

are either going to have direct satellite broad band services provided by the United States or they are going to expand the cellular industry, hopefully provided by us. But if we are not there to negotiate, they will get it. But guess who will be providing it? Our competitors. Because we are just not at the table.

I want at least mention one other thing in this environment, especially with the international arena that we are in today. We are asking our friends, some staunch allies, some good allies and some who have not been very good allies of ours in the last couple years, to come to the plate and help us fight international terrorism. They are making sacrifices. They are giving us intelligence, they are working with us on basing, they are providing us maybe soldiers, transport, and the like. How can we tell these people who are asking for help that we do not want to sit down and trade with them, we do not want to negotiate with them, we do not want to strike a deal with them, we do not want to be on a level playing field and work out and both benefit from increased trade?

I just find it very, very sad that in this environment, when we are asking our international allies to be there for us, I am afraid we are not willing to be there for them in international trade.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would think this is about the worst possible time to isolate America. It could not come at a worse time, and yet the vote tomorrow will really be between those who embrace competition and new jobs and those who fear it and those who want to open America. What is our strongest export? Freedom. It will be between those who want to export our freedoms and those I think who want to build walls and isolate us. It is a very clear choice that really rarely happens here on Capitol Hill.

But there are just tens of thousands of jobs at stake in my community and in the gentleman's as well.

□ 1945

I do not want to be self-promoting on my biography, but I was a former teacher, a history teacher.

Major world conflicts: Why did many of them evolve? Trade barriers were increased and countries wanted to go after raw materials which they could not negotiate through low tariffs, so they built up armies and they went to get it.

Whether it was the World War II experiences or the Japanese in Southeast Asia, Hitler going in to get the gas in the Soviet Union, you name it, a lot of things occurred and a lot of wars are fought because there are the haves and there are the have-nots.

Trade will help everyone get a bite at the apple, and everyone will benefit through the growth and the experience.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Illinois will accept praise for his role in job creation for Illinois, for America, I would like to offer it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of our Committee on Rules, but really, perhaps, the premier free trader in America, for his comments.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding to me, and I want to congratulate both the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for taking out this important time.

Let me just say that I appreciate, as I said, the compliment; but I am one of a long line of people who really see this correctly. I do believe that we are on the verge of facing what clearly will be one of the most important votes certainly of the new millennium, and it is not that old, but the vote that we are going to be casting tomorrow will lay the groundwork for the extraordinary role that the United States of America will be playing in leading not only the issue of trade but the cause of freedom, political pluralism, and democracy worldwide.

That is really what this has come down to in many ways, Mr. Speaker, is a vote of whether or not the United States will in fact step up to the plate and once again assume that rightful place which, unfortunately, has been greatly diminished since 1994 when we saw this very important, what we used to call Fast Track negotiating authority, which was really a misnomer, now correctly labeled Trade Promotion Authority.

The reason is, and I am sure that we have heard this over and over again, with the signing of the U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement just very recently, we now are a party to three of the 133 trade agreements that have been put together in the last several years.

So we have observed, unfortunately, many countries that historically have not been strong supporters of free trade and the cause of it say that they are going to play this leadership role, and yet the United States of America is the most productive Nation on the face of the Earth; and our workers, our farmers, our businesses are prepared to compete.

All we are going to be saying tomorrow when we have this debate and the vote is: Why do we not pry open new markets which have been limited to us because of tariffs? A tariff is a tax. We are talking about cutting the taxes for consumers so they can have access to U.S. goods and U.S. services.

We have found the benefits of imports here in the United States. They have allowed us to keep inflation down, they have allowed people going to stores to have a decent holiday because they are able to buy products that have come into the United States; and because of imports, the United States of America has become even more productive because of competition that imports have provided here.

Now let us give the President the authority to open up the world to us. As

was said by the great Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, at a news conference we held yesterday, 90 percent of the world's consumers are outside of our borders.

The world economy is about \$40 trillion, and \$10 trillion, a quarter of that, is right here in the United States. But as we see these other countries improve their economies and develop new economic opportunities, they are going to have living standards improved to the point where they are going to be able to buy even more U.S. goods and services.

So that is why we are simply saying the United States Congress, we hope, tomorrow afternoon we will say to the President of the United States that he should go out and negotiate the very best that he possibly can for the American worker, for the American farmer, for America's businesses, for America's consumers, and then come back to us, and we in the House and Senate will make a decision as to whether or not he has negotiated a good agreement. Then we will vote yes or no.

I am here to say, I am proud to stand in this well to say that if the President brings back a bad agreement, I will be proud to lead the charge against that agreement. But if he comes back with a good agreement, an agreement which is going to break down tariff barriers, recognize the importance of environmental quality and worker rights, recognize the importance of enhancing opportunity for U.S. workers, farmers, and businesses, I believe that it will be the right thing for us to do.

So I just would like to say that on the national security front this is the right vote because global leadership and what it is that the President is providing has been heralded by so many people. We have learned that Osama bin Laden has the ability to do one thing and one thing only, and that is to destroy. But I will say that we are the producers, we are the best producers on the face of the Earth, so let us have an opportunity to do that.

I thank my friend for yielding, and I am sorry to have consumed so much of his time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say we should not retreat from fair trade competition, we should insist on it, because competition is America's strength and it is the key to our high-wage and our high-tech future.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KELLER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

THE NEED FOR AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PLAN IN MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus to highlight the immediate need for an economic stimulus plan in the minority communities we represent.

