

administration and the Congress to consider first investing in America in the jobs that we need here at home. It is great that we are able to help out other countries, but we have to help them become self-empowered so they can determine their own destinies as well.

I had a chance last year to visit Central America, and I saw what the power of our country could do if we were to just expand programs that invested in microenterprise programs that would allow women, in particular, low-income skilled people to begin to invest in their own businesses, not taking away jobs from Californians or the rest of the country, but investing in their own human capital and keeping those people there instead of bringing them to this country.

I am not against bringing people in, but let us be fair and truthful what we want to do. First, we need to prioritize our own homeland, and that is investing here in America.

What baffles me most is the Bush administration has negotiated agreements to allow for foreign temporary workers in the U.S., when unemployment is in some places above 10 percent. The worker rights provisions in the Chilean and Singapore agreements will be disastrous if also applied to future trade agreements, and I speak in particular to the Central American free trade agreement which is coming shortly.

Many of those countries do not have labor provisions for their workers. They would like to take away the rights of health care workers right now in countries like El Salvador and Guatemala, and I hear over and over again the problems faced by many people there who would like to unionize. They are harassed and intimidated. That is not right, and I think the American public needs to know what negotiations are going on between our country and others to foster trade.

Again, I think jobs are important. I think it is very important to underscore that, yes, as Americans we know it is important to sustain other countries, but let us make sure that our principles are clear.

Last year, I and other Members of this House voted on the Jordan Free Trade Agreement, which I believe was a little bit better than what we are seeing is going to come before this House later this week, but I think we have to remember one of the reasons it got a lot of support was we had protections for workers' rights and for the environment. Those two major issues are lacking in this upcoming Chile and Singapore agreements.

I would underscore the need here is about jobs, jobs in America and making sure that we do not undercut our workforce or the workforce of those foreign countries, because many of them will not have the same protections as we as workers have in this country, and I point that out because we hear too often about the abuses

with young children, no labor provisions to protect children abroad. I would ask my colleagues to oppose these agreements.

U.S.-CHILE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2003, the United States and Chile signed a historic and comprehensive free trade agreement designed to reduce barriers and facilitate trade and investment between both countries. Negotiations had begun back in December 2000, and 14 negotiating rounds were held. In the final round, 230 negotiators worked 9 straight days to come up with an agreement that contains more than 800 pages of text and annexes.

The result of all this hard work is a state-of-the-art trade pact that includes groundbreaking provisions which have never been negotiated as part of a free trade agreement. For example, the agreement includes new anticorruption rules in government contracting, and commitments to make end-user piracy of copyrighted works a criminal offense. Also included are new customs procedures which will increase transparency, efficiency, and timeliness of customs clearance procedures while maintaining strong border security.

Chile has agreed to new regulatory transparency commitments that will govern the interaction of service regulators with private parties, increasing public access to rulemaking procedures. In addition, the dispute settlement process will become more transparent with more public hearings, access to legal submissions, and the rights of third parties to submit views.

But beyond the precedent-setting features of the agreement, there is a bottom-line reality. Right now most of Chile's products enter the United States duty free under the GSP, or generalized system of preferences. In contrast, our exports to Chile face a uniform tariff of 6 percent. Once the U.S.-Chile free trade agreement enters into force, Chile's 6 percent tariff will be removed immediately from more than 85 percent of U.S. exports. Tariffs on the remaining products will be phased out over 4 to 12 years.

This is a good agreement which covers a particularly wide range of products and services. Not only does it address the liberalization of merchandise trade; it also includes groundbreaking areas such as e-commerce, express delivery services, strong copyright and trade protections, and across-the-board liberalization of trade in services.

In short, there is something for everyone to like in this agreement. But as with other trade agreements, there

is also something for everyone to question. The three areas that are often addressed by Members who have not had an opportunity to focus on the agreement, and we heard from a couple of them this morning, are: labor, the environment, and immigration. For instance, some Members who are not familiar with Chile and its labor laws question whether the labor provisions in this agreement are strong enough. The facts are that Chile has recently rewritten most of its Pinochet-era labor laws, reaffirming its obligation as a member of the international labor organization, and committed in this agreement to a key binding obligation not to fail to effectively enforce its labor laws through a sustained or recurring course of action or inaction. Labor protections within Chile and within this agreement are strong and sound.

And because it is a free trade agreement, other Members question whether it preserves environmental protections, but this free trade agreement includes provisions requiring parties to establish high levels of environmental protection and to not weaken or reduce environmental laws to attract trade or investment. It provides for dispute settlement and for environmental cooperation between the parties.

And last, some Members have questioned the impact this agreement may have on our immigration policy and whether it will open the door to a new wave of immigrants. The answer is no. It is true that in order to facilitate trade and services this agreement does allow for temporary entry of business professionals into Chile and into the United States. The number of professionals allowed entry into Chile is unlimited, while the number of Chilean professionals in the United States is 1,400. But I want to point out that the implementing legislation ensures that Chile professional category comes under the existing H-1B umbrella as H-1B1.

