, and one final bill, S. 1258.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members on each side for 1 minutes. There will be ten 1-minutes on each side.

LET US STICK TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, last week President Clinton told the voters of Virginia, the ones who supported repealing the car tax, that they were selfish.

Well, excuse me, Mr. President, but maybe you have forgotten what the Declaration of Independence says. It says that all men are created equal and they have certain inalienable rights, and among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I find it remarkable that anyone would not notice that liberty and the pursuit of happiness both apply to the idea of who gets to decide what to do with their money. That is really the point. This is not a question of selfishness, but whether and who will decide how to spend their money.

Conservatives emphasize that people are the best judge of how their money should be spent, whereas liberals tend to think that politicians are a superior judge of how and where the money should be spent, especially if they, the liberals, are positively excited about spending the people's money to carry out social engineering plans.

As for me, I think I will stick with the original intent of the American Declaration of Independence.

STAND UP FOR AMERICA: DEFEAT FAST TRACK

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, since the passage of NAFTA, NAFTA has contributed to numerous workplace, economic and environmental problems, including an increase in the import of contaminated food, downward pressure on United States wages, employer threats to move to Mexico, and a skyrocketing trade deficit.

Fast-track has failed to address any of those problems. First of all, with respect to our trade deficit growth and the loss of jobs, fast-track takes no action on that, no improvement, fails to address it.

Second, there is pressure to lower U.S. wages, and there is lowering of wages going on in this country in manufacturing because of NAFTA. Fast-track fails to address that.

Third, since NAFTA, we have had employer threats to move to NAFTA partner countries. The fast-track agreement fails to take action on that and fails to address it.

Unless we address these critical problems in fast-track, the NAFTA problems will spread like a virus through North America and the world. We need higher standards for our wages, for our workers and for our countries. Stand up for America; defeat fast-track.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL LANSFORD E. TRAPP

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Maj. Gen. Lansford Trapp. Most know General

Trapp as the director of the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office. I know the general as a fellow South Dakotan and a fine soldier.

The good news is that General Trapp has been selected as the next commander of the 12th Air Force. The bad news is that Congress is losing a great legislative liaison, not to mention another fine person from the Rushmore State.

Through the past 28 years, General Trapp has served in the Air Force with honor and distinction. He is a command pilot with over 3,000 flying hours. In Southeast Asia he flew over 700 combat hours and later commanded our air wing in Panama during Operation Just Cause. He has held 5 commanding positions, which is a real tribute to his leadership capabilities.

I would like to think that General Trapp's dedication to service and loyalty to his troops was instilled as a boy growing up in South Dakota. It was there where he attended South Dakota State on a ROTC scholarship, and where his parents and family still reside. I think he is also a product of the U.S. Air Force. The combination has produced an excellent commander that our Nation can be proud of.

I can think of no person more qualified to lead and care for our men and women than Gen. Lanny Trapp. To him, his wife Nancy and daughter Bethany, we wish God's blessing and Godspeed.

NEW TRADE POLICY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, the proponents of fast track would have us believe today's legislative battle is about whether or not the United States will trade. This is not about a battle between protection as free traders, but rather a struggle over the conditions of that trade and who will benefit from that trade. On one side, the President, the entire administration, the Republican leadership, and a fleet of corporate CEO's who have actually been given office space right downstairs in the Capitol in violation of the House rules.

On our side, 80 percent of the Democrats and a small group of Republicans. We think it is time to overhaul our failing trade policy, a policy that has brought \$160 billion trade deficits, exported jobs, driven down wages, weakened our environmental and food safety laws, all in the name of free trade. A policy that undermines our values to encourage a race to the bottom; enriching a few multinational corporations and their CEO's at the expense of the majority of American workers and communities.

"No" to the threats, "no" to the silent promises, "no" to the legal campaign bribery, "no" to fast track, and "yes" to the beginnings of a new trade policy that benefits all Americans.

TIME FOR IRS REFORM

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

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, the American people recently saw the IRS on trial. They saw a parade of witnesses come before the Congress to testify about the naked abuse of power over at the Internal Revenue Service. We saw current and former IRS agents who had to testify in secret because they feared for their lives. We saw ordinary citizens, taxpayers, who talked about how an audit turned their entire lives upside down, with some of them suffering great financial loss that will never be recovered. We saw a government agency totally out of control, lacking accountability, an agency where one is guilty until proven innocent.

Madam Speaker, the IRS needs radical reform. This House has taken great steps to begin that process, and we look forward to the other body and the White House to join us in this effort to reform the Internal Revenue Service, which is an agency of intimidation rather than enforcement.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT FAST TRACK

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, let us tell it like it is. The last fast track traded Ma Bell for Taco Bell. Today's fast track will trade more American jobs and dollars and factories to all of Central America for a '48 Ford pickup truck, two loads of pinto beans and three ballplayers to be named later. Beam me up.

In addition, I predict we will get another 25 tons of heroin, another 35 tons of cocaine, and a lot more economic development in the form of prisons, I say to my colleagues. Let us have a little straight talk. "This dog don't hunt. Pull this turkey."

I yield back the balance of any jobs we have left.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATION CONFERENCE REPORT

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to point out to the House a piece of legislation that I am sure will be passed tonight or in the morning in the wee hours when a lot of people are not paying much attention, and that is the foreign operations appropriations conference report.

I would like to point out that buried in this report is a \$3.5 billion new program called the new agreements to borrow, further funding for the IMF. These are the funds that will be used to bail

out Third World nations and also bail out bankers and industries that have invested in these nations such as in Mexico or Indonesia.

This is considered not to be expensive because of our special accounting procedure here, it is not on budget. It is supposed to be for free. But let me call my colleagues' attention to this: new agreements to borrow, IMF, new funding in the foreign operations bill report. This is inflationary, it is detrimental to the dollar, and it is subsidizing foreign interests as well as special banking and industrial interests here.

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AMERICA NEEDS RECIPROCITY, NOT DUPLICITY, IN TRADE

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, the supporters of fast track never discuss the massive trade imbalance which grows every year, never. This reflects job loss in America. The supporters are good, very good, at denigrating organized labor's efforts to defeat fast track. Organized labor has a vested interest. The jobs of members in various unions and the jobs in nonunion workplaces are at stake.

Why is their effort a special interest, and the expenditures of millions by multinational corporations simply "in the best interests of the American economy?" How can some Members of this House who vehemently defend the sovereignty of our Nation with foreign powers now surrender the oversight of the trade deal implementation to the World Trade Organization?

The WTO has just ruled in favor of Costa Rica and India on textile matters. What are we doing for our own sovereignty? Why sell us out again? Reciprocity, Mr. President, reciprocity, Mr. Speaker, not duplicity. Vote "no" on fast track.

COALGATE IN UTAH

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to inform my Members about Coalgate; no, not the toothpaste or the university, but another campaign scandal. In the heat of the 1996 campaign, President Clinton created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, which consisted of more than 1.7 million acres of land, an area larger than the State of Delaware.

The White House claims this monument was needed to protect one of the most pristine areas in America. However, I would contend that 62 billion tons of low-sulfur coal reserve was the real reason for this designation. The