

A narrated "battle" is set for 3:30 p.m. with cannons booming, muskets firing and battle drums echoing to signal the clash of Texan and Mexican cavalry and infantry. The day concludes with a re-enactment of Santa Anna's surrender to Houston and a ceremony honoring those who died in the battle 163 years ago.

The San Jacinto Battleground is on Texas 134, or Battleground Road, north of Texas 225. For more information call 281-479-2431.

FAIR TRADE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, the headlines are very grim today. We are facing in America a record trade deficit, one that threatens to cut the economic growth rate of this country. This is in the context of an international economic malaise in which unfair trade practices and naked mercantilism have proliferated on the part of our trading partners.

What America needs, Mr. Speaker, is not only a stronger trade policy but stronger legal protections put in place to guarantee a level playing field in this challenging international environment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, on behalf of myself and six bipartisan cosponsors, the Fair Trade Law Enhancement Act of 1999. This bill takes a broad approach to trade law reform and includes important necessary changes to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws. These reforms are essential if we are going to keep the trade laws effective and relevant to current conditions in a newly turbulent global economy.

America's trade laws have long been critically important to U.S. jobs in both the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. These laws form the last line of defense for U.S. industries, which must operate on market-based principles even though their foreign competitors frequently do not, against injury caused by unfairly traded imports.

The basic covenant at the heart of U.S. trade policy holds that while America maintains an open market to fairly traded goods of any origin, our trade laws will ensure that our industries and workers will not be subject to injury from unfairly traded imports.

□ 1430

Unfortunately, American industry and our working men and women have suffered because we have failed to update these laws even as the world economy continues to change. The trade laws must now be strengthened to prevent unfairly traded imports from undermining our manufacturing and agricultural base.

The last general reform of the U.S. trade laws, unconnected to any par-

ticular trade agreement, occurred more than a decade ago. In that time, the problems to which these laws must respond have changed considerably, as underscored by the recent Asian and Russian economic disasters and the steel trade crisis that has ensued. It has become painfully clear, for example, that the current trade laws are not capable of responding to the kinds of sudden import surges, causing dramatic and rapid injury, which now seem to be part of the international economic scene.

The reforms in my bill are fully consistent with WTO rules and fall into three categories: One, amendments to the safeguard law; two, amendments to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws; and, three, provisions establishing a steel import notification program.

The safeguard amendments update the remedy in section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 to make it more effective for U.S. industries trying to deal with damage in import surges. In particular, the amendments conform some of section 201's unnecessarily stringent standards to the more appropriate standards in the WTO safeguards agreement.

The antidumping and countervailing duty law amendments would amend Title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 in light of some of the new global economic realities and conditions to which those laws must now respond. Some of these changes reverse flawed court decisions that have limited the laws' remedial reach in a manner never contemplated by Congress. Again, the primary focus of these reforms is to eliminate unnecessary obstacles American manufacturers and farmers face in securing relief under current law, and to assure through WTO-consistent means that U.S. firms and workers can face their foreign competitors on a level playing field.

Having effective and up-to-date trade laws in place is important to internationally competitive U.S. farm and manufacturing industries, especially the steel industry, where international trade has been more heavily distorted by subsidies, closed markets cartelization and dumping than any other economic sector.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fair Trade Law Enforcement Act of 1999. These fundamental reforms will help keep a credible and effective deterrent against unfair trade in place into the next millennium, and they deserve enthusiastic support from friends of America's manufacturers and farmers and workers all over.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED TO PEOPLE OF LITTLETON, COLORADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly shocked and saddened by yesterday's school tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, where two students opened fire on their classmates and then turned their guns on themselves.

The most common question we ask ourselves in a situation like this is "why?" Well, we do not know yet all the "hows" or "whys" of this tragedy, and we may never understand it. What we can do, without question and hesitation, is extend our thoughts and prayers to the families who have lost their loved ones, to the parents who have lost their beloved children, to the wounded children and their families, and to the people of the community of Littleton, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I can empathize with what the people of Littleton are going through. There was an incident of senseless school violence in my own south Texas congressional district a little over 1 year ago. On January 13, 1998, two masked gunmen, armed with automatic assault rifles, stormed into a building at South Texas Community College and opened fire where students were registering for class. Two students were seriously wounded and one security guard died in that shooting.

In McAllen, Texas, this was certainly not something that we ever imagined possible on a community college campus. Shock and grief swept across our community in the immediate aftermath of the violent incident. To this day, it remains a shock and a horror.

In the days ahead, it is important that we do all we can to hammer home to our children and to young adults that violence is wrong. As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, school safety is an issue that I take very seriously. In fact, it is the number one educational concern of hundreds of my constituents I surveyed earlier this year.

Today, Mr. Speaker, as we struggle to understand this tragedy, our hearts go out to the people of Littleton, Colorado. On behalf of every man, woman and child of Texas's 15th Congressional District, please accept our deep condolences and sympathy.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in remembrance of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. I would like to thank the co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRANK PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHN PORTER) for arranging this important special order in observance of this tragic event.