

this time we need better cooperation. I would request that USDA evaluate this and either act to make the difference or come up with support for this resolution.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, yesterday an article ran in a Virginia paper revealing serious security breaches at a Richmond City drinking water plant. A reporter was able to walk right through the front gate and wander the site for an hour each day for a week. He and a photographer had access to the water supply and the potentially dangerous chemicals used to treat it. No one questioned their presence.

The good news is that this plant appears to be something of an anomaly. Similar surprise inspections at neighboring county facilities had very different outcomes. But this only makes it clearer that Congress must act now to ensure that all our water supplies are safe from terrorist threats.

Yesterday, the Committee on Science approved unanimously the Water Infrastructure Security and Research Development Act which would help us ensure the long-term safety of the water our constituents drink and use every day. It would provide \$60 million in grants over the next 5 years to identify threats and respond to them. Similar legislation is moving through the Senate. We should act quickly to give every American peace of mind when turning on the tap.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss trade promotion authority. America's taxes on foreign imports are already near zero, but foreign taxes on the products of U.S. workers are often prohibitive, killing American jobs and opportunity. Cutting or eliminating foreign taxes on American exports is thus the key to expanding America's economic leadership.

Trade expansion through lower foreign taxes will help increase economic growth. Already, the growth in foreign markets is helping to create jobs for Americans. One in three U.S. farm acres is planted for export and 12 million American jobs have been generated by exports.

In order to achieve reductions in foreign taxes on U.S. exports, the executive branch must have the specific authority from Congress to negotiate trade agreements with other countries. This authority, known as trade promotion authority, lets America speak

with one voice in international trade negotiations. It is the key to opening foreign markets to America's farmers, workers, investors and businesses.

ELECTION REFORM

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, we have been focused on fighting terrorism across this Nation. However, this Congress has not failed to address its other priorities among the American people. One of them is to reform our election laws after last year's election chaos.

What I rise today to do is to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) of the Committee on House Administration for their hard work in creating a bipartisan piece of legislation which addresses campaign finance reform, and it does it in three critical ways:

First, this piece of legislation tells Congress that it must resist the urge to federalize what is constitutionally preferred by States and localities. The primacy of States and localities in the area of elections must be respected. Congress should seek to empower the duly elected State and local officials, not dictate to them.

Secondly, Congress must examine ways to eliminate fraud. Inaccuracies in voter rolls lead to all sorts of problems nationwide, including fraud. The days of the "cemetery vote" and other "ghost" voting must come to a rapid close everywhere.

Finally, Congress must address disenfranchisement, whether intentional or unintentional. One person, one vote is a principle that crosses all party lines.

AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today this Chamber will take up the difficult question of airport security. As a conservative, you can imagine I was loath to support any wanton expansion of the Federal Government. Accordingly, I opposed the version of airport security that emerged from the other Chamber, believing it to be simply a large bureaucratic explosion of government.

I am proud to have passed and supported the House version of the bill, and I am proud today to rise in support of the compromise on the Aviation Security Act. In the compromise bill, like the House bill, Americans do not have to wait a year for airport security. There is immediate remedy, using public and private blended and flexible sources. Five airports will participate in a pilot project studying public and private solutions. And there is a third

year opt-out. We are giving the President the flexible program he has requested.

Exempting these Federal employees from Civil Service Act requirements and creating a system that on the eve of one of our most important and most traveled family holidays will send a strong message of confidence to the American people. I urge my colleagues to support the conference report for the Aviation Security Act.

AN IMMIGRATION LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we are tightening security everywhere as we should, but we are about to make a big mistake by reinstating a big loophole. Some are seeking to revive the part of our immigration law called section 245(i). This law lets illegal aliens, if they are married or related to a legal resident or sponsored by an employer, simply pay a \$1,000 fee for instant legalization. These lawbreakers do not have to leave the country and they do not even have to undergo any background checks.

Section 245(i) violates usual legal requirements. It is an amnesty. It led to a rush of sham marriages last April when the 245(i) deadline expired. Some sham marriages have been connected with accused terrorists. Without background checks, we do not know if the illegals using 245(i) are terrorists or criminals or sympathizers of our enemies.

Mr. Speaker, we should permanently dump 245(i). Illegal aliens should have to go back to their home country first. We need to be a nation of laws. We cannot afford this security risk.

ON THE PASSING OF OFFICER VAN ETTEN

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today in memory of Officer LaValle Van Etten, one of my constituents from Stafford, Virginia, and a Capitol Hill police officer, who died suddenly on November 10.

