

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 15, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debate.

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

There was no objection.

HR. OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2000

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2000, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING FORMER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order on Wednesday, May 17, 2000, for the Speaker to declare a recess subject to the call of the Chair for the purpose of receiving in this Chamber former Members of Congress.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday Rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minute requests.

INTERNATIONAL ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the story of Rayma and Rasheed El-Saleh, two children who

were abducted from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Saudi Arabia in 1992 by their non-custodial father.

After an investigation led by the mother, Mary El-Saleh, the father's brother, was contacted in Lebanon and eventually the abductor called Mary and the children were able to speak to her. Rayma and Rasheed expressed how much they missed their mother and sounded depressed.

The children's father, Saleh Chenade El-Saleh, who was formerly trained as a Palestinian terrorist, is very controlling and may be abusive toward the children. He has tried to force Rasheed to testify against his mother and Rayma is apparently showing a great deal of mental stress and is threatening suicide.

Mr. Speaker, Rayma and Rasheed have been wrongfully taken from their mother and placed in a possibly dangerous situation. This House must do something to bring them and the other 10,000 American children who have been abducted to foreign countries back home.

EQUAL PAY DAY

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize today, May 11, as Equal Pay Day. Gender equity is an ongoing struggle that seeps into many facets of all of our lives. We have made a lot of progress and I hope that we will eventually see the end of Equal Pay Day, because the goal will have been achieved. Until then, we know that women do not receive a 27 percent discount on milk when they buy groceries, and they do not pay 27 percent less than men for rent or day care.

The gap between women's and men's wages has narrowed since 1963, but women still bring home only about 73 cents for every man's dollar. And equally disheartening is that the gender-based pay gap with African-American women earning 63 cents and Latino women earning 53 cents on each dollar a man earns.

Achieving equality takes not only awareness of a problem, but a coalition of those dedicated to solving the problem of eliminating the wage gap. The National Committee on Pay Equity, Business and Professional Women, the labor unions and the EEOC, have all helped lead the fight for pay equity. I thank them for representing so many women in the struggles, challenges and victories that they have faced, and I urge this body to do all on our behalf to make sure that we have the legislation in order so that every day is Equal Pay Day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARV SATHER, "TEACHER OF THE YEAR" FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

(Mr. NETHERCUTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted today to make a comment in support of a gentleman by the name of Marv Sather who is from my district, the Fifth District of Washington, who has been given the great award of Teacher of the Year for the State of Washington.

He is a high school teacher at Riverside High School and he teaches English. I had a chance to talk with him today about the future of education and about his commitment to children. The thing that impressed me most about Marv is that he has a passion for education, but he also acknowledges freely that the way he has impressed his students and become, obviously, the Teacher of the Year for our State, is to address them respectfully and deal with them on a person-to-person basis and give them the confidence that he cares deeply about their education.

Mr. Speaker, Marv Sather is a great tribute to education. He is an innovator. He is one example of the many millions of teachers who serve this country and serve our youth so well. So I say wholeheartedly, a sincere congratulations to Marv Sather for his great work in representing education nationally and representing education so well out of eastern Washington. We are proud of you.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

□ 1615

END THE EXPLOITATION OF WORKERS BEFORE CONSIDERING PERMANENT MFN

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by commending the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for all their leadership and work on the pay equity issue. It is a very important issue, not only for women, but for families in this country, and I applaud their leadership.

Having said that, I want to tell my colleagues about another person who

works. She is a 16-year-old girl. I want my colleagues to meet her. She is not a criminal. She spends her days locked up behind a 15-foot wall topped with barbed wire.

At the end of the day, she must leave in a single file from her work site like a prisoner. During the day, she assembled sneakers, applying toxic glue with her bare hands. She is not in school to make her life better. Despite all the evidence, my colleagues can see her, she is not in prison.

She works in a shoe factory in China that ships its sneakers to our department stores and our malls. She toils for \$70 a month. She could work for a month and barely afford to buy one pair of the shoes that she makes. She works with 1,800 other young women. Ninety percent of them are between the ages of 16 and 25. By the age of 25, most of them are exhausted. In some factories, they are forced to retire.

This scene is played out over and over again throughout China's thousands of American-owned factories. Handbags made for the American market are stitched together by thousands of workers under conditions of indentured servitude, with only 1 day off a month. They work 30 days out of 31 days.

The workers earn an average, listen to this, 3 cents an hour. They are fed two dismal meals a day and are housed in a dormitory, 16 people to one very small room, crammed into this room.

