



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005

No. 93

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL C. BURGESS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 25 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate extend beyond 9:50 a.m.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year the House Majority Leader the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the most influential Republican in the Congress, promised that this Congress would vote during last year on the Central American Free Trade Agreement, a trade agreement that includes six countries in Latin America and the United States. December 31 rolled around, there was no vote.

Majority Leader DELAY then promised a vote by Memorial Day on CAFTA. Memorial Day came and went.

Majority Leader DELAY then promised a vote on CAFTA prior to July 4. July 4 has since come and gone. Now, Leader DELAY has said there will be a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement some time in July.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that there has not been a vote on the Central American Free Trade Agreement is because of the overwhelming opposition to that trade agreement, opposition from Republicans on that side of the aisle, Democrats on this side of the aisle, opposition from small manufacturers, machine shops, tool and die makers, small manufacturing companies, opposition from unions and all kind of worker organizations, opposition from environmentalists, opposition from religious leaders, opposition from in the United States to the Central American Free Trade Agreement, widespread opposition among leaders and religious leaders, labor leaders, environmentalists advocates for the poor, small business people, small farmers and ranchers throughout the six Latin American countries. The reason they oppose the Central American Free Trade Agreement is it simply will not work for the great majority of people whether it is in Nicaragua or the United States, whether it is in Guatemala or the Dominican Republic.

All of us understand that this CAFTA does not make sense. We should renegotiate the Central American Free Trade Agreement, get rid of this one, renegotiate one that works for everyone.

The reason CAFTA does not work is that it was crafted by a select few, negotiated by a select few to benefit a select few. The drug companies were at the negotiating table. They, of course, will benefit from the Central American Free Trade Agreement, but small manufacturers will not.

The insurance companies and the financial institutions and the banks were at the negotiating table helping to write the Central American Free Trade Agreement. The representatives of small farmers and small ranchers in small businesses were not at the table.

Oil companies and other big energy companies were at the table negotiating the Central American Free Trade Agreement. But consumers and people who will be hurt, the poor and working families in all seven CAFTA countries, were not at the table. It, as I said, was negotiated by a select few, for a select few.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the reason we know that our trade policy is not working is exemplified very well in this chart. 1992, the year I first ran for Congress, was elected, our trade deficit in this country was \$38 billion. In 2004 that trade deficit was \$618 billion, from \$38 billion to \$618 billion in the space of 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, those numbers, those are just trade deficit numbers. But what they represent is loss of manufacturing jobs in large part. The states in red are states that have lost 20 percent of their manufacturing jobs. My State of Ohio, at 216,000 in just 5 years. Michigan over 200,000, Illinois over 200,000, Pennsylvania over 200,000. The Speaker, the man in the Speaker's chair, his State of Texas, 200,000. The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER's) State has lost 30,000 manufacturing jobs. The gentleman from New Jersey, (Mr. PALLONE's) State of New Jersey has lost 105,000 manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, this trade policy is not working. These trade agreements are not working. This trade agreement is not about lifting up workers in the developing world. It is about U.S. companies moving plants to Honduras, outsourcing jobs to El Salvador and exploiting cheap labor in Guatemala, not to help those workers, because those

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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