

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

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

STEEL CRISIS

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

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly on the steel issue tonight because tomorrow during the debate we have several markups where I may be tied up and may not be able to give a statement on the floor, plus I couldn't give them as extended remarks.

There will be much talk tomorrow about the question of free trade versus fair trade, and I wanted to register my opinions as somebody who is concerned about how to promote international trade and at the same time make sure that that trade is fair.

As we are aware, since July of 1997, as a result of the collapse of numerous economies around the world, there has been a flood of imports into the United States. Foreign corporations from Japan, Korea, Russia and a host of other countries have been selling steel at as much as \$100 a ton less than it costs them to produce it. Steel producers from Russia, one of the more egregious examples, were allowed to dump 47 percent more steel on our market than was shipped in 1997. We simply cannot allow this to continue.

We cannot have free trade if some people cheat. Russia is a particularly interesting case. Last fall, I was part of a Duma-House of Representatives' exchange where I spent a number of days in Russia. The steel industry was tremendously important and still is to the Soviet regime. It represents both an obvious source of the war machine there and reflected an almost excessive emphasis on manufacturing.

Enormous resources were mobilized and poured into this industry, without regard for market forces or efficient use of capital. This awesome industrial effort transformed vast rural regions into major steel producers. By the 1970s, the Soviets created by far the largest steel industry the world had seen. For many years, the Soviet Union was the leading producer, about 186 million tons in 1986, but there still was and still is no reliable cost data, no standardized accounting practices and no interest in even thinking of market efficiencies. In fact, most of their business transactions were conducted in barter, even paying taxes with steel.

The breakup of the Soviet Union has created a significant crisis for their steel industry. To say domestic demand has dropped is a laughable understatement. Russian steel's traditional market, especially the Soviet war machine, pales in comparison to what it

once was. Russian GNP has fallen over 42 percent since 1989. Steel consumption, once 970 pounds, per capita has fallen to 265 today.

In 1997, it was estimated that they had nearly 5 times as much steel-making capacity as was needed to meet domestic demand, yet production continued. By mid-1998, Russian mills exported about 65 percent of their output, some even 100 percent of their output, usually at prices well below market levels.

In May 1998, Metal Bulletin reported that, incredibly, Russian plate and hot-rolled coils were being sold in some markets at less than half the prevailing domestic market price.

By late 1998, at least 30 countries had imposed import restrictions against Soviet companies or were preparing to do so. In 1998, the U.S. bore the brunt of this tremendous Russian onslaught. The President proposed a suspension agreement that represented a 78 percent reduction from the 1998 level, a good start but nowhere near enough.

Essentially, this still allows a significant amount of dumping to occur. We must do more.

In the meetings with the Duma, I raised this issue of dumping and their response is particularly telling. For those who tell me that this is a free trade issue, it simply is not. When I raised the fundamental injustice of their subsidization of energy costs, in my district we have the lowest producing steel companies in the world, Steel Dynamics being the example, and they have seen their energy costs soar, and when I raised this problem they advised me that we should do like they do; they said, we own our energy producers. Therefore, our energy costs are nothing.

That is a creative cost accounting way to get around the principle of free trade. This simply is not free trade. We in America cannot tell our foundries, we cannot tell our steel companies, that they have all these regulations, they have all of these energy prices, now go out there and compete freely, when we allow, contrary to free market principles, people to dump at below cost.

The principle of free trade requires fair trade and equitable trade. The President cannot merely say we are going to kind of jawbone with these other countries that have had the problems in Asia, that have had the problems in South America, the problems in Russia and then make us promises to enforce the rule of law. We need to do it.

I heard really moving stories about how in Russia and other countries steel workers have been laid off, how towns are being shuttered. Well, come to America. Whether it is in Pennsylvania or Indiana or all over this country, we have steel workers out of work, too. Only we have steel workers out of work because people did not follow the laws that are essential to making free trade work.

This bill that we are going to consider tomorrow not only rolls the level of imports back to where it was before the illegal dumping came but also establishes a more effective steel import monitoring system. It is essential, if we are to have free trade, to make sure that it is fair.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). 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 Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

GHB—DATE RAPE DRUG

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. Mr. Speaker, I am back again. I am back again because young people are still dying from the date rape drug called GHB. I do, however, want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK), the ranking member, for having me before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on the dangerous effects of GHB.

It is an important topic to me because young people are still losing their lives, and parents are not informed of the dangerousness of GHB. This uncontrolled substance has been used to commit date rape by rendering victims helpless to defend themselves against attack. But Mr. Speaker, teenagers, teenagers who have no history of drug use are dying.

So I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY), the chairman of the Committee on Commerce Chairman and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), the ranking member, and encourage a quick hearing on this matter, along with the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the Committee on Commerce, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and certainly I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM), chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, of which I sit on the Committee on the Judiciary, and let me thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), because we are committed to working together.

The GHB legislation that I am sponsoring, H.R. 75, is named in honor of a 17-year-old from my community, Hillary J. Farias from LaPorte, Texas.

Hillary died from an overdose of GHB that was put in her soda in a teenage nondrinking club on August 5, 1996. The gentlemen from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) and (Mr. STUPAK) have seen the same kinds of deaths in Michigan.

My bill, H.R. 75, directs the Attorney General to schedule GHB as a Schedule I drug and to establish programs throughout the country to educate young people about the use of controlled substances. The DEA has been working to place this drug on Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act at the Federal level, and we are looking forward to the testing and report by the Food and Drug Administration.

