

enacted, companies have greater leeway, even incentive, to relocate overseas, taking advantage of weak or non-existent labor and environmental standards. That can only be demonstrated vividly by what we did in NAFTA and what happens when these jobs in our country go to Mexico. They export their products back to our market is what happens.

The upshot for our workers? Lost jobs, lower wages, and not only do we lose these great-paying jobs here in this country, and by the way, over the last 14 months, we have lost 1.2 million manufacturing jobs in this country. Hello. If anybody is listening, we are losing at an accelerated pace our whole manufacturing base in America. Not only do we lose those great-paying jobs, but once we lose those jobs, we cripple whole communities. We take away their tax base. They do not have the resources for fire and police and education and health care and all of the other pieces that make our communities work.

A recent report underscores these points. Economic data show that NAFTA passed on a fast track, and WTO, World Trade Organization, policies have taken a devastating toll on American industry. We have lost 3 million jobs in this country as a result of these unfair trade deals. Many of those workers were in well-paying manufacturing sectors.

In my own State of Michigan we have lost over 150 jobs. They have simply evaporated.

So when fast track proponents argue that this fast track authority will boost the economy, we need to be clear. If we pass fast track, the only thing we will boost is the unemployment rate, and it is already going up too fast. Fast track is a divisive issue being pushed on American workers at a time when they can least afford it. While unemployment soars and more layoffs are in sight, we cannot put even more jobs in jeopardy and undermine an already weak economy.

There are many ways that we can work together to help American workers and get our economy moving again. Fast track simply is not one of them. This is not the time to pull the rug out from underneath American workers just as they are struggling to get back on their feet.

If we want to do something to help them, let us do a decent unemployment compensation benefit. Only 40 percent of the people who are laid off in our country get any unemployment compensation, and in many States like my State of Michigan, the payout has been frozen for 6 or 7 years. It is pathetically low. People cannot make their mortgage payment. They cannot make their insurance premium. They cannot make their health care premium on what they are given through unemployment if they are lucky to be part of the 40 percent that gets something at all. Let us do something on unemployment compensation.

Let us do something on health care, making sure that they get a benefit that will take care of their premium so that they can have health care for themselves and their families. Let us do something about retraining to make the transition.

Mr. Speaker, fast track is the wrong issue at the wrong time for the American people, and I hope my colleagues will see to it, it never reaches this floor.

□ 1945

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN B. HYATT FROM COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

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

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and acknowledge the life and memory of John B. Hyatt, a constituent and friend, a longtime Columbia, Missouri, businessman, a devoted husband and father, an avid golfer, a passionate Missouri Tiger fan, a community activist.

John Hyatt was born in the small Missouri town of Fayette in 1924. He served our country, enlisting in the Navy at the age of 19. He was stationed in the Pacific during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946.

Upon his return home, John attended Central Missouri State University and excelled in basketball. In fact, Mr. Speaker, after graduation, he began his professional career as a high school coach.

In order to supplement his modest coach's salary, John began selling life insurance. It became apparent that his prowess as a coach was only surpassed by his innate abilities as a salesman. He concluded a successful 40-year career with State Farm Insurance in 1994.

John's greatest sale, however, was reserved for his personal life. It was in 1953 that he convinced his best friend's sister, Mary, to become his life's partner. Together they had two children, Vicky and Bill.

On Wednesday, November 7, the Boone County Citizens for Good Government will pay tribute to John Hyatt posthumously with the Guardian of Good Government award. There can be, I think, no greater tribute. He was to me a good friend, a confidante, a sage political adviser, but not just in words, but in deeds.

The 17th century philosopher Francis Bacon said this: He that gives good advice builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example builds with both. That describes the essence of my friend, John Hyatt.

It was, in fact, John Hyatt who co-founded the Boone County Citizens for Good Government in the 1980s. In those early days, the group, under his watch, took a bold stand on some controversial issues and had a few setbacks.

John remained undeterred. He was unafraid to challenge the status quo. Good government, John explained to me simply, deserves nothing less. John took those political lessons to heart, and the Boone County Citizens for Good Government resurfaced with a renewed commitment to candidates and community causes.

He was then and remained fiercely independent. John believed strongly in the two-party system, and supported individuals in either party. It was our principles that John looked for, our integrity, our character. So to have John Hyatt in one's corner for an upcoming election was a strong ally for any candidate.

John kept politics in perspective, however. It was, after all, family and friends that made life's journey worthwhile. He was an eternal optimist.

Mr. Speaker, I am quite confident John never read the works of A.A. Willitts, yet the words of the author are descriptive of the man being honored by this tribute: "Get into the habit of looking for the silver lining of the cloud, and when you have found it, continue to look at it, rather than at the leaden gray in the middle. . . . There is no path but will be easier traveled, no load but will be lighter, no shadow on heart or brain but will lift sooner for a person of determined cheerfulness."

Mr. Speaker, that is the legacy of John Hyatt. For those of us blessed to have known him, our lives have been enriched beyond measure. The less fortunate among us have been comforted by his generosity. Our community and its leaders have become better guardians of the public trust through his quiet challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I add my name to those who gather and salute the memory of John Hyatt as a guardian of good government.

FAST TRACK

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks U.S. Trade Rep Bob Zoellick has attempted to link fast track legislation to antiterrorism efforts. Some say he has questioned the patriotism of those of us who opposed fast track by pointing out that we are indifferent to terrorism, saying we do not share American values if we do not support fast track, because that is the way, he says, to combat terrorism around the world.

Fast track does not embody, Mr. Speaker, those American values that our U.S. trade rep has indicated. Fast track so often means weaker environmental standards. It means dealing with countries without free elections. It means dealing with wealthy families who usurp worker rights, oppress people in developing countries, and ultimately take American jobs.