

technically requires the enforcement of all labor laws, and as a penalty for failing to enforce its labor laws, a CAFTA country must pay a fine to improve the labor conditions. However, the agreement contains no guarantee that the fine will be used for that purpose. In fact, as a party to the CAFTA agreement, the U.S. has the ability to withdraw trade benefits only based on whether that fine is paid, not on how that money is used.

This provision violates the spirit of the fast track negotiating authority under which Congress will consider CAFTA. Under fast track, all parts of an agreement must be subject to equal remedies. Yet under CAFTA, the penalties for labor violations are much weaker than those involved in commercial disputes, whether it be copyright or some other commercial dispute.

Make no mistake about it, this agreement is not in the interest of the Central American worker or the American worker. This agreement would just open the door for American multinational corporations or other countries' multinational corporations to shift their operations overseas for cheap Central American labor. In the interest of both American workers and the Central American workers, I encourage my colleagues to join me, and a majority of this House, in opposition to DR-CAFTA.

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.)

#### IRAQ

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, this Congress approved an additional \$82 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is on top of the other \$220 billion that we had appropriated, raising the total cost of this war to more than \$300 billion. If that was not enough, this week we are about to approve another \$45 billion as a bridge loan for the operations in Iraq, bringing the cost up to \$350 billion. What have we gotten ourselves and what have we accomplished in the last 2 plus years and after nearly now \$350 billion of American taxpayer money?

We defeated Saddam Hussein's regime, but today we find ourselves mired in an endless occupation with the inability to find a way out of our occupation of Iraq. In fact, the generals there say we are years off from ever being able to extricate ourselves from Iraq. Operation Iraqi Freedom was a war of choice. As President Kennedy once said, "To govern is to choose."

One can only hope that the war in Iraq was the right choice.

Every President in the middle of a war has thought and laid out a vision of America after that war, how to see of all the sacrifices that America made, how the benefits of the war would come home. President Lincoln thought of the land grant colleges and the transcontinental railroad system in the midst of a civil war. He saw a way of building America when it became clear we were going to win that war. President Roosevelt, the GI bill and universal health care; President Truman, the minimum wage, universal health care; President Eisenhower, on the heels of the beginning days of the Cold War as well as the closing days of the Korean War, the Interstate Highway System today. President Kennedy, in the midst of Vietnam and the early days of his administration of a cold war, envisioned a man on the moon and NASA, where America would dominate space and all the benefits that would come from that. President Johnson saw health care as his vision, Medicare and Medicaid.

While we are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, while Americans have lost 1,700 of their fellow citizens, over 10,000 who have been wounded and cost us \$350 billion of taxpayer-funded entities and a taxpayer-funded war, what is our vision? What has this President said? How does he see America down that horizon, that point out there on the horizon as you look forward? What are we going to build? What vision do we lay for the next generation for all the sacrifices Americans have made, not just in blood and in treasure, but for our sense of our country?

As I said, President Lincoln saw an intercontinental railroad system. This President wants to eliminate Amtrak. President Eisenhower built highways. The highway system we have today was laid out by President Eisenhower. President Bush is threatening to veto the highway bill. President Kennedy saw a man on the Moon. The President has walked away from his vision of putting a man on Mars. President Roosevelt saw a GI bill for the troops to come home. Just this last week we cut or eliminated the opportunity for our National Guard and reservists to get health care.

Every President during the midst of a war has had a vision of America after that war that was bigger, grander and worth all the sacrifice that said the benefits of that war, America's prestige, would come home in material benefits to America. That is why we have an intercontinental highway system. That is why we had a railroad system. That is why we had the land grant colleges. That is why we put a man on the Moon. We saw a vision, every President that led this country both through war and then through peace.

It is at this time that this President needs to lay out a vision, and, let me tell you, it needs to be larger than a tax cut. That is not a vision. Somehow,

do we have a universal broadband, so America leads again technologically? Would you see in the midst of a war a President who submits a budget that cuts the National Institutes of Health, a President who eliminates from the National Science Foundation \$100 million from its budget, yet we placed 16th for the first time in computer sciences? That is not a vision of America that goes forward. That is a smaller, a reduced America, an America that does not see itself in the grand scheme of things.

When President Bush ran for the nomination in 2000, he announced that he was against nation-building. You look sometimes at this budget, you look at what he has done, and who knew it was America he was talking about when it came to nation-building? It is time for this President to lay out a vision that says, with all the sacrifices, his vision for America, what we are going to do. We are going to build in the science, we are going to build in the medical field, we are going to provide universal health care. What is it? It has got to be more than a veto of a highway bill, and it has got to be more than the elimination of 60 vocational programs. It has got to be more than walking away from landing a man on Mars. It has got to be a vision that says the sacrifice was worthy of this country and its great commitment to democracy around the world.

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

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### CAFTA

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I also rise to join my colleagues in opposition to the Dominican Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement, known as CAFTA. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and other Members of Congress will shortly be speaking for a special hour to take note of the negative effects that CAFTA will have not only on the American public, but also our relatives and friends that live in Central America.

I have the distinction of being one of the few Members of Congress with family that lives in Central America. I have seen firsthand for myself the conditions that people are currently living in there right now, in a small country known as Nicaragua where the poverty levels are just outrageous. There is no relief that will come through CAFTA, in my opinion.

As I see it right now, what we have learned from the NAFTA trade agreement that was passed some 10 years

ago, before I came to this House, we will see the same pillaging occur with individuals who represent Central American countries, particularly young women. The pattern does not change.