When the workers protested for being forced to work from 7:30 in the morning to 11 p.m. in the evening, 7 days a week for literally pennies, pennies an hour, when they protested, 800 workers were fired.

Now, this is what American companies are doing in China. Instead of trying to create a consumer market for American goods in China, these companies are looking for cheap labor by exploiting Chinese workers.

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker, we want to expand market for American goods in China, but that is not what this trade deal is all about, and that is not what these companies are doing. These companies are moving jobs to China, exploiting Chinese workers, and shipping these products back here into the United States of America.

China is an export platform. American companies operating in China have an obligation to abide by internationally-recognized standards on wages and working conditions and the right to organize, so they can have a say that they do not have to work 14 hours a day, 16 hours a day for 3 cents an hour, 30 out of 31 days a month.

Regrettably, a new report was issued by Charlie Canahan on sweat shops in China. This new report shows that these companies, who are also lobbying, they are here all over Capitol Hill, lobbying for permanent MFN for China, they consistently deny human and worker rights.

But the WTO excludes labor rights from consideration and so does the bilateral deal reached with China last year. It does nothing to ensure that Chinese workers will be free from this exploitation by American companies, much less than the oppressive regime in Beijing.

If this Congress, Mr. Speaker, passes permanent MFN for China without giving workers the same protection that the WTO calls for software, compact discs, tapes, we will lose our leverage to do anything at all.

We should insist that China and American companies in China abide by internationally recognized worker rights before we even consider permanent MFN for China.

In conclusion, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that if one raises one's voice for worker rights, for human rights, for religious liberties in China, one will end up in prison, where are thousands and thousands and tens of thousands of people are languishing in gulags today because they dare to try to create an atmosphere where they can worship their God, where they can have a decent working condition with decent wages for themselves and their families, and where they can politically participate in a government to change the way of life that is so oppressive for them and their families.

OPPOSE PNTR FOR CHINA

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, another veterans or military organization comes out against PNTR today for China. The Fleet Reserve Association, representing 10,000 members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard opposes PNTR.

The Naval Reserve Association, representing 37,000 officers and enlisted members, is opposed to PNTR. The Warrant Officers Association, representing 20,000 warrant officers, is opposed to PNTR. The Reserve Officers Association, representing 80,000 officers said, "Now is not the time to grant PNTR to China."

Today, the American Legion, God bless them, representing 2.8 million veterans, came out opposed to PNTR for China.

This vote is scheduled just a few days before Memorial Day, a day in which we honor our armed forces personnel for giving their lives for our freedom. We should heed the voices of these men and women who served for us to give us this freedom, this dignity.

When we are given the opportunity, we should vote no on PNTR for China until they improve their human rights, respect religious freedom, and stop being a threat to our men and women in uniform.

PASSING PNTR WILL ONLY CONFIRM THAT CHINA'S BEHAVIOR WILL CONTINUE AND WORSEN

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, this Congress is built upon a common desire to promote democratic ideals throughout the world. But as we strive to encourage democracy in developing nations, something is sorely amiss in our China policy.

When the CEOs of multinational corporations lobby for increased trade with China, they talk about access to 1.2 billion Chinese consumers. What they do not say is that their real interest is 1.2 billion Chinese workers, workers whom they pay 10 cents, 20 cents, 30 cents, 40 cents an hour.

These CEOs will tell us that increasing trade with China will force China to improve, that engagement with China will bring democracy to that Communist dictatorship. But as we engage with developing countries in trade and investment, democratic countries in the developing world are losing ground to more authoritarian countries. Democratic nations such as India are losing out to more totalitarian governments such as China where the people are not free and the workers do as they are told.

In the post-Cold War decade, the share of developing country exports to the U.S. for democratic nations fell from 53 percent in 1989 to 34 percent in 1998. Corporate America wants to do business with countries with docile work forces that earn below poverty wages and are not allowed to organize to bargain collectively.

In manufacturing goods, developing democracies' share of developing country exports fell 21 percent, from 56 percent to 35 percent. Corporations are relocating their manufacturing to more authoritarian regimes where the workers do not talk back for fear of being punished.

Western corporations want to invest in countries that have below poverty wages, that have nonexistent environmental standards, that have no worker safety standards, that have no opportunities to bargain collectively. As developing nations make progress toward democracy, as they increase worker rights, as they create regulation to protect the environment, American business punishes them by pulling its trade and pulling its investment in favor of other totalitarian governments.

Decisions about the Chinese economy are made by three groups: the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, which controls a significant number of the business that export to the United States, and, third, Western investors. Do any of these three want to empower workers? Does the Chinese