

Women's National Basketball Association title. On Sunday, the Comets beat the New York Liberty 59–47 in front of a sell-out crowd at the Compaq Center in Houston.

It was a great day for Houston, a great day for women's basketball and women's sports, and it was a great day for the Comets, a team that has overcome tragedy to make history.

The Houston Comets have now won three consecutive championship games. This is the second time that the team has faced the New York Liberty and won. And for the third consecutive season, Cynthia Cooper has been named the Most Valuable Player for the WNBA Finals.

Sunday was indeed a great day for Houston because it brought the city together. The game on Sunday was played before a sell-out crowd of 16,285 fans. It brought the best out in a team and a city that suffered the loss of Kim Perrot, the point guard who passed away one week before the play-offs.

Kim Perrot was crucial to the Comets in their two previous championship games. Unfortunately, she was diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year, and passed away in mid-August.

Although she was not physically present, her spirit was indeed there as the team rallied to victory. The crowds chanted "Three for Kim, three for Kim," until the final buzzer, and several fans wore her jersey, number 10 in her memory.

The excitement over the Comets' win follows behind the triumphant win by the U.S. Women's Soccer Team earlier this summer. Both of these wins have ushered in a new era of respect for women's sports.

Women's sporting events have proven to be just as exciting as men's sports. We have seen an increase in sports participation by girls in school and we will soon see more women's sports in prime time. Young girls now have role models in athletics like Cynthia Cooper, Sheryl Swoopes and Tammy Jackson.

Just as we paid homage to Title IX earlier this year, I would like to again mention how important that legislation has been to women's professional sports today. The accomplishments of the Women's National Basketball League serve to remind us that only 27 years ago, there was no Title IX and women were still second class citizens. We have come a long way from the days when only men were expected to excel in sports.

In athletics, we will continue to see more opportunities for women in intercollegiate and professional sports. Institutions must ensure that there is adequate athletic financial assistance, accommodation of athletic interests and abilities of women, and that the opportunities and treatments afforded to sports participants must be equivalent. All of this is critical to ensure a solid future for women's professional sports.

The Houston Comets have now followed in the footsteps of some of the more prominent NBA teams in winning three titles in a row. The Comets are now a part of the pantheon that includes the former Minneapolis Lakers, the Boston Celtics, and the Chicago Bulls.

I salute the Houston Comets team—Janeth Arcain, Cynthia Cooper, Sonja Henning, Tammy Jackson, Monica Lamb, Mila Nikolich, Jennifer Rizzotti, Sheryl Swoopes, Tina

Thompson, Polina Tzekova, Amaya Valdemoro, and Kara Wolters for giving our children s-heroes to look up to. I also salute their coach, Van Chancellor, their owner, Les Alexander and the people of Houston for giving us another reason to celebrate women in sports.

#### USTR PREPARING TO GIVE CHINA MEMBERSHIP IN WTO

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as incredible as it sounds, the bureaucrats from the United States Trade Representative's Office are once again preparing to give their comrades in the People's Republic of China membership in the World Trade Organization. We saw the same thing happen last April when the Chinese autocrat Zhu Rongji was here in Washington.

The USTR was feverishly working to further open our wallets to the world's largest nonmarket country; a nation that is ruled by corrupt tyrants with absolutely no respect for the rule of law or the basic human and political freedoms of its people; a nation that buys less of our goods than Belgium, one that steals our nuclear secrets, a country that proliferates weapons of mass destruction, and has the audacity to threaten the people of Taiwan for wanting the very same political freedom that lets us debate these issues in this chamber.

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I have said it before, and I will say it again. Wei Jingshang, a man who spent nearly decades in Chinese prisons for having the nerve to fight for democracy, told me that it is American business executives and their political connections that serve as the vanguard of the communist revolution of the Chinese in the United States.

As I speak, our Trade ambassador is being advised at the APEC summit in New Zealand by an individual who just 2 weeks ago was a lobbyist for Boeing, while his predecessor is now a lobbyist for a satellite manufacturer with extensive dealings in the People's Republic of China.

Think about that the next time you read or hear about a textile worker in Georgia or an assembly line worker in Detroit or Cleveland who loses her job to a flood of Chinese goods, products that are made by workers that can be arrested, tortured, even executed for trying to organize a trade union. Think about their lives and the lives of their families and the well-being of their communities because the USTR is not going to hire these workers, Microsoft is not going to employ them as computer engineers, Wall Street is not going to take care of these laid off workers by allowing them to share the wealth either.

And while we are left wondering how to help our workers and their families recover from the latest flood of prison labor imports or how we get the People's Liberation Army to back down from its threats against Taiwan, maybe we should take a closer look at how exactly our proposed World Trade Organization deal with China will affect American business and American workers.

Just last week, the International Trade Commission released a report detailing the benefits a China WTO deal would have on our economy, a report based on the false promises that Zhu made during his Washington visit last April. False promises because time and time again the communist Chinese Government has not lived up in China to a single pledge to open its market to foreign competition.

Every memorandum of understanding, every bilateral trade pact that our USTR, our Trade representative, has negotiated with the Chinese and touted as proof that China is changing has been completely ignored by the central planners in Beijing. Yet the American people, including those of us here in Congress, are not even allowed to read the Trade Commission report which was paid for by our tax dollars.

These are not nuclear weapons codes. These are not blueprints for a new generation of microprocessors. These are not top secret materials. This is merely a government report on how a World Trade Organization deal for China will affect the U.S. economy.

Yet the bureaucrats at USTR are deliberately withholding information from the American people and from this Congress. The only thing we have been able to read is a tiny summary that ominously warns that even under the best circumstances, meaning for the first time ever China actually lives up to its promises to reform, in fact that would happen, even then, under the best circumstances, a WTO deal would barely increase our exports and would continue to swell the record setting trade deficits that we seem to find each month in dealing with China.

Think about that because the ugly truth in this report which we are not allowed to read because it is damaging to the agenda of the Republican leadership in Congress, to the President and the administration, and to leaders in corporate America because it is damaging to them, it is admitting that the People's Republic of China into the WTO is the ultimate remedy for our burgeoning trade deficit with the world's worst abuser of human rights.

Mr. Speaker, this is absurd. The American people should demand that the report be released and we should once and for all be allowed to finally democratize our trade policies. For too long our voters, the men and women who send us here, have been shut out of