Many minority communities throughout our country have been disadvantaged in various ways throughout our country's history. Historically, Latinos and Latin Americans have had higher rates of unemployment, lower rates of health care coverage, and fewer educational opportunities than do their Anglo counterparts.

Now, I know most Members know what I am talking about here. However, I would ask that my colleagues in this House and in the other body keep in mind these historical facts as we seek to craft a meaningful economic stimulus plan.

My district and those of my colleagues joining me here this evening are in desperate, desperate need of assistance. We need an economic stimulus package now. Although tax cuts have a role in our economic plan, especially ones similar to a bill that I introduced earlier this year that would grant tax rebates to low-income families who did not receive a rebate as a result of the tax cuts that the President enacted, the most important aspect of any economic stimulus plan is unemployment protection.

Latino and African American families in the Los Angeles area, in California, and throughout the country, are being forced to endure the harsh consequences of high, alarmingly high unemployment rates. We know that brings on problems. All I have to do is point out what those current rates are here in my own district and in Los Angeles County.

I would like to point out for my colleagues that in one of the cities that I represent in Los Angeles, in South El Monte, we know at the national level right now the unemployment is at 5.9 or 5.4 percent, and in the city of South El Monte, which is largely minority, it is up to 9.3 percent. In the city that I live in alone, it is 7.6 percent. In other areas that I can point out here where high numbers of minorities live, such as in the city of Baldwin Park, a largely working class blue-collar community, unemployment levels are up to 6.8 percent.

These figures are already dated, and I can tell the Members now in all honesty that these numbers are going to keep going up. These people have not seen the relief that we have talked about in this House. In the economic stimulus plan we passed a few weeks ago, I know that my residents, the people that I represent, have not seen any-

thing that is going to give them the assurance that we in fact are doing our job here in the House to take care of them.

Mr. Speaker, I know that there is much more that we can do. I am also pleased to have join me tonight the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN), the distinguished gentlewoman who is also helping me provide this important information about our minority communities. I know she has a lot to say, and I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman for organizing this Special Order. It is so important that we point out the disparity within the minority community; and I have an old saying, that when America has a cold, African Americans, Hispanics, have pneumonia. That is what we are here today to discuss, what is going on within those communities, and, of course, the economic stimulus package.

First, I just want to take 1 minute to talk about a subject that is very dear to my heart, and that is election reform. We have not had or passed a bill, a fair election reform bill, and that is so close and dear to my heart because of what happened in the last election in my district, the Third Congressional District of Florida, where 27,000 African Americans were disenfranchised.

Mr. Speaker, there is an article that I will include for the RECORD that was written by former President Carter and President Ford on this subject, and I would like to commend the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for their leadership on this issue.

The title of the article is "A Holiday Gift for the Voters," and it talks about the House and the Senate and the administration coming close to passing an election reform bill. That is so needed for the people that were so disenfranchised in the last general election in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentlewoman again for her leadership on this issue, because how minorities have been affected by 9-11 and the economic downturn is something that we need to point out, and we need to move forward as far as how we address these issues.

When we passed the transportation emergency bill for the airlines, we passed \$15 billion for the industry. In the hearings, when the airline executives, the CEOs, the big dogs, when they came to the committee, they indicated to us that they were going to lay off over 100,000 employees.

Mr. Speaker, I did not vote for the bill because nowhere in the bill did we address those over-100,000 people that were going to be laid off. That is the problem with this House, the people's House. That is the problem. The problem is that, and I like this saying, only the big dogs eat here. That means they have to have the big-time lobbyists, and they have to be in with certain people.

But the problem that bothers me is not just that the big dogs eat, it is the only dog that eats. In other words, we are not concerned with the gentlewoman's constituents or my constituents. We were not concerned about those 100,000 people that we laid off, that the industry laid off. I am very concerned about it.

Ms. SOLIS. I also want to point out, Mr. Speaker, this other chart that I have before me. What this indicates here is all the layoffs and different service sectors or industries that have been affected from September 12, 2001, to November 19.

What these figures portray here is, as the gentlewoman and I know, and as the gentlewoman from Florida stated earlier, large segments of our communities, service employees in the airline industry, lost many jobs. They did not receive one penny of that bail-out that was passed by this House.

I, too, did not vote for that legislation because I knew that the workers were not going to receive any type of benefit.

According to this chart, it says in transportation alone over 137,291 jobs were lost in that sector alone. In the hospitality, tourism, and entertainment industry we lost 135,783 jobs.

□ 2000

Communications and utilities, and I do not think I need to remind folks that in California we were hit pretty hard with our energy crisis. We lost 68,671. This is nationally.

In the manufacturing industry, one of the largest segments that has been affected here, 286,717 jobs lost.

In retail trade, that is our small businesses, where people are really striving to try to make a difference, we lost 20,000 jobs.

In the services, 47,000.

In finance, insurance and real estate, 31,000.

In public administration, over 12,000 jobs.

Other jobs, 82,000 jobs.

A total of 747,850 jobs lost that we know of, and this information is being provided to our offices by the AFL-CIO.

I would yield time to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, what stands out most in my mind is that the economic stimulus package that passed this House, that I did not vote for, gave more tax breaks to a certain segment. I call them the country club tax breaks. I say it is the reverse Robin Hood, and we have practiced it ever since a certain group took over this House. What I call it is reverse Robin Hood, robbing from the poor and working people to give tax breaks to the rich country club friends.

I am so happy to say that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), from Chicago, has joined us, and he wants to help us explain to the American people about this, the big dogs controlling this debate.