

voted on next week unless people contact their representative. Many people will come here and vote and the only contact they will have had is with the lobbyists that are paid for by multinational corporations. Luckily, the leadership has provided us an alternative. I have two pieces of legislation, H.R. 811 and 812, which will be offered on the floor as a substitute, and I would ask my colleagues to vote for my substitute which will be presented, my substitute, the Rohrabacher substitute, to H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act.

If this bill passes, H.R. 400, we can imagine that American inventors will be left open to the greatest theft of our technology in the history of our country. It will impact our standard of living. I am sounding the alarm bell and I hope my colleagues and the people of the United States are listening. We can defeat it but only if Americans act together.

GETTING TOUGH ON IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to step up the heat, if you will, and the pressure on this administration to work with our Immigration Department and ferret out some of the significant problems that exist in that agency. I also call upon them to increase staffing for our Border Patrol agents in the State of Florida. I am reading today in Insight magazine, "Customs Officials Eat Crow at the Border," which details a number of allegations that have been brought forward against border officials in our administration. Serious allegations.

One includes a 3-week period where one of our agents called a known convicted drug trafficker, 207 calls from an agent's home. We also have some claims made by some of our employees that a customs dog handler when attempting to search an 18-wheel tanker was prevented from doing his job. Later that tanker was found to contain nearly 4 tons of cocaine. Meanwhile at the California port of Calexico, immigration investigators, who already have arrested one customs inspector recently on corruption charges, are closing in on a customs secretary who is accused of selling intelligence to Tijuana's drug lords.

Mr. Speaker, if this country is going to be secure from both illegal immigration and the rapid importation increase of illegal drugs, we have got to be able to depend on people who enforce the law as passed by this Congress. It concerns me greatly when we read these reports and we hear allegations of corruption and bribery and people being allowed to bring numerous people into this country illegally.

So I ask this administration, the attorney general, to fully investigate

these allegations, not to sweep them under the rug as alleged by several officers of the Immigration Service. In fact one says, "They're pulling punches." Inspectors at San Ysidro argue punches are being pulled and that several more serious corruption allegations against senior personnel are being buried. You read about what happens to people when they are discovered to have violated the laws of this country. They are moved to a desk assignment, they are transferred, they are offered early retirement. These are serious violations of our laws. These people should not be offered retirement. They should be shown the way to jail.

We have also got to look carefully at what NAFTA has brought us. Recently allegations of tainted strawberries in our school system originating in Mexico. Under Federal law they are not allowed to sell to the school lunch program but somehow once again they have slipped into the process and now our children are being shot for potential hepatitis virus. Tainted strawberries.

Last year we had a scare for raspberries from Guatemala. All along we have said about NAFTA that we are concerned about pesticide application, we are concerned about the quality of water that is used to irrigate the fields, we are concerned about the child labor standards. Obviously they do not have any. They would be serious violations here in this country if the same standards applied. Wage and hourly pay in Mexico. And at the same time our produce growers are going out of business in America because we have gleefully embraced NAFTA and said everything is perfect, give it a chance. At the same time, people are getting sick. If that is good progress on NAFTA, then I must have read the wrong book on protecting public safety and health.

Drug enforcement not taking place on our border, I must have read the wrong chapter about getting tough on the laws of this Nation. Clearly the unbridled attempt by others to seek entrance into this country illegally has got to stop. But it will not stop if the people charged with enforcing our laws in this country look the other way, turn a deaf ear, or line their pockets with bribes in order to turn back the problems that we face in America.

Again I urge the administration to act on my request as we have submitted with members of the Florida delegation asking for increased Border Patrol, increased immigration assistance, quicker deportation of illegals from our prison system, quicker deportation of those that have falsely claimed asylum as a reason to come to this country. Because if we again are not able and capable of protecting our Nation from invasion from those who seek to break our laws, then our Nation shall perish.