Further, the legislation clarifies that the Chile H-1B professional category is capped and these individuals will count under the overall H-1B program cap. The same fees can be charged for entry, and the agreement permits the U.S. to require attestations modeled after core elements of the Labor Condition Application of the current H-1B visa program.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good agreement with a good trading partner that will be good for our businesses and workers. I plan to vote for the U.S.-Chile trade agreement, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

COLUMNIST BLOWS CIA AGENT'S COVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was stunned this morning to pick up the newspaper and read in an article in *Newsday* dated July 22 that a columnist blew a CIA agent's cover. That is the headline of this article. Now, Robert Novak, who is the columnist who did this, said they came to me, they thought it was significant, they gave me the name and I used it. That is a criminal offense. To give the name of an American member of the CIA to uncover them is a criminal offense. Somebody in the administration thought it was important to let that news out. So they went to Mr. Novak, he is one of the Republican Party's pets in the press, and they knew it would go right into the press.

But when will the investigation start in this House by the Republicans of the Republican administration people who broke the law? Who in the White House had the gall to think they were above the law and they could go down and take a reporter and say let me give you the name of one of our undercover agents who has been operating abroad? Members may ask themselves why would they do that? Were they threatening her or did they want other people to understand, do not talk anything bad about this administration? This administration is trying to make the American people afraid to speak up and dissent. They did this because she happened to be the wife of somebody that the administration sent to Niger to find out the truth of the forgeries that the President spoke about here in this very place. When he came back and gave his report, his report was ignored and they insisted upon putting it into the speech.

Mr. Speaker, the question you have to ask is, who is writing the laws that cover the White House and the administration? Or are they operating on their own? They could do anything and the stonewall on the Republican side of the House of Representatives will never bring it up. I guarantee Members there will not be any attempt to have an investigation by the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; of course, we trust them, yes.

Today, Mr. Bremer is going to sneak into this room and they are going to lock the doors and he is going to tell us a lot of things. Imagine what would happen if I or the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) or even the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) were to stand in this well and say the name of an undercover CIA agent. They would be in the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in 15 minutes. They would be hanging by their thumbs; but not Mr. Novak and not those people in the White House. They get a free pass. They do not operate under the same laws you and I do. This is becoming a pretty strange place where the White House, whose job it is to enforce the laws of the United States, that is what the executive branch is about, right in the bowels of the White House, we have somebody

who feels no compunction whatsoever to go out in the street and hand this information out. I am waiting for the investigation.

CHILE AND SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Singapore free trade agreement with the United States. This week we will be debating and voting on the free trade agreements with Chile and Singapore. I stand in support of these because I believe that these agreements will not only nurture our friendship and relationship with these great nations, but also will be in the best interests of the United States.

In terms of direct economic benefits, there are three broad areas that I believe in particular the United States will gain benefit from with this free trade agreement with Singapore: goods, services, and intellectual property.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America is friends with Singapore, and we value the relationship we have. The relationship with Singapore's ambassador to the United States and also our relationship with Singapore is one that needs to be strengthened and nurtured. By signing this free trade agreement, we are going to bring into play the opportunity for America and Singapore, who we already share so many good things in context with from business relationships, but we are going to codify this free trade agreement around the ability we have in our legal systems to not only work together and agree with the differences that we may have, but to be able to do business in an ever-increasing small world, a world where the things that we do here in the United States are the things that are done in Singapore, and to make sure these difference are resolved properly.

Intellectual property is one of the key components of the intelligence and strength of this country, and I believe that this free trade agreement will allow the free flow of not only intellectual property but the things that come as a result of that. This agreement updates also Singapore's intellectual property laws, and as was noted by Thomas Lipscomb on June 10 in the *Wall Street Journal*, "Entertainment content is now America's largest export, and information is the basis of more than half of our gross domestic product."

Mr. Speaker, I will tell Members that this free trade agreement with Singapore is going to be one that will benefit Singapore and the great people of this Nation. I stand in support of this free trade agreement. It is about jobs, about intellectual property, it is about goods and services. It is about a rela-

tionship with one of America's greatest trading partners and allies, Singapore.

OPPOSING FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the free trade agreement which has been discussed here today for a variety of reasons. I think Members understand that we need to trade and understand that we have an obligation to trade, and for our citizens to have an ability to trade and to buy goods and services. I think many people in this Chamber understand the concept of comparative advantage where certain countries have certain strengths and that we need to tap into those strengths; but I cannot understand, I am having a difficult time as I listen to the previous speakers talk about intellectual property, talk about copyrights, talk about piracy, talk about customs, these are priorities when we negotiate these agreements.

The intellectual property has become our priority, and we need to protect them, but why when we are negotiating these agreements can we not put the same energy and the same conviction into our environmental standards, into labor standards, that we believe in in this country and that we have stood for for many, many years, the great strides through the last century that we have made in the environment, for our labor standards, protection of workers, and we are beginning to see the race to the bottom where manufacturing jobs leave this country, they go to Mexico? They leave Mexico and they go to China because the labor standards there and the environmental standards there are so low that the capital begins to chase to the lowest common denominator.

That is the problem I have with these agreements. And the other speakers kept talking about the intellectual property and kept talking about the copyrights, and that is because those people who want those aspects of the agreement protected are sitting at the table. They are the ones sitting there negotiating these agreements, and so they are making sure that their interests are protected. When are the interests of the environment going to be protected in these agreements? When are the interests of the labor folks and the workers that are being taken advantage of, when are they going to be at the table?

Mr. Speaker, until they are, I am not going to support these agreements. We have an obligation in this country to support and to promote our values. The last speaker talked about what the U.S. will gain. They will gain goods, services, and protections in intellectual property. I want to see trade