

further tax cuts until interest expenses went down.

Those who felt and predicted tax cuts are going to spur greater economic growth and, therefore, bring in more revenue and pay down that debt and, therefore, lower the interest rates would get the full tax cut proposed in the original bill.

While the trigger is probably not the perfect trigger, it accomplished the goal of moving the process forward both on reducing the debt and reducing taxes. The concept of using a trigger to allow both sides of the issue to really put your money where the other person's mouth is is a concept of win-win.

It may be crucial to the final passage of this bill that will be acceptable to the White House as well as this House as we review what comes out of conference committee.

I will continue to work this week on perfecting the trigger mechanism since this House, the Senate, and the President must agree on the final outcome before it becomes law.

Debt reduction is important to strengthen the economy and taking the pressure off our kids and grandkids, and tax reduction in a system that has the highest tax rates in history is in need very desperately of the kind of tax cuts that leaves money in the pockets of the people that earn it.

EXTENSION OF NTR FOR CHINA

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

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House on the issue of our policy towards the People's Republic of China.

I believe the United States' policy toward China should be guided by three primary and pragmatic goals.

First, we must safeguard American security against a potential adversary. Second, we should pursue economic trade relations that promote American economic interests. And finally, we should encourage policies that will allow individual liberty and the rule of law and, thus, respect for human rights to flourish in China.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Congress voted to renew normal trade relations, or NTR, with China for another year. This renewal of NTR will advance all three of the above-mentioned China policy goals.

On the national security front, NTR and the expanded trade opportunity that it brings in non-militarily sensitive goods and services will reduce the likelihood of military conflict between the United States and China.

Countries with extensive trade relations are simply less likely to go to war with each other than countries without those ties. This is no surprise. With extensive trade comes extensive

interests in maintaining peaceful relations and thus more trade.

But make no mistake, NTR does not and should not imply trade in militarily sensitive technologies. Any technology with a direct military application should not be exported to China nor to any other country that is not a close ally of the United States.

The Clinton administration's appalling lapses in safeguarding military technology must be rectified immediately. But denying American and Chinese citizens the opportunity to exchange non-military goods and services will not accomplish that.

Instead, the U.S. should reinstate penalties on companies whose negligent sales compromise our security and rebuild a system of controls on the spread of potentially dangerous technologies.

Renewing NTR with China will benefit our economy by providing American consumers access to low-cost goods and by expanding U.S. export opportunities. Revoking NTR would have subjected Chinese imports to dramatically higher tariffs, and that is another word for taxes. These taxes would not be paid by China but by American consumers. Revoking NTR would have subjected American consumers to up to \$29 billion in new taxes.

A second economic benefit from extending NTR will be accelerated growth in high-paying, export-related jobs across America and particularly in my home State of Pennsylvania. Exports in industries such as chemical products, industrial machines, and computer components, where wages average 20 percent higher than the national average, are already fueling much of Pennsylvania's impressive economic growth.

Renewing NTR is a prerequisite to China's ascending to the WTO, which, in turn, will dramatically accelerate further growth and opportunity in U.S. and Pennsylvania exports to China.

But finally, Mr. Speaker, freedom works. By renewing NTR with China, we are helping to provide the opportunity for the Chinese people to liberate themselves from the dictatorship under which they currently live.

China's communist leadership has embarked on what is, for them, a very dangerous course. Unlike most other communist dictatorships this century, from Stalin to Mao to North Korea's Kim Il Jong, Deng Xiaoping chose to open China to foreign investment, limited free enterprise, and engagement with the West. His bet was that he could enjoy the economic benefits of capitalism without losing the communist party's monopoly on political control.

Well, in the long run, Mr. Speaker, if we continue to engage China, Deng's successors will lose that bet and the people of China will be the winners. And they will be the winners of free-

dom because freedom is ultimately indivisible.

People who enjoy economic freedom will eventually demand political freedom. People who read American newspapers will eventually demand their own free press. The people who travel to the United States on business will see incomparable superiority of freedom and will eventually demand that liberty for their own country.

Freedom once tasted is irresistible. Eventually the Chinese people will demand a free, open, and just Democratic society, just as their fellow countrymen enjoy on Taiwan. Only that kind of society will properly respect the Chinese people's human rights.

These changes to Chinese society will not happen overnight, but having extended NTR will increase the pace at which they develop and, best of all, will be helping ourselves in the process.

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REVIEW OF FORUM ON GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for half the time until midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Chicago I hosted the first of 16 women's forums on gun violence that will be conducted by Democratic women Members of Congress. The goal of these forums is to develop strategies and build grassroots movements to pass sensible gun safety legislation this year.

I will tell my colleagues more about this event, Mr. Speaker, during the hour and how much all of us, men and women alike, hope these forums will contribute to making our country safer for our children and our grandchildren.

When discussing gun safety legislation, it is easy for us here in Washington to get lost in all the many intricacies of this subject. We can argue fine points of the law, the real meaning of the second amendment to the Constitution, the difference between a 3-day waiting period and a 72-hour waiting period. We can talk about the features of different weapons and ammunition clips and demonstrate our knowledge of the hardware. But for most Americans, it comes down to this. Is my child safe on her way to school? Can I stroll in my neighborhood on a beautiful summer evening? Is it safe for me to walk home from the synagogue after services or from church? No one is secure enough in our country anymore to answer "yes."

After the tragedy at Columbine High School and the shootings and killing in my district during the Fourth of July weekend, Americans are asking, what