suffer from delays at PTO that are not their fault.

In view of the strong support of a wide range of associations and interests, including a very large number of Fortune 500 companies, the Biotechnology Industry Association, the Computer and Communications Industry Association, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association, the Business Software Alliance, the National Association of Manufacturers—why even the Indiana Manufacturers Association—the obstacles that have been thrown up to our efforts to get this bill scheduled for consideration are very hard to understand.

While I supported earlier versions of this legislation, including H.R. 400 as approved by our Committee last year, I am always loathe to make the best enemy of the good. Today's legislation has won broader support than previous versions of this legislation, and I salute my colleague from North Carolina and his staff for their patience and persistence in bringing us a giant step closer today to our mutual goal of patent reform.

I strongly support this bill, and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1907, the American Inventors Protection Act. The bill, introduced by Representatives COBLE and BERMAN, and now cosponsored by a bipartisan coalition, will provide much needed patent protection to American inventors. This bill also makes the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) more accountable to its customers, and allows customers to recoup patent term lost during the patent process at the PTO. Without a doubt, H.R. 1907 is a pro-growth bill that would foster technological advancements without leaving the small businessperson behind.

The United States is by far the world's largest producer of intellectual property. Many other nations have learned from our success, and have enacted laws targeted to protecting intellectual property developed by small businesses, inventors and industries. Major changes are needed in U.S. patent law to ensure that American inventors and businesses that are largely dependent on the development of intellectual property have the opportunity to compete and win in the global marketplace.

Enactment of this legislation is crucial to promoting growth in the New Economy and to ensuring that the competitiveness of the U.S. high-tech sector, including biotechnology will be enhanced by this bill.

The bill would require the publication of patent applications at eighteen months—a requirement that would make U.S. patent law consistent with the laws of our leading foreign competitors. Under the current two-tiered system almost 80 percent of all patent applications pending in the United States are also filed and published in other countries and printed in the language of the host country. This publication requirement means that foreign competitors may review the U.S. patent application. But because the U.S. system does not require patent publication prior to issuance, foreign competitors are not required to reveal the subject of their applications until after a U.S. patent is issued.

Patent reform legislation also targets a practice known as "submarine patenting," in which a patent applicant deliberately files a very broad application and then delays the issuance of a patent for several years until someone else, who is unaware of the hidden patent application, invests in research and technology to develop a new consumer product. When the product is developed, the holder of the "submarine patent" rises above the surface to sue those who have developed the technology.

Submarine patent filings have risen sharply since the early 1980's. One of these submarine patents cost one company more than $500 million, not including court costs, taking R&D dollars out of the system. Reform is needed to prevent individuals from manipulating the system at great costs to others who are investing in research and innovation.

The U.S. should promote industries and sectors of our economy that provide the U.S. with the greatest relative competitive advantage in the global marketplace. The U.S. is a leader in research, innovation, and the development of intellectual property, but this advantage could be jeopardized if U.S. patent law is not reformed to create a level playing field with our competitors. U.S. patent law should be reformed to ensure that our businesses and researchers are well positioned to compete in the global economy today and into the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1907, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceeding on this motion will be postponed.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT ON H.R. 1905, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 7(c) of House rule XX, I hereby notify the House of my intention tomorrow to offer the following motion to instruct House conferees on H.R. 1905, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. TOOMEY moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendments to the bill H.R. 1905 be instructed to insist upon—

(1) the House provisions for the funding of the House of Representatives under title I of the bill;

(2) the Senate amendment for the funding of the Senate under title I of the bill, including funding provided under the heading "JOINT ITEMS—ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL—Capitol Buildings and Grounds—senate office buildings";

(3) the House provisions for the funding of Joint Items under title I of the bill, other than the funding provided under the heading "JOINT ITEMS—ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL—Capitol Buildings and Grounds—senate office buildings"; and

(4) the House version of title II of the bill.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. NORTHUP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

## VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vacate the time allotted to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and take it myself.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

## PRESIDENT IS REWRITING HISTORY

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

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to set the record straight. The President of the United States was in Chicago today taking all kinds of credit for the successes of the Welfare Reform Act that was passed by this Congress and signed by the President.

This President has taken a lot of credit for a lot of things over the last few years, particularly over the years that the Republicans had maintained a majority of this Congress. Frankly, Madam Speaker, I have had just enough.

This President, Madam Speaker, has not initiated one thing, one piece of legislation that he takes credit for.

□ 2230

I will grant him that he finally signed many of the pieces of the legislation, but he has not lifted one finger to pass any of this legislation that he takes credit for through this Congress.

There should be no mistake about it, the well-documented success of welfare reform is the work of the Republican majority in this Congress. Back in 1994, Republicans campaigned on a plan that included comprehensive welfare reform. The Contract With America put Republicans in control of Congress, and we delivered on our agenda.

History should not be rewritten. The President and the Democrats in Congress fought Republicans tooth and