Do we realize that the GHB formula is on the Internet and it is made by the tub loads for these parties around the Nation. We realize that young people who have never been drug users are silently using this by way of those who think it is a joke or would like to see them immobilized and are dropping this in their nonalcoholic drinks. It has no taste or smell.

Scheduling the drug on the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows Federal prosecutors to punish anyone who uses the drug under the Drug Induced Rape Prevention and Punishment Act. Certainly, it would prohibit these untimely and tragic deaths. Specifically, my bill would increase the sentence for someone using GHB to commit a sex crime to 20 years imprisonment.

GHB has been used to render victims helpless to defend against attack and it even erases any memory of the attack. It is responsible for as many as 60 emergency room admissions in the past 6 months in Houston.

The recipe for this drug and its analogs can be accessed, as I said, on the Internet. In checking some of the web sites that focus on GHB, I was shocked to discover how easy it was to find misleading information on the effects on this drug. It is being touted as an anti-depressant, an aphrodisiac, a euphoriant, and as a sleep aid. One site even contends that the deaths attributable to GHB are actually caused by other underlying health problems.

How about that? A 17-year-old volleyball player died with an overdose of GHB where a grandmother could not wake her the next morning, and she never made it to the hospital.

I do believe if there are medicinal purposes for GHB, we can work through it. But the testimony last week before the subcommittee showed there is great evidence from law enforcement, DEA and other victims to suggest we must do something about GHB. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues, Mr. STUPAK and Mr. UPTON and Mr. KLINK, Mr. BLILEY and Mr. DINGELL and Mr. BILIRAKIS to ensure that we stop this siege now.

Oh, yes, many people will say too many laws, but there are never enough laws to save our teenagers. What do we say to a family who says, she was a good kid, she never took drugs, she was athletic. I know she would not do this

to herself, and yet she is now dead, along with other teenagers younger than her.

So as a mother and a legislator, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and our efforts to protect women from violent sexual assault and as well, those innocent victims who now have lost their lives. We can do no less in tribute to them. Let us move this legislation, this collaborative legislation that we can work together on swiftly, quickly, fast, expeditiously, so that we can go on record in this Congress for saving young lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

MAKING THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the R&D tax credit, a program that has done a lot to help our technology sector in the United States, and as these charts show, the technology sector has done a lot to contribute to the job growth in this country. It is the key, the cornerstone to the growth that we are going to experience in the years ahead and most of the growth that we have experienced in this decade to this point. We must do everything we can to encourage the technology sector.

The R&D tax credit is set to expire, as it does every year. I urge that we do not reauthorize it, but we make it permanent.

The first big point is that the technology sector drives job growth, and the chart that I have brought with me shows how the computer industry and the technology sector in general, first of all, it pays more. The jobs that we have in this sector on average pay twice as much as typical jobs in other areas of the economy. It also shows that the job growth, the jobs that are being created, are coming predominantly from the high-tech sector. Also, in the 10 years ahead, that is going to become even more the case. Technology is what is driving our economy, and the R&D tax credit helps that technology grow.

The second chart that I want to show shows specifically how the R&D tax credit helps. It helps because it helps increase the productivity of companies across all sectors. Because computers are a part of a company whether one is in the technology business or not, whether one makes computers or software for the Internet or if one makes airplanes or furniture or just about anything, having money for R&D helps

you increase your productivity and more and better jobs. This has just some of the various sectors of our economy that have benefited substantially from the R&D tax credit that has created jobs.

That is what this is all about. We may look at these industries and sectors and think well, gosh, I do not work in the pharmaceutical industry or the computer industry, but no matter where one works in the American economy, technology touches us, and the R&D tax credit helps advance that.

I would like us to make it permanent this time instead of doing the year-after-year reauthorization. First of all, as I have argued, this is a very good program and should be made permanent, but more importantly long term planning of companies that depend on this tax credit could be greatly enhanced if they knew it was going to be there from year-to-year. They could invest even more in the R&D tax credit over the long haul, knowing that it is going to be around, knowing that every year they are not going to have to come back and try to seek reauthorization. This is a program that should be permanent because it does so much for our economy.

Technology touches on a lot of issues, the R&D tax credit being just one of them. I strongly urge that our government get in touch with high-tech issues in the high-tech industry and find out what we can do to help them. It is critical to our job growth. Technology crosses all sectors. Yes, there are the ones that we think of off the top of our heads when we think of technology. We think of telecommunications, we think of hardware and software, we think of the Internet. But just about any industry we have benefits from a better computer system, from better software, from access to the Internet. They can make better products, they can transfer that information all across the world to various segments of their business to help that business grow. This touches everything. We will not find an industry that is not high-tech.

I ran into someone from the company Kosco out in my area which sells food and various other products on a sort of wholesale retail basis, and they thought of themselves as not being a high-tech company. But they too are dependent on the computer systems that help them keep track of their inventory, that help them track their financial records, their sales records, and the faster and better those systems become, the more efficient and the more productive their business becomes. It does not matter what sector of the economy one is in. Technology affects us, and the R&D tax credit can help us have better jobs that pay more and will also help create more and more jobs for those who do not have them yet.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge this body to adopt a permanent authorization of the R&D tax credit as soon as