

who are killed or permanently and totally disabled as the result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.”.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LEGISLATION
TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUS-
PENSION OF THE RULES

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 589, I hereby give notice that the following suspensions will be considered today:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 120, Eney, Chestnut, Gibson Memorial Building; and Senate Concurrent Resolution 83, remembering the contributions of George Washington to the Nation.

REGARDING STEEL IMPORTS

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 598) calling on the President to take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 598

Whereas the current financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions have involved massive depreciation in the currencies of several key steel-producing and steel consuming countries, along with a collapse in the domestic demand for steel in these countries;

Whereas the crises have generated and will continue to generate surges in United States imports of steel, both from the countries whose currencies have depreciated in the crisis and from steel producing countries that are no longer able to export steel to the countries in economic crisis;

Whereas United States imports of finished steel mill products from Asian steel producing countries—the People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia—have increased by 79 percent in the first 5 months of 1998 compared to the same period in 1997;

Whereas year-to-date imports of steel from Russia now exceed the record import levels of 1997, and steel imports from Russia and Ukraine now approach 2,500,000 net tons;

Whereas foreign government trade restrictions and private restraints of trade distort international trade and investment patterns and result in burdens on United States commerce, including absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade;

Whereas the European Union, for example, despite also being a major economy, in 1997 imported only one-tenth as much finished steel products from Asian steel producing countries as the United States did and has restricted imports of steel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia;

Whereas the United States is simultaneously facing a substantial increase in steel imports from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, caused in part by the closure of Asian markets;

Whereas the United States, through the International Monetary Fund, generously participates in a bailout of the crisis countries on terms that do not deter and in fact encourage them to export their way out of the crisis; and

Whereas there is a well-recognized need for improvements in the enforcement of United States trade laws to provide an effective response to such situations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) in accordance with rule IX, clause 1, of the Rules of the House of Representatives, it is the sense of the House of Representatives that its integrity has been impugned by the failure of the executive branch to expeditiously enforce title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 in response to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions; and

(2) the House of Representatives calls upon the President—

(A) to immediately review, for the 10-day period beginning on the date of the adoption of this resolution, the entry into the customs territory of the United States of all steel products that are the product or manufacture of Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, or Brazil;

(B) if, after the 10-day period described in subparagraph (A), the President finds that the Governments of Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, or Brazil are not abiding by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States, to immediately impose a 1-year ban on the imports of all steel products that are the product or manufacture of Australia, China, South Africa, Ukraine, Indonesia, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea, or Brazil;

(C) to establish a task force within the executive branch to closely monitor imports of steel products into the United States from other countries to determine whether or not international trade agreements are being violated; and

(D) not later than January 5, 1999, to report to Congress on any other actions the President has taken, or intends to take, to ensure that all trading partners of the United States abide by the spirit and letter of international trade agreements with respect to imports of steel products into the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) and ask that he be allowed to further yield that time.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution, House Resolution 598, now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1½ minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 598. This resolution calls on the administration to act. That is exactly what this issue really boils down to. We in Congress can look at this issue all we want, but without the administration enforcing the laws that we pass, it will be for naught.

This resolution is in response to the crisis facing the U.S. steel industry. But it is not just steel. It is not just the 100,000 jobs that are directly related to the steel industry that may be affected by this growing crisis. It is also about the many other industries that may similarly face import challenges that will arise from the financial crises around the world. This issue is not about protectionism. On a level playing field, American steel producers can compete with anyone in the world. The real issue is whether we are prepared to regard with indifference the wholesale dumping of subsidized and devalued foreign steel products into our domestic market and whether our basic industries are allowed to compete in a marketplace with rules, or a Hobbesian state of nature.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution as a means to send a powerful message to our trading partners that Congress will not tolerate predatory trading practices and a strong message to the Clinton administration that the time has come for concrete action to protect American jobs.

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in opposition to H. Res. 598 which calls upon the President to impose an import ban on steel products from 11 steel producing countries. While I support using our trade laws to address the question of whether steel is being traded unfairly resulting in injury to the U.S. industry and its workers, I oppose H. Res. 598 because it would circumvent this established process in violation of our obligations in the World Trade Organization.

The normal procedure provided under law for U.S. industries to seek relief from dumped imports begins with the domestic industry filing an antidumping petition with the Commerce Department. The law in this area has been developed in compliance with U.S. obligations in the Antidumping Code under the WTO.

H. Res. 598 not only violates the procedures established under U.S. law for making dumping determinations, it calls for action, specifically an outright import ban, that is well beyond the remedy prescribed in this situation. The action proposed by H. Res. 598 would make us vulnerable to challenge in the WTO and possible retaliation by our trading partners against U.S. exports in their own markets, a completely counterproductive result. Moreover, noncompliance with our own antidumping procedures makes it more difficult for us to convince our trading partners not to erect arbitrary barriers