Since Saturday, Lawrence, Kansas, has been the center of a 4-day celebration culminating in the formal dedication ceremony of the Institute tomorrow morning. The dedication festivities include activities reminiscent of World War II, including an air show, an airplane display, a veterans' reunion, a living history encampment, and a reenacted USO show.

□ 1945

These activities are only a small token of Kansas' appreciation and affection for Senator Dole. It is my hope he will realize how much his lifetime of public service means to our State and Nation.

Bob Dole is a tremendous role model for those of us involved in public service. I thank Senator Dole for his service to our country. He exemplifies so well our country's Greatest Generation, and happy birthday.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for 5 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HARRIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SINGAPORE-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

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

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Singapore-Chile Free Trade Agreement. The Singapore-Chile Free Trade Agreement will do nothing to promote free trade and will do nothing to help workers in this Nation. We need jobs right here in the United States, right here, not in another country.

We have seen the damage that has happened when Congress passed free trade agreements. NAFTA cost the Americans 766,000 jobs, 80,000 from California alone. We need to create jobs for working families here in the United States. We must not let this happen again. Our people need jobs. They need to put food on the table, not fear that their jobs are going to be lost to some foreign country.

By negotiating this agreement, it is clear that the administration has overstepped its authority by creating an agreement that does not protect the rights of the American worker, I state, does not protect the rights of the American workers.

These agreements will further hurt the American manufacturing jobs at a time when we watched 56,000 manufacturing jobs disappear last month.

They are an assault on workers' rights. In the Singapore agreement, there is only one enforceable provision that attempts to protect workers, one, I state one; but that provision ultimately will do nothing to protect workers because it merely says that Singapore should uphold its labor regulations. Furthermore, it does not even say what those regulations are; and under this agreement, Singapore is allowed to define what rights workers have.

This is unacceptable. What will happen to workers if Singapore decides to ban unions? What will happen to workers if Singapore decides to allow sweat shops and child labor? What will the United States be able to do under this agreement? Nothing, absolutely nothing. This agreement ties our hands. This agreement will allow countries to weaken labor standards and exploit workers all in the name of profit. It is not safe, and it is not fair; but the lack of labor standards is not what is wrong with this agreement.

The Singapore agreement contains a provision that has no reason to be included. Under this agreement, Singapore will be able to import raw materials from countries like China and assemble them and import it into America duty free. Why is this provision there? China has a horrible labor standard and runs prison labor camps. Why are we allowing China to benefit from this? We are giving China, who has very few protections for its workers, the right to piggyback on this agreement and bring goods to America duty free.

Is this a free trade agreement with China, or is it with Singapore? Why must we support China's poor labor standards? There is no reason and no excuse for this unfair, dangerous provision. This agreement should be about trade and improving economic interests of both nations.

So why is it that there are immigration rules included in this agreement? The administration tried to slip one over on Congress by negotiating a new rule for temporary foreign workers. They overstepped the bounds set by the Trade Promotion Authority and reduced Congress' role to a rubber stamp. Well, I will not stamp it.

Immigration legislation demands debate. It demands the attention of our committees. The safety of our country is at risk when immigration rules are decided in back rooms and dark corners. We want safety, and we demand fairness. It is not fair to transfer workers all the way from Singapore and Chile to take away jobs while an entire workforce, ready, willing and able, stands behind a fence at Mexico's border.

These agreements are not safe, and they are not fair. America should be worried. Its workers should be worried. We must not let this become the future example for a free trade agreement with America. We must stand together and fight against unfair and unsafe agreements that hurt the American workers. We must support our workers, the American workers. We need to improve the quality of life here in America.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN: A BITTER PILL FOR AMERICA'S SENIORS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, this week the House will take a historic vote, probably very late toward the end of the week, late in the evening, giving the pharmaceutical industry the maximum amount of time to beat back a provision of law that would lower the price of prescription drugs for every American, not just those on Medicare, but every American.

Let us use a couple of examples here. This is a simple vote. It would allow Americans to reimport, without limit, American-manufactured, FDA-certified, safe drugs from Canada back into the United States. The interesting thing about these drugs is they are manufactured in the United States of America; but when they take a vacation to Canada, their price drops dramatically because the Government of Canada, unlike the Government of the United States, with the exception of the Veterans Department and some other agencies at the Pentagon, negotiates with the pharmaceutical industry and negotiates lower prices. They use market forces to benefit the people of Canada.

The Republicans here in the House, bizarrely enough, are offering a $400 billion prescription drug benefit for seniors that is based on subsidies to the private insurance industry and supporting the outrageous list price for drugs, which no one pays except the uninsured; but they would mandate that that be done. They would outlaw the United States Government from negotiating lower prices, unlike the Government of Canada, the Government of Great Britain, the governments of all the EU, virtually every other government in the world. In almost every country in the world a person can buy U.S.-manufactured, FDA-certified drugs for a substantial discount below the price those drugs are made available here.