A Marine Corps veteran and Capitol Hill police officer, Officer Van Etten spent his life protecting people and putting the safety of others ahead of his own.

Whenever someone like Officer Van Etten puts his or her life on the line to protect our Nation, they should be commended. This man proved his love for country as a Marine and as a member of a select group entrusted to guard America's Capitol and those who work to do the people's business.

Our Nation's center of government lost a hero on November 10, a dedicated

protector of freedom and liberty who died at a much too early age. We should always reflect on the dedication put forth by our Capitol Hill police. They deserve our thanks.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we are now focusing on airport security. That is appropriate. But in doing that, I hope that we are not neglecting security of other very essential parts of our infrastructure. I am thinking particularly of water.

Our vast municipal and public water systems were developed to be economical and to be efficient, and they are both. We are one of the few countries in the world that can water our grass and wash our cars and flush our toilets and fight our fires with drinking water. Our water systems were not developed with any eye toward security.

We just passed out of the Committee on Science a very important bill that supports R&D, looking at ways to make our very important water system infrastructure more secure to terrorists. This bill needs to come very quickly to the floor because this is one area of our infrastructure we cannot afford to continue to be at risk.

□ 0915

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3009, ANDEAN TRADE PROMOTION AND DRUG ERADI- CATION ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 289 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 289

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pend-

ing which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 289 is a closed rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3009, the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means and one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The Committee on Rules provided the opportunity for the minority, Mr. Speaker, to offer a substitute. However, they declined the opportunity. This is a fair rule, Mr. Speaker, that will allow consideration of this very important issue.

The underlying legislation promotes and strengthens the U.S.-Andean trade relationship which will increase economic growth in the United States. This legislation will also work to bolster anti-corruption programs in South America.

As originally passed by Congress in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act sought to provide assistance to countries that have been troubled in the recent past in the form of tariff-free American goods, while simultaneously opening American markets to certain exports from these Nations. The effect of offering strategic economic advantages to these countries was to help eliminate financial dependence on narco-trafficking in the Andean region.

Due to ATPA, the U.S. and the Andean nations have enjoyed an \$18 billion beneficial trade relationship for the past 10 years, but all of this is set to expire on December 4 if we do not act to extend the best elements of ATPA and continue the support of our allies in the Andean region.

The extension of ATPA is not merely a matter of economic or trade policy but is, in fact, a decision with consequences for U.S. foreign and national policy in the western hemisphere.

Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador are nations that are good solid allies in the United States. They have repeatedly indicated over the past decade that they wish to be strong members of a free and democratic hemisphere, a hemisphere hopefully one day free of terrorism as well as free of tyranny.

Continuing ATPA will help the Andean nations fight poverty, terrorism and drug production as well as further promote democracy and human rights.

ATPA promotes job creation in a region where the alternative for many workers is easily a life devoted to drug production. ATPA provides these individuals an alternative and protects the rights of Andean workers. It also helps the economy in the United States and helps American workers. The bill contains the same worker protections con-

tained in the Trade Development Act of 2000. Promoting development in the region, in the western hemisphere, is crucial to a U.S. foreign policy that seeks to support countries fighting against terrorism and drug trafficking.

I urge my colleagues to consider the benefits of extending ATPA, not only to our South American neighbors but also to American consumers who enjoy a wide variety of product choice without artificial constraints and restrictions.

Extending and improving ATPA is a decisive step toward improved relations with the western hemisphere. This legislation will foster the expression of mutually supportive and beneficial relationships between the United States and our neighbors in this hemisphere.

This legislation will help in the effort to strengthen our economy and add to the stabilization of the Andean region. There have been numerous challenges to democracy in the Andean region in the past decade. Many of them have been overcome, but it is still an area that is very delicate; and we must help it, especially since all of the countries in the Andean region are solid allies in the United States.

I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and all of those who have worked very diligently on this important piece of legislation. This is a fair rule, providing for the consideration of very important legislation, Mr. Speaker. I urge my colleagues to support both the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

I rise in opposition to the closed rule. I oppose the process it represents and the indifference it signals for our colleagues on both sides of the aisle with legitimate concern over this bill.

No one in this body disputes the importance of U.S. efforts to counter drug production in South America, but the measure before us is simply not ready for floor consideration. In a hastily thrown together Rules hearing this morning, it became apparent that serious, substantive questions remained regarding the impact of this measure on many regions of this country.

Our colleagues from California, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa expressed concern over how this measure would impact the domestic processing and fishing industry. They have profound concerns over this measure accelerating job losses in an already unstable economy.

My friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs.