

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. This morning on our side, Mr. President, we have people who wish to speak. Senator AKAKA is in the Chamber at this time. We would ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes, Senator JEFFORDS for up to 15 minutes, Senator WYDEN for 15 minutes, and Senator CORZINE for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii, Mr. AKAKA, is recognized.

 ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the only Chinese American in the U.S. Senate, and sole Native Hawaiian in the U.S. Congress, I am proud to stand here to honor the accomplishments and diversity of the AAPI community.

In 1978, my friends and dear colleagues Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta, joined by Hawaii's Senators DANIEL K. INOUE and Spark Matsunaga, introduced the first resolutions establishing Asian Pacific American Heritage Week to recognize the ongoing contributions to our Nation of the AAPI population. Representatives Horton and Mineta worked with their colleagues in the 102nd Congress to make Asian Pacific American Heritage Week a month-long celebration, and succeeded in doing so with enactment of Public Law 102-450 in 1992. I look back with pride over the past 25 years since our great Nation first observed Asian Pacific American Heritage Week.

Throughout this month, Federal agencies and AAPI and other organizations will hold events in celebration of the diversity of the AAPI population that range from samplings of Asian cuisines to dance, and policy lectures by distinguished speakers. Each event demonstrates the contributions that AAPI individuals have made to our country. I commend agencies and organizations for sponsoring such events to increase public awareness of the contributions made by the AAPI community.

This month presents us with a good opportunity to reexamine the need to increase AAPI participation in our Federal Government. I encourage the President to renew Executive Order 13216, the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, which expired on June 7, 2003. The Commission is mandated to develop, monitor, and coordinate Federal efforts to improve AAPI participation in Government programs; foster research and data collection for AAPI populations and sub-populations; and

increase public and private sector and community involvement in improving the health and well-being of the AAPI community. AAPI citizens, whether employed in the private and public sector, deserve the coordination of services that the Commission can facilitate.

Our celebration of AAPI history includes remembrances of the challenges and hardships that have been overcome. For example, we will never forget the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. At the newly opened Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, we have an opportunity to explore our past and reflect. The AAPI community, specifically the Japanese American National Museum and Japanese American Citizens League, are exploring ways to preserve and recall history at the other sites that mark this traumatic time in our country's history in an effort to ensure that such actions do not repeat themselves.

This month also affords us time to reflect on the various social needs that exist in the AAPI community. Its population enriches our culture linguistically through a range of languages, such as Chinese, Hawaiian, Korean, Japanese, Malay, Samoan, Tamil, Thai, Vietnamese, and various Melanesian, Micronesian, and Polynesian languages. Our Nation benefits from this linguistic diversity in our ability to compete in the global economy, and U.S. national security is strengthened by increasing the pool of individuals fluent in critical languages. Fluency in foreign languages is one of the vital skills necessary for the United States to exercise international leadership economically and politically. However, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, slightly less than half of the 7 million AAPI who speak a language other than English at home report that they speak English "very well." We need to better address the educational needs of all limited English proficiency students, children, and adults.

I want to extend my gratitude to the patriotic men and women serving our country in the military, including the 60,813 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Services, as well as the 28,066 in the Reserves and National Guard. I also commend the 351,000 AAPI veterans, 57,000 of whom are of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage, for their excellence in defending our nation.

In addition, individual achievements among the AAPI population are many. Though impossible to enumerate all those extraordinary individuals, I would like to cite a few examples.

Army Specialist Hilario Bermanis of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division was presented with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for Meritorious Conduct in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On July 16, 2003, the award presentation ceremony took place bedside at Walter

Reed Army Medical Center where he was convalescing from grave injuries. Specialist Bermanis and a fellow soldier were on guard duty in southern Baghdad when they sustained an attack by rocket propelled grenades on June 10, 2003. His fellow soldier died instantly and Specialist Bermanis lost both legs and his left hand. Officials from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the U.S. Government have visited him at Walter Reed and praised him for his courage and exemplary service. A senior U.S. official commended Specialist Bermanis's service as representative of FSM citizens' commitment to the security of the United States and Pacific region. Specialist Bermanis hails from Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Dr. Yuan-Cheng Fung, the recipient of the Chinese Institute of Engineers' Distinguished Life Time Achievement Award, is a pioneer in bioengineering and founder of the University of California, San Diego's bioengineering department. Born in China in 1919, Dr. Fung began his career as an aeronautics engineer working for the Chinese government. Dr. Fung received his Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 1948, where he became a faculty member and a major contributor to the field of aeroelasticity. When his mother developed glaucoma, Dr. Fung's interests shifted to medical science. Combining an expertise in force and motion from aeronautics with physiology, he synthesized a new understanding of how the body functions and became the father of biomechanics.

Lauren Moriarty, a Native Hawaiian, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and was confirmed for the rank of Ambassador to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, where she was recently the U.S. Senior Official. Having previously served in Beijing and Taipei, Ms. Moriarty led the Economic Sections at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China (1999-2001) and the American Institute in Taiwan (1994-1997) as those two economies completed negotiations to accede to the World Trade Organization. She has received numerous awards, including the State Department's 1993 Arnold L. Raphel Award for her leadership and mentoring of her subordinates.

Indra K. Nooyi is the widely admired President and Chief Financial Officer for PepsiCo and highest ranking Indian-born woman in corporate America. Upon emigrating to the United States in 1978, Ms. Nooyi entered the Yale School of Management. She worked from midnight to five in the morning to support herself at school. A firm believer in human potential and an advocate of education, Ms. Nooyi has received awards for her dedication to human capital management. She is ranked by Fortune magazine as one of America's top 50 most powerful women.

AAPI cultural and linguistic diversity, entrepreneurship, public service, and scientific endeavors illustrate a

number of the ways that our Nation excels. The United States is the most energetic and innovative country because of the combination of these AAPI strengths with the diverse abilities and skills of our Nation's other ethnic and racial groups. The U.S. is also a leader in the world because of our ability to acknowledge, celebrate, and utilize the potency of our combined, diverse citizenry, including the contributions from every member of our AAPI community. In the world that is all too frequently wracked by ethnic and religious conflicts, we can demonstrate to others how racial and ethnic harmony in the U.S. provides a balance that encourages a stable democracy, provides for well-functioning societies, and sustains the most powerful economy in the world.

In closing, I extend my deepest aloha to all in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and I urge my colleagues to participate in commemorations of this month in their States and our Nation's Capital.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. I ask to be recognized to speak in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRADE WITH CHINA

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, we have apparently reached an impasse on the FSC/ETI bill. I am the first one to acknowledge that our majority leader should be insistent we pass this bill. We are dealing with some changes to the tax policy of the United States to avoid tariffs on U.S.-manufactured products going into Europe. The WTO has ruled against us and we need to change our law. We have a lot of other things being added onto this bill that are probably not related to that but, as this bill is being touted as a jobs package, I think that is an appropriate way to describe what we are trying to accomplish in this bill.

But I am going to be honest with you, I have an amendment I have had pending on this bill for a very long time, along with Senator SCHUMER, and this amendment deals with requiring the Chinese Government to float the currency. It basically says if within 180 days the Chinese Government does not take corrective action in the way they peg their currency to the dollar, then tariffs will be levied against any products coming out of China into the United States that benefit from that currency devaluation.

To make a long story short: China cheats. The Chinese have a system of valuing their money that creates between a 15-percent and 40-percent discount on all products produced in China. This currency manipulation is putting our manufacturing community at a severe disadvantage. It is creating an unfair advantage for Chinese-produced products, and it is done by the Government.

Free trade, fair trade, these are words people throw around. If you are a free trader, that code word means you don't care for the consequences to the worker. If you are a fair trader, the code word means you are a protectionist. I would like to be thought of as a balanced trader. You cannot have balance if your trading partner at the governmental level cheats.

I don't have enough time to go into how I think the Chinese Government intentionally steals intellectual property rights of American companies and foreign companies, but 90 percent of all the videos and tapes sold in China are pirated. If you do business in China, your intellectual property is very much at risk because there is no rule of law protection. The Chinese Government helps companies transship—illegally ship goods produced in China to get the benefit of trade agreements to which they are not party, and it goes on and on. But one of the biggest abuses is to value the currency in an artificially low manner that pegs the Chinese currency to the dollar in a way that gives a 15-percent to 40-percent discount.

Our amendment, that of myself and Senator SCHUMER, tries to let the Chinese know we are not going to take this anymore. They need to take corrective action. If we are going to trade with you, if you are going to be a member of the family of nations, you need to comply with international trade laws when it comes to how you value money; that you can't cheat without a consequence.

If you doubt what I am saying, talk with any manufacturing entity that is a domestic manufacturer that competes with China and ask them about the money problem, the currency, the devaluing of the Chinese currency, and how it affects their ability to be competitive. In droves, they will tell you that you need to either get China to float their currency like every other market-based economy has done, to find its true value, as we do, or you need to revalue it to get a more fair and accurate representation of the value of the Chinese currency.

We have had great job growth in the last 2 months. That is encouraging. But one thing we have not been able to accomplish yet is a rebounding in manufacturing jobs. I am here to say I support the President in every endeavor to try to grow this economy, but we—the administration, the Congress, the House and the Senate—need to deal more aggressively with Chinese abuses when it comes to trade.

From September 2002 to September 2003, there has been a 6.6 percent decline in manufacturing jobs in South Carolina. One of the great reasons is not productivity gains; it has been a loss of market share to China—not because they work harder, not because they are smarter, but because the Government cheats.

As a whole, the U.S. manufacturing jobs have decreased by 4.2 percent. Only two States, Hawaii and Nevada, have seen an increase in manufacturing jobs. In South Carolina, 41,000 jobs in 2003 were lost in manufacturing and 3 million American jobs have been lost in the last 5½ years. China's access to the U.S. textile industry and apparel market more than doubled in 2002, growing at 117 percent. That is in addition to 114 percent up in 2003.

The bottom line to all this is there will be no economic recovery in manufacturing until our country aggressively deals with trade abuses of China in a wide variety of areas, but one of the chief abuses is the Chinese Government artificially devalues its money, creating a discount from 15 to 40 percent on every product made in China. That is not fair to those people who are competing with Chinese companies. It is done intentionally and it has a serious and dramatic effect on our ability to sustain manufacturing jobs in this country.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission was a commission established by the Congress to look at Chinese policies and how they affect our economy and whether China is playing fairly. It is a bipartisan group. It is a group before which I have testified. They have taken testimony from a variety of people in the United States about China and how China affects the U.S. market and whether Chinese practices comply with international trade regimes. Here is what they said:

China, in violation of both its IMF and WTO obligations, is in fact manipulating its currency for trade advantage.

The Commission urges the congressional leadership to use its legislative powers to force action by the U.S. and Chinese governments to address this unfair and mercantilist trade practice.

They are telling us that, yes, the currency in China is being intentionally manipulated and it is costing us jobs and it has a detrimental impact on the American economy.

It is being undervalued on purpose to create a trade advantage. They are urging us to get the administration and us as a body—the House and Senate as bodies—to fight back. I am here to say I accept their challenge. I am willing to fight back.

We are not going to have a cloture vote with my vote until I get a promise we are going to address this problem this year.

Since 1994, when China pegged its currency to the dollar, the trade deficit has increased dramatically. In 1994, they tied the value of their currency to