

environmental provisions would destroy free trade. If free trade cannot accommodate labor and environmental concerns, it does not deserve to be known as free.

If the extension of the right for labor to organize, the right to free speech and the right to a safe and livable environment are things that would destroy a trade regime, maybe we should reconsider our trade priorities. Adding labor and environmental rights as a side agreement or included with fig-leaf compromises is completely unacceptable. We learned our lesson with NAFTA, the hard way.

President Bush said, and I quote, "I am confident I will have trade promotion authority by the end of the year because I think most people in the United States Congress understand that trade is beneficial to our hemisphere."

"It is in our Nation's best interest to have the President have trade promotion authority," he said.

Congress does understand that trade can be beneficial to our hemisphere. We also know it can be unbeneficial. We do not need Fast Track to create a trading system that is fair to all nations and workers. We need a trading system that will lift up workers everywhere and help us maintain our standard of living in America. We need a trade agreement that will lift workers up, not leave behind 2,000 more families in Toledo while factories in Mexico gear up to meet a demand for a very popular vehicle on the backs of an exploited workforce that works for slave wages.

Madam Speaker, our rallying cry as we approach the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas debate must be free trade among free people and no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas 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 (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

WE MUST CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST FORGETTING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of the Special Order commemorating the Armenian genocide; and I commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jer-

sey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), for putting this Special Order together and for keeping the issue of the Armenian genocide at the forefront here in Congress.

The tragic occurrence perpetrated against the Armenian people between 1915 and 1925 by the Ottoman Turkish Empire is of great concern to me and members of my constituency. During this relatively brief time frame, over 1.5 million Armenians were massacred and more than 5,000 were exiled. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government has not recognized these brutal atrocities as acts of genocide. Nor is it willing to come to terms with these horrific events of the past that many of their ancestors participated in.

Prior to the Armenian genocide, these brave people with a history of over 2,500 years in the region were subject to numerous indignities and periodic massacres by the sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The worst of these massacres prior to 1915 occurred in 1895 when as many as 300,000 Armenian civilians were murdered, and those who survived were left completely destitute.

Despite these events, Armenians have survived as a people and a culture throughout Europe and now throughout the United States. The Turkish Government needs to come to terms with the past and work towards improving the future. Turkish groups have suggested that since Turks were also killed during that time frame it should not be considered a genocide.

Genocide is the systematic, planned annihilation of a racial, political, or cultural group. It happened to the Jews in Germany, and it did happen to the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

I am well aware of the importance of Turkey as an ally in an unstable region and a frontline NATO state. However, the Turkish Government must officially recognize the atrocities of its predecessors in the Ottoman Empire. I believe that by failing to recognize such barbaric acts one becomes complicit in them.

Milan Kundera, the once-exiled Czech novelist, has written, "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

I believe that we, too, must continue to struggle against forgetting. This Special Order begins that process. This genocide and its lessons must never be forgotten.

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY 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 California (Mr. DOOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

APRIL 24, 1915, ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today to remember a horrific atrocity in history, the Armenian genocide. April 24 is recognized as the anniversary date of this genocide, when Armenian intellectuals and professionals in Constantinople were rounded up and deported or killed.

From 1915 to 1923, a million and a half Armenians were killed and countless others suffered as a result of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide by the rulers of the Ottoman Empire.

Half a million Armenians who escaped death were deported to the Middle East. Some were fortunate enough to escape to the United States.

Madam Speaker, I am thankful that more than a million Armenians managed to escape the genocide and establish a new life here in the United States. In my Seventh District in New Jersey, I am proud to represent a number of Armenian-Americans. They have enriched every aspect of New Jersey life, from science to commerce to the arts.

Our statements today are intended to preserve the memory of the Armenian loss and to honor those descendants who have overcome the atrocities that took their grandparents, their parents, their children, and their friends. We mark this anniversary each year to remind our Nation and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and oppression endured by the Armenian people.

We must commit ourselves to ensuring that America remains a beacon of tolerance and openness and diversity.

Madam Speaker, I commend the commitment of Armenian-Americans who continue to strive for world recognition of one of the greatest atrocities of the 20th century.

EARTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, as one who came to Congress committed to having the Federal Government be a better partner in making our communities more livable, making our families safe, healthy and economically secure, this last weekend in the celebration of Earth Day was a special time.

Every April 22, around the world, there is recognition of the Earth Day celebrations. This was an undertaking that was founded in 1970 by then U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, who proposed a nationwide environmental protest to, quote, shake up the political establishment and force this issue on to the national agenda.

Well, Senator Nelson succeeded, I think, even beyond his expectations, as he was able to encourage this recognition internationally. I think it was appropriate that he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his role as the founder of Earth Day.

This year, as we reviewed the news accounts, there was a great deal of energy, excitement and indeed some good news for the environment around the world. Part of it was the environmental activism itself. There were over 800 rallies held across the United States, and internationally there were more than 100. In honor of Earth Day, the Wilderness Society named the White House as an object of their future concerns about national parks and monuments.

There was in Washington, D.C. a forum on solar energy held to celebrate the advances made in the technology, economics and prospects for the use of solar energy. There was a massive Trees Are My Friends campaign that helped to educate urban residents about the value of street trees in the urban forest canopy, helping residents connect with tree care and planning activities in their community.

This last weekend, I joined with people in my community in Portland, Oregon, to celebrate a successful tree-planting undertaking. They have successfully planted now 207,000 trees. During the month of April, citizens in a variety of cities in the West, including Portland, Seattle and Denver, were engaged in races and walks to raise the awareness of climate change, to help stop global climate warming.

□ 2015

There were rallies in India by cycling organizations to push for the creation

of no vehicle zones in major cities. Additionally, there were events to protest deforestation in Mexico, children rallying for the protection of endangered species in Estonia and Russia; and there were tree plantings in Burmese refugee camps in Thailand.

There was good news on the State level. One in particular that caught my attention was in the State of California where the Department of Fish and Game has issued draft regulations to protect sea otters and other marine mammals from deadly gill nets. These regulations are going to make a huge difference in the protection of marine mammals.

In Massachusetts, that State will become the first on a State level to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants under their own clean air rules. The new standard, which will go into effect in June, will also limit mercury emissions, acid rain causing sulfur dioxide, and smog-causing nitrogen oxide. It will apply to the State's dirtiest power plants that are contributing to global warming.

There were very significant developments in the Pacific Northwest, including in British Columbia where the government of that province, in coordination with environmental groups, logging companies and the first nations of Canada announced the plan to prohibit or defer logging on 3.5 million acres of the Great Bear Rain Forest, an area 4 times the size of Rhode Island.

This is one of the largest rain forest conservation efforts in North American history and will protect the only home of the white Spirit Bear, a rare subspecies of the black bear.

Madam Speaker, on occasion I have taken to this floor because I have taken offense with some of the activities of this administration as it relates to the environment. Admittedly, I was more than a little concerned when some of our predictions were borne out with the release of President Bush's recommended budget. He has decided to recommend major cuts in the EPA enforcement budget and to slash by 87 percent a global tropical forest program which he had endorsed on the campaign trail, I believe pledging \$100 million.

The budget also shows that the President has a mixed reaction to what is proposed as an energy crisis by recommending that the Department of Energy research on renewables be slashed by nearly 50 percent and that energy efficiency funding be cut by 23 percent. It simply, from where I stand, is a little disappointing to say the least; but I must confess that there have been a number of announcements and activities from this administration in the course of Earth Day, Earth Week activities that do, I think, bear commendation; and I think we should come forward and express appreciation for steps that are, in fact, positive.

The President announced that he will sign the international agreement on persistent organic pollutants to halt

the worldwide spread of these dangerous chemicals, such as dioxins. I think that is a positive step.

On Saturday, April 21, the day before Earth Day, at a meeting on free trade in Quebec, the President promised to link trade with a strong commitment to protect our environment, a movement that reinforces the work done by his trade representative, Ambassador Zoellick, who is working hard to see if we can reach some bipartisan accord to protect environmental values in the area of trade, and I commend them.

The administration has at least agreed to attend the next round of international talks on global climate change, even though they continue their opposition to the Kyoto protocol and have not expressed a willingness to compromise and a willingness to move forward. I hope cooler heads hopefully will prevail because it is inappropriate for the United States to abrogate leadership in the international arena.

I appreciated the fact that the President has decided to allow a ban on snowmobiles in Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Park to take effect. It was my pleasure recently to meet with Mike Finley, the outgoing superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, who has done an outstanding job for the Park Service. This ban was an important part of Mike's legacy and will phase out snowmobiles in these critical parks in the next 3 years.

The administration has also decided to uphold a Clinton administration rule to dramatically expand reporting requirements for the emissions of lead. This is a step in the right direction to deal with a serious toxic metal which is linked to learning and behavior problems.

In the area of wetlands, the administration announced last week that it will uphold a wetlands development regulation that requires developers to get an Army Corps of Engineer's permit for various activities that would modify the wetlands.

And in the area of home appliances, the White House will keep Clinton administration energy conservation rules on washing machines and water heaters, measures which will make clothes washers become 22 percent more efficient by 2004, 35 percent more efficient by 2007, and will make a big difference in terms of saving energy and conserving water.

While I was disappointed that the administration is weakening the air conditioning rule by some 50 percent, nonetheless it still represents a substantial improvement and a move in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I notice that I have been joined by my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), a gentleman known for his zeal and concern for protecting the environment and his environmentally sensitive State, and I would yield to the gentleman for some comments.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Oregon who has always played such a