CHINA AND MFN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, we will be addressing for the next couple of months in this body whether or not to grant the most-favored-nation trading status to China. I just had a series of town meetings. This issue came up in every town meeting. Clearly the American people are opposed to the Congress granting continuation of the most favored trading status to China.

Some of the issues and why. It is important for Members of this body to know that in China, there are Catholic priests who are in jail. There are Catholic bishops who are in jail. In China there are Protestant pastors who are in jail. In China almost on a weekly basis, evangelical and house churches are raided whereby people are arrested and they are taken away.

We have seen the Chinese Government plunder Tibet and expel the Dalai Lama where the Dalai Lama can no longer return to Tibet. We have seen the persecution of many who are Buddhist, both nuns and priests. We see persecution of Moslems in the northwest part of China. There are more gulags in China than there were in the Soviet Union. We all recall Solzhenitsyn's book, *Gulag Archipelago*.

It is important that the American people know and that the Members of this body know that there are more gulags, slave labor camps, in China than any other country of the world and certainly many more than there were in the Soviet Union. We have seen China sell military weapons, equipment, to Iran, which is not in the best interests of this country. We have seen technology transferred to other countries with regard to nuclear technology, which again is not in the best interests of this country. As many Americans know, China sold weapons to Saddam Hussein in the Desert Storm fighting that were used against American forces during that time.

We know what took place in Tiananmen Square, whereby we watched the activity. The government called out military forces to crush the Tiananmen Square demonstration, which was totally peaceful. I had the opportunity to visit Beijing prison No. 1 shortly thereafter, whereby we saw 40 Tiananmen Square demonstrators who were working on socks for export to the West. Again, how can Americans companies and textile companies compete with something like that?

Mr. Speaker, there have been reports that in China they arrest people and those who are sentenced to death, some who have committed crimes, others who have not, whereby there was an organ donor program whereby after they shoot them, they take out their kidneys for sale, for transplantation. And there is even one report of an individual who was still alive and had both

of his kidneys taken out for sale to people in the West.

There is much more that will take place, and we will document it over the next several months. However, it is clear to say that during the 1980's, during the Reagan administration, we would have never granted MFN to the Soviet Union when they were doing terrible things. I remember when the Reagan administration and President Reagan gave the speech in Orlando, the evil empire, where he talked against the activities that were taking place. We in the Congress in a bipartisan way stood in solidarity to those in the Soviet Union, the dissidents, those that wanted to leave the Soviet Union and those that were being persecuted because of their faith and whatever reasons they were being persecuted, we stood in solidarity. Even during the Reagan administration, 250,000 people came and rallied on the Mall on behalf of those people.

Every time there were visits from the Reagan administration and also the Carter administration to Russia, they may very well have met with Brezhnev and met with Gorbachev, but they also met in the American embassy in solidarity with those who were being persecuted in the Soviet Union. We stood with those people during that period of time, and we ought to stand with those people in China during this period of time.

When I talked to Natan Shcharansky, who was in Perm Camp 35 in the Soviet Union, Shcharansky was baffled that we would ever grant MFN to China because he maintained that the reason he was released from Perm Camp 35 prison during that period of time was because of our activity in regard to MFN.

Mr. Speaker, in summary, I might say that we will cover a number of these issues and urge the Members to seriously look at religious persecution, persecution of dissidents, the Catholic church, the Protestant church, the Buddhists, and many others as we make a decision whether or not we would grant MFN.

DEMOCRATIC ANSWER TO REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL INACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my remarks, let me just say that I paid special attention to the gentleman from Virginia who spoke with respect to China and also to my Republican friend and colleague from Florida, [Mr. FOLEY] who spoke with respect to NAFTA and its shortcomings. I cannot say how gratified I am to hear my colleagues on this side of the aisle starting to understand and recognize

the limitations of some of these international agreements and treaties that we have entered into, and I am pleased that they are speaking out.

Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to read in this week's papers that the Speaker is back at it again. For 3 months the American people have waited for the Republican party to begin to move on an agenda, to propose a budget, to address the serious problems we have with health and with education, health for our children, reforming our campaign finance system. Yet day after day we show up here for work and nothing. No budget, no bills scheduled, very few votes, and so it is not hard to see why most people feel like nothing is getting done in Washington. Yet the Speaker, who has done nothing to move an agenda for working families, has instead decided that it is time to launch attacks, to distort the facts and to demonize those who disagree with him. The same Speaker who seems to be running from his own personal responsibilities for violating rules of this House and subverting our campaign finance laws has accused others of rigging the game. So it is no wonder that the American people have grown cynical and tired of Washington's political games.

Last year the Gingrich revolution with all its excesses and missteps and extremism was exposed for what it was. It was a radical attempt to turn back the clock on progress for American families.

□ 1300

But let us not forget the Gingrich revolutionaries do not just want to cut Medicare and education to give tax breaks to the wealthy. They brag about their opposition to Medicare, they tried to eliminate the Department of Education, they tried to let polluters rewrite environmental laws. And let us also not forget that it was our efforts in this House that stopped that revolution. And let us not forget that we did not do it alone. Working men and women throughout the country stood up and said we want to protect Medicare, we want to invest in education, and we want to preserve our environment.

Now, NEWT GINGRICH has learned nothing, I think, from the experiences of the last 2 years. In fact, just yesterday in a frantic drive to recapture the fervor of his lost revolution, the Speaker proposed a set of massive tax breaks for the wealthiest people in this country. This Gingrich tax would give away to the wealthy—these tax breaks would cost over 300 billion over the next 5 years, \$300 billion, and what is more than that, what could happen if this occurs is the following:

You cannot do this. You cannot have breaks in those magnitudes without breaking the budget. It cannot be done without wrecking Medicare. It cannot be done without savaging education.

At a time when we should be coming to some consensus on how to balance

our budget here, the Speaker seems more concerned about coddling his wealthy donors.

The Gingrich speech comes just one day after a story in the Washington Times revealed that wealthy donors warned the GOP that if they do not get their tax breaks, the Republican Party will not get their money. It was as simple and clear as that. There is no end to the Gingrich Republicans' effort to pander to these wealthy special interests.

Now, this week we were supposed to take up a bill that would have saved middle-income homeowners hundreds of dollars a year on their mortgage insurance, and I might add that this bill received broad bipartisan support in the committee. But at the last minute the Republican leadership bowed to the pressure of the special interests and pulled the bill.

We should have passed that bill. It would have saved a middle-income family buying a \$119,000 home \$70 a month. That bill now has been shelved because the special interests got to their leadership. No relief for homeowners, no help for middle income families trying to balance their budgets, no balanced budgets for America. And we get from the reborn revolution, all we get from it is tax breaks for their wealthy donors.

So the American people are tired of this. They are tired of seeing their hard-earned dollars, their hopes for a secure retirement, their promise for their kids' education, threatened by a relentless Republican drive to reward the wealthy donors.

The Speaker may be right. The game in this country may be rigged. But it is not rigged by the working families who struggle every day to make ends meet. It is not rigged by the working men and women who organize and fight back when they see our rights are threatened. It is rigged by the wealthy interests that the Speaker seems so eager to please with these new tax giveaways.

This country needs a real debate on our different political philosophies, a debate about some of the most fundamental questions that we face today:

What is the role of government? What are the possibilities of limits on the free market? What is the meaning of citizenship? Of political participation itself?

So let us have that debate, and let us remember our own history when we have it. I believe that somewhere along the line our politics has gotten disconnected from the American people. People no longer see a link between their lives and politics, between their lives and the forces controlling our economy, between their lives and the real challenges that we are facing as individuals and as a nation, and this disconnection has helped create a feeling of powerlessness, of frustration, of alienation.