In my visit there 2 years ago, I had a chance to see women outside at 5 o'clock in the morning, over 300 women lining up to enter into these maquilas, these assembly plants, if you will, in free trade zones that were set up in El Salvador and Nicaragua. In El Salvador they were lined up to begin their work of 12 to maybe 14 hours a day, gaining maybe less than \$30 a week, living far from their families in areas that would not provide them with decent housing or even sanitation. And I am concerned because when we talk as a country, a great Nation protecting the rights of our workers here, we also set an example for those individuals that represent other foreign countries when we say we want to open up fair trade agreements.

In my opinion, this is not an agreement that I support. I can tell you by hearing from people there firsthand that have told me that they do not believe that they are going to reap any benefits; that the profits will go to the big corporations, whether they are U.S. or other foreign entities. That money, I do not believe, will stay there to help restabilize and provide infrastructure, clinics, education and decent housing for the people that will be working there for many years to come.

In fact, what we have seen occur in Mexico is that, yes, we set up our maquiladoras there along the border in an area like Ciudad Juarez, and soon we found that they could go for cheaper labor by leaving there, almost half of those maquilas, and transporting their factories to China where they could get a lower cost for wage labor and provide less protections for people in the workplace. Meanwhile, those products are coming back to this country.

My question is, why is it that this country feels somehow that it is good to provide incentives for big corporations who do not pay taxes here and allow for the squalor and mistreatment of people in an inhumane way abroad, yet we are supposed to be setting an example?

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I know that the President a year ago introduced this proposal, and he has yet to bring it up because I understand that his own party is not in support. He has many Members that are very reluctant to support CAFTA because we have seen a number of jobs, over 750,000, that have left this country. In my district alone during NAFTA, we lost more than 1,000 jobs, many in the textile and agricultural industry, many of those low-paying jobs that were held by Latinos.

So when I think about CAFTA, I think about what is going to happen again to those individuals in this country, people who are right now trying to

make a living and will see soon their jobs leave this country and go abroad. What will they then be left with holding the bag?

All I can tell everyone is that there are many of us here, including the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, 14 members, a good majority of our Members, who voted against CAFTA, and I hope that everyone here is paying attention because we are not just speaking from our own districts, but we are talking also about individuals representing those different countries who have come here on different pilgrimages to come and talk and inform us as legislators. They too will be here this week to talk to us about what they see in terms of the wrongness about this CAFTA agreement.

And I hope that Members in our party as well as the other side of the aisle will come to some reason that we could maybe put this aside and maybe renegotiate this whole effort because I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that we are heading down a wrong path. I do not want to see any more of our jobs leaving and then bringing about what I would call a suppression of the workforce in those Central American countries, particularly when it affects women. When we see 14- and 15-year-old women having to work for 14 and maybe 16 hours a day, 6 days a week, not being able to go to school, not having any health care coverage, not having a decent wage to help support their own families, then I have to ask the question why are we heading down that path? And that is something that I truly believe my constituents support me on, and I have heard from them as well. We had a forum at Cal State Los Angeles recently where we had ten individual witnesses speak, and there is a resounding no for CAFTA.

So I would urge my colleagues to pay attention and to heed the concerns that we have here in the Congress such as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and other Members that have been leading the cause.

#### THE UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the Members about the United Nations Reform Act of 2005, which the House will be considering on Thursday of this week. I would like to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), whose skillful leadership was essential in both crafting and moving this important bill through committee, and I would like to thank the House leadership, whose commitment and support to this legislation of global importance has been critical to moving it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

The United Nations Reform Act of 2005, Mr. Speaker, aims to institute long-overdue U.N. reforms by addressing and correcting the numerous scandals and institutional failings that have characterized the United Nations, a flawed structure that gives rise to discrimination and negligence at best, and corruption, profiteering, and collusion at worst.

The Oil-for-Food scandal is a primary example of these failings. As a result of the mismanagement of the contracts, out right graft and corruption when the administration of the Oil-for-Food program by the U.N. staff and by Saddam Hussein was implemented, it not only made a mockery of the humanitarian aid program, but it collected an estimated \$20 billion while the U.N. turned its head. Yet the Oil-for-Food program is but one example of an institution that is rife with financial scandal.

Some other notable examples include in 1995, for example, scandal consumed the Kenya office of UNICEF, the U.N. body created to provide assistance to the world's disadvantaged children, when that office defrauded or squandered up to \$10 million in agency funds. Another example, in 1996, a senior U.N. official at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the body providing technical assistance for the least developed countries, was investigated on suspicion of embezzling between \$200,000 and \$600,000.

Another example, in 1997, 16 past or present employees of the United Nations Development Programme, which was created to help countries design and carry out development programs in poverty eradication, employment creation, and sustainable livelihoods, they were placed under investigation after more than \$6 million was siphoned off over an 8-year period.

To combat these deficiencies, the United Nations Reform Act before us this week has built in budget certification requirements, accountability provisions to address the mismanagement and the corruption, including: holding the United Nations Secretary General accountable to certify that the United Nations' budget is maintained at the approved level; two, requiring that the U.N. budget be more transparent by requiring more details on the budget categories; three, creating an Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Board of External Auditors, including the ability to appoint a special investigator and staff to investigate matters involving senior United Nations officials and also creating an Office of Ethics which will be responsible for creating and managing a code of ethics for all United Nations employees, including education and annual training and publishing of U.N. staff salaries.

The scandals involving U.N. peacekeeping are even more horrible than these. One example, Mr. Speaker, while