the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2094, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title.

H.J. Res. 133. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, and pursuant to the provisions of Section 703 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 903, as amended by Section 103 of Public Law 103–296, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment of the following member to the Social Security Advisory Board to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Jo Anne Barnhart, Arlington, Virginia.

There was no objection.

SUPPORT THE U.S. STEEL JOBS PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I am introducing today the U.S. Steel Jobs Protection Act, a bill with already 10 bipartisan cosponsors. This bill imposes an immediate 1-year ban on hot-rolled steel from Japan, Brazil, and Russia.

Our trade partners, knowing the slowness of the petition process, have dumped millions of tons of below-cost steel on the U.S. market. Thousands of permanent U.S. jobs will be lost by the time the petition process concludes.

The U.S. steel industry mass modernized and cut production man-hours per ton from 10 to three. This strong, by temporary, action must be taken if we are to be serious about helping families who work for the steel industry.

We urge support for the bill and strongly urge the President to take immediate action to help America's steelworkers.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing ''The U.S. Steel Jobs Protection Act,'' a bill with ten bipartisan cosponsors. Currently, U.S. steel producers are in a crisis due to outrageously unfair conditions. Membership in the World Trade Organization, and signing onto the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) implies a willingness to abide by fair trading practices in order to avoid what some call trade wars.

Unfortunately, a number of countries experiencing severe financial crisis have knowingly allowed their steel companies to export steel to the United States at a cost far below their own domestic market price or even below the cost of production. While I understand the need for income by these countries, I do not condone what at best is a reckless disregard for the effect that such exports have on workers in our steel industry.

Since the 1980's, our steel industry has modernized and streamlined. In 1982, it cost roughly 10 man hours per ton to produce U.S. steel. In 1998, the average is below 4 MHPT. The U.S. steel industry has invested over $50 billion in steel plant modernization over the past two decades. The industry employed 425,000 in 1980, and 160,000 in 1998. The U.S. steel industry forecasts that imports of hot-rolled steel in 1998 will be over 500 percent of that imported in 1995. According to industry analysts, some foreign steel is being sold at one-third the cost of production, or more. Clearly, the U.S. steel industry has done its part.

No business can long withstand that kind of assault. I wish that a gentle call to our foreign trading partners for reasonable action would suffice. I am afraid that we are way beyond that point, however. U.S. companies and unions filing a petition for relief from unfair trade practices know that they must wait until severe financial damage is evident for their petition to be acted upon with any urgency. Even then, the best they can hope for is a partial resolution in 160 days. Such cases usually take 12 to 18 months. The current crisis in the steel industry is too great for that kind of wait.

My bill imposes an immediate, temporary moratorium on the further import of certain steel products from three countries—Japan, Russia, and Brazil—for 1 year. Upon completion of the case filed September 30, 1998, duties may be assessed on all steel dumped at a below-cost price retroactive to one year prior the filing of the petition. Should this bill become law, that 1-year retroactive aspect would also apply to any other petitions naming other countries engaged in similar steel-dumping practices.

I realize that there are some concerns about our obligations under the GATT agreements and as a member of the WTO. I agree that we should keep our word and treat all of our trading partners fairly. I also believe that our first obligation as Members of the federal government is to protect the citizens of the United States. What we are currently experiencing is not a minor misunderstanding, or a cultural difference in economic practices. We are the victim of a deliberate action which is harming our domestic steel industry.

Not defending ourselves in this situation is akin to unilateral disarmament while being fired upon. My suggestion of a temporary import ban is not a strike back; it is a recovery period from a battle in which we are wounded. If you believe that membership in the WTO and accepting GATT overrides all U.S. federal laws, historical precedents, constitutional authority, and the moral duty of the federal government to its citizens, I wish you would please come to Gadsden, Alabama and explain that to the 150 or so families who have lost their income, or will lose it within a few weeks.

Please explain to the remaining 2000+ steel industry employees that they must sacrifice their jobs to outrageously unfair trade practices so that we can stabilize the governments and economies of other nations. I don't think they will understand. Nor, frankly, will I.

If our neighbors, our foreign allies need help, let us discuss in a reasonable and straightforward manner on this House floor a plan specific to each country regarding how we might help them—and by that I do not mean throwing away billions of dollars to the IMF board, who have no idea where billions of dollars recently sent to Russia have ended up.

I would like to see this bill become law. I would like to see the President take a serious look at his authority under various U.S. trade laws and take action himself to impose a temporary import ban so that the industry might have a period in which to recover. If our trading partners do not like these suggestions, the solution is easy. Let them admit to the wrongness of their actions, and present to the President a serious plan for halting or slowing imports and making reparations directly to the U.S. steel industry.

The United States of America is strong, and generous. Let us help our friends abroad, but let us stop sacrificing U.S. jobs in what amounts to an unfunded, unauthorized, program of foreign aid.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Mrs. ROUKEMA addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

(Ms. HARMON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LABORERS' REFORM EFFORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SNOWBARGER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) is recognized for 10 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, Clarence Darrow said, ''With all their faults, trade unions have done more for humanity than any other organization of men that ever existed. They have done more for decency, for honesty, for education, for the betterment of the race, for the developing of character in men than any other association of men.''

The labor movement has played a vital role in making this country what it is today. Only 65 years ago the basic right to retire was beyond the means of most workers. One worked until one was physically unable to work anymore. Workers even when they were employed could barely support their families on a day-to-day basis. The prospect of being able to save enough money to retire, or buy a home or send a child to college was for most workers nonexistent. The fact that this is no longer the case is in large part a measure of the success of the labor movement.

The successes achieved by the labor movement did not come easily. Most worker rights were bitterly opposed by employers and their political allies. Moreover, labor's opponents have never been satisfied with merely opposing policies pursued on behalf of workers. More typically labor's opponents attack the very fabric of trade unionism. In doing so, they directly attack the well-being of working families.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another attack that has been launched against the labor movement. In the American Spectator, in the Weekly Standard and on the editorial pages of the Wall Street Journal, charge after charge has been leveled against the Laborers' International Union. The reform efforts that the Laborers' have undertaken and the consent decree under which the union is operating have been assaulted.

Mr. Speaker, these articles regularly sling stupefying charges of continued mob control of the union by a recognized crime family without providing a shred of evidence or on-the-record attribution for allegations made. The common feature of these articles is that they make absolutely no mention of the real progress that has been made to ensure that the Laborers' is a democratic union controlled by and operated for the benefit of rank-and-file members.

Today there is an effort under way at the Laborers' Union that represents one of the most innovative, cost-effective programs ever undertaken to rid a union of mob influence. The reform effort is still a work in progress. It is premature to render judgment regarding its ultimate success. However, Mr. Speaker, the progress that has been made is truly impressive. To ignore, misrepresent or dismiss it is not just disingenuous but may deny workers and the government a model for the future that does a better job of promoting and protecting union democracy than other means that we have tried in the past.

Corruption in the Laborers' Union was investigated for decades, with little to show for the effort. Finally, the U.S. Justice Department informed the union that it would take legal action to take control of the union just as it had done with the Teamsters Union.

The union and its leaders facing this critical decision and knowing how serious the problem was could have chosen