TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, leadership is only proven through action, and throughout its history the United States has proven itself to be a leader. But as we lead the world in an effort to eradicate terrorism, we risk abdicating our position of leadership in an area that is just as vital to America's well-being and that is international trade.

With more than 130 trade agreements in effect in the world today, it is shocking that in the U.S. we are a party to only three. National security and economic security are not mutually exclusive. Exports strengthen our country by creating jobs and strengthening the economy. The jobs stay here and the exports go overseas. One in 10 Americans work in jobs that depend on exports. One in 10. And those jobs pay between 13 and 18 percent more than the national average.

America must lead in international trade in order to effectively lead the world. Fortunately, 1 week from today, December 6, Congress has a chance to pick up the mantle of leadership by passing trade promotion authority.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting TPA, trade promotion authority.

THE ACCESS AND OPENNESS TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING ACT

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

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that small business is the engine of economic growth in our Nation. As a member of the Committee on Small Business, I have worked with my colleagues in both parties to ensure that access to capital is there for those who need it, especially women and minority-owned businesses. I am pleased to join today the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) in introducing legislation that will allow us to determine if financial institutions are responding to the credit needs of minority- and women-owned businesses. From this data, we will be able to determine what is working and what needs fixing.

This legislation is supported by the National Women's Business Council, the Women's Business Development Centers, the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, and the Hispanic Economic Development Corporation, to name a few.

I look forward to working with the gentleman from Massachusetts and all my colleagues to achieve passage of this important legislation.

URGING ACTION ON A FARM BILL

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I am relatively new here, and I am surprised at the pace at which legislation moves at times. I am particularly amazed that legislation critical to the national well-being is not moving in the other body.

Much has been said about inaction on the economic stimulus package and the energy bill. I would like to call attention this morning to a bill that has gone largely unnoticed and that is the farm bill. The agriculture economy has been in dire straits not for just the past 2 or 3 months, but for the last 5 years. We have been losing thousands of farmers each year, almost no young people are going into agriculture, and three-fourths of U.S. farms rely on off-the-farm income. A new farm bill is critical.

The House farm bill passed this body 3 months ago. A farm bill passed this year will, number one, save thousands of farmers; and, number two, will ensure that we have an adequate budget.

The other body needs to act and needs to act now on several pieces of legislation, but particularly on a farm bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Members are reminded to not urge action or inaction by the other body.

WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, according to UNAIDS, each day 17,000 people die from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria worldwide. While the world's attention is appropriately focused on September 11 and our new war on international terrorism, we cannot ignore this ongoing tragedy. We have a tragedy occurring daily with HIV and AIDS, a tragedy on the scale of the black plague of the Middle Ages. The United States, as has been mentioned earlier, should be putting at least $1 billion in the global fund to fight HIV and AIDS.

In Zimbabwe, for example, AIDS has taken so many lives that agricultural output has decreased by 50 percent in the past 5 years. By 2005 there will be more than 10 million orphan children in Africa. The number of AIDS deaths can be expected to grow within the next 10 years to more than double the number of deaths caused by all other illnesses that we know.

We can do more. We must do more. It is the right thing to do more.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to make the body aware of what I think is a reprehensible act by the nation of Iran in using its state-run newspaper, the Tehran Times, to falsely state what a delegation of Members of Congress accomplished while in the Middle East. In a delegation that I was proud to lead, we went to the Middle East, to Syria, to Lebanon, to Egypt, to Israel and into the Palestine-occupied territories. On that trip, we had occasion to make an address in Lebanon. That address was covered by the Tehran Times and by the Associated Press, Reuters and others.

The Tehran Times chose to say that we had said that the Hezbollah was not a terrorist organization, when nothing could be further from the truth. It has a long history of terrorism, including its leaders having murdered American Marines in 1982, having blown up our embassy, and those leaders are still sought.

To make the record straight, the Associated Press, and I quote, said: ''The delegation's leader DARRELL ISSA, Republican of California, told reporters that for the United States to remove Hezbollah from its list of terrorist organizations, the Lebanese-based group must renounce terrorism.''

Another title: ''Hezbollah Must Renounce Terrorism, says a U.S. Congressman.'' That was from a French newspaper.

And from Reuters: ''U.S. Congressmen Ask Lebanon to Rein in Hezbollah.''

I hope this has set the record straight.

ON RETIREMENT OF HONORABLE EVA CLAYTON

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I learned of the pending retirement from Congress of a great colleague, EVA CLAYTON from North Carolina. I just want to note her tremendous service the last decade of not only in North Carolina but the whole country.

I met EVA when she became president of our freshman class in 1992, and I think it showed the wisdom of our class in 1992 of having elected her to that position, because in the later 10 years, she has really provided great service, always in a very dignified, quiet manner and very successful for her constituents in North Carolina.

I hope during her next 1-minute where she continues her public service talking about our need to deal with the AIDS crisis, we will give her our infinite attention because she has been a great Member for the last decade. I thank Representative CLAYTON for her public service.