

their land, and we saw how that drove migration to the United States.

The architects of the TPA in both Congress and the White House take offense at any opposition, leveling the charge that we are being protectionists. The White House claims that with fast track they can move the TPP to lower barriers on U.S. exports among the 11 other nations, thus increasing jobs and wages.

Now to the facts.

Contrary to what we hear, we already have high-standard free trade agreements with 7 of those other 11 nations in the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership. We are writing the rules in the Pacific. Let's write them some more, with good bilateral agreements that will allow the American people to have a voice, not some council or transnational commission that sets our fate.

If you don't believe me, then how about Simon Johnson, a former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, a professor at MIT Sloan, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics? Maybe he knows something about it. Here is what he says about the myth of needing the TPA to lower tariffs among the proposed members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership:

Almost all tariffs on trade among Canada, Mexico, and the United States are long gone—that was the effect of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Under the Australia and Singapore free trade agreements as well, almost all tariffs on U.S. goods sold in those countries have been eliminated. Goods from the United States have entered Chile without tariffs since January of this year, and most tariffs imposed by Peru have already been phased out.

The TPP will amount to a free trade agreement with Brunei, with a population less than Omaha, Nebraska, I might add, and New Zealand, with a population less than Louisiana. Encouraging exports to these countries is surely desirable, but the economic impact on the U.S. is unlikely to be more than a rounding error.

That leaves three larger countries where the issues are more complex: Japan, Malaysia, and Vietnam. And TPP will also confer special status on foreign investors, allowing them to sue for financial judgments against host-country regulations.

Why we would want to provide such differential protection to nondomestic companies is a mystery. Creating a quasi-legal process outside the regular court system, just for foreigners, can go wrong in many ways.

From my own reading of the TPP, without divulging the details, I would add the concern about private rights in disputes, the transnational panel empowered with a living agreement—and yes, it is there; I have seen it with my own eyes—even after the accord is signed by member nations.

There are also the possible exceptions granted to Brunei, whose legal system is not to the same standard as the other nations.

Of great concern is a stated intention to economically integrate like the EU—Not cooperate, but integrate.

So, one says: What solutions do you have? Here are a few.

First, we must start by listening to the American people. If the majority of Americans—from socialists to progressives, to liberals, to moderates, to conservatives, to constitutionalists, to the Tea Parties—have voiced concerns and do not want TPA granted, then our actions this week will truly reflect if we are being representative of that voice.

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Second, the President must demonstrate he can lead on foreign policy. He has yet to do it. Granting fast track to negotiate with 40 percent of the world's economy should be based on how well he has handled negotiations with other nations in his tenure. It is here, in the foreign policy arena, he is found wanting.

The President's talent for negotiation among nations should be measured by his foreign policy record. Have we forgotten the line in the sand, the arming of al Qaeda and other nefarious Syrian rebels to fight Assad, only to watch them morph into ISIS, then dismiss them as a JV team, only to see them tear through Iraq, which fell apart after we abandoned it, after we were assured they could stand on their own if we left early, and now, no strategy to fix it?

Then, there is the Arab Spring, which has morphed into a potential for nuclear winter with Iran. Let's not forget Crimea and Ukraine. I can go on. The question is: Why are we?

As I have said before, like Lucy holding the football, we are told that the President needs the power to negotiate; if we just come and take a kick at it, all will be fine.

We cannot take such chances with our Nation; instead, the President must show us some deeds, not words. He should start by negotiating a bilateral free trade agreement with Japan, an ally, the biggest nation of those that remain and the one that has the greatest economic impact. Intently focus there, bring that to us, and we will likely approve it.

Third, negotiate an interim agreement with China. We still have much to do with raising the bar on Chinese trade due to corruption, piracy of intellectual property, standards of goods, and other concerns. We made those same claims with Japan in the 1960s and with South Korea in the 1980s. Today, we no longer have those concerns.

China lacks lawyers to fight against these problems. Well, we certainly know how to make plenty of those. Negotiate a law school program all across our land's rich institutions to create Chinese attorneys to enforce the economic benefits of the rule of law.

As to goods, China is seeking oil, natural gas, coal, timber, aggregate, beef, and pork to expand their infrastructure and to feed their people. We have an abundance of these and hard-working Americans that will gladly produce and send these goods.

Instead of making China turn to terrorist states like Sudan and trouble-

makers like Venezuela to pursue these resources, how about a trade agreement on these narrow products that will immediately benefit the American people, reduce our debt with China, and strengthen our friendly ties?

It is not impossible. We have the resources. We have the technology. What we need are the guts to do it, a rekindling of the American spirit, and the leadership to get it done. It starts by putting the brakes on fast track. We need the right track instead.

I urge my colleagues, left and right, to stand your ground. It is time for Congress to lead and be the clarion voice of the American people that we represent. That leadership starts this week in the United States House of Representatives.

Let's hold our ground. Let's pivot back to the American people, invest in ourselves, and benefit not just the Pacific, but the entire world, as we have clearly demonstrated we can do in the last 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of a flight delay.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today through June 26 on account of mandatory military service with the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1568. An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1827. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Annual