

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

Communist Party want the Chinese people to enjoy human rights? No. Does the People's Liberation Army want to close the labor camps? I do not think so. Do Western investors want Chinese workers to bargain collectively? Obviously no. None of these groups, I repeat, none of these groups, the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Liberation Army, and Western investors, none of these groups have any interest in changing the current situation in China. All three profit too much from the status quo to want to see human rights and labor rights improve in China.

The People's Republic of China ignores the United Nations High Commission on Human Rights. The People's Republic of China ignores the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. They ignore the State Department's country reports, and the People's Republic of China has broken almost every agreement they have made with the United States. Why would the Chinese government pay any attention to the congressional task force? Passing PNTR, passing permanent Most Favored Nation status trading privileges for China, will only confirm that China's behavior will continue and worsen.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier on equal pay day, May 11, which is today, which indicates that women have had to work 4½ months longer than men to achieve equal pay. I wanted to comment a little further on that with some statistics, and then I want to go into an invitation to women as well as men to join all of us on Sunday, Mother's Day at the Million Mom March for common-sense gun legislation.

But, first of all, let me mention, women have made great strides in education and in the work force. When one looks at the statistics, the majority of undergraduate and master's degrees are awarded to women. Forty percent of all doctorates are earned by women. More than 7.7 million businesses in the United States are owned and operated by women. These businesses employ 15.5 million people, which is about 35 percent more than the Fortune 500 companies worldwide.

Women are running for elected office in record numbers. When I was first elected to the House in 1987, there were 26 women in the House and two in the Senate. In 2000, we now have 58 women serving in the House and nine in the Senate. It sounds like quite an addition. Not enough. Not enough, but certainly we can see there has been an increase.

While many doors to employment and educational opportunity have opened for women, they still get paid less than men for the same work. Women who work full time earn less than men employed for the full time. The average college graduate woman earns a little more than the average male high school graduate. Full-time working women earn only about 73 cents for every dollar that a man earns.

That number, as I mentioned before, African American women earn only 63 cents for every dollar. Hispanic women earn only 53 cents for every dollar. We need to remember the struggle for equality is not over. Although women are and continue to be the majority of new entrants into the workplace, they continue to be clustered in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Part-time and temporary workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the most vulnerable of all workers. They receive lower pay, fewer or no benefits, and little, if any, job security.

Women account for more than 45 percent of the work force and, yet, they are underrepresented and face barriers in the fields of science, engineering, and technology, especially.

Recently, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the most prestigious science and engineering university in the country issued a report revealing that female professors at the school suffer from pervasive discrimination.

For all of those reasons, that is why I introduced the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Development Act. That was passed in the previous 105th Congress and signed into law. This Commission has met many times during this past year, and we will release their report in June of this year.

The Commission's report will help us find out what is keeping women and minorities and persons with disabilities out of technological fields at this critical time. In addition, we will have ascertained what are effective and productive policies that can address the underrepresentation of women in the sciences and could help alleviate the increasing shortage of information technology workers and engineers.

I see this as the first step in encountering the roadblocks to women in our rapidly evolving high-tech society, and it is going to help women finally help to breakthrough that glass ceiling and the silicone ceiling in the fields of science, engineering and technology.

Let me also point out that, as women retire, we are understanding the economic problems of the elderly. Women are affected in disproportionate numbers because we tend to have lower pension benefits than men. Pension policies have not accommodated women in their traditional role as family care givers.

□ 1630

Women move in and out of the workforce more frequently when family needs arise, making it more difficult for them to accrue retirement credits.

Consequently, Social Security is especially important for women. Women are heavily reliant on Social Security, and since its inception, Social Security has often been the only income source keeping women from living out their days in poverty.

As elderly women continue to outlive their male counterparts and as medical care costs for the elderly continue to rise, fundamental reform to the Social Security System will have important implications for today's female Baby Boomers and Generation Xers and for women of future generations. It is generally daughters who bear much of the responsibility for their aging parents. In this way, women of all generations will be deeply impacted if the current system is not fundamentally reformed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge May 11 as Equal Pay Day to mark the wage disparity between genders.

Women have made great strides in education and in the work force. The majority of undergraduate and master's degrees are awarded to women, and 40 percent of all doctorates are earned by women. More than 7.7 million businesses in the United States are owned and operated by women. These businesses employ 15.5 million people, about 35 percent more than the Fortune 500 companies worldwide. And women are running for elected offices in record numbers. When I first came to the House in 1987, there were 26 women in the House and two in the Senate. In 2000, there are 58 women serving in the House, and 9 in the Senate.

While many doors to employment and educational opportunity have opened for women, they still get paid less than men for the same work. Women who work full-time earn less than men who are employed full-time. The average woman college graduate earns little more than the average male high school graduate. Full-time working women earn only about 73 cents for each dollar a man earns. That number for African-American women is 63 cents to every dollar and 53 cents for Hispanic women. We need to remember that the struggle for equity is not over.

Although women are and continue to be the majority of new entrants into the workplace, they continue to be clustered in low-skilled, low-paying jobs. Part-time and temporary workers, the majority of whom are women, are among the most vulnerable of all workers. They receive lower pay, fewer or no benefits, and little if any job security.

Women account for more than 45 percent of the work force, yet they are underrepresented and face barriers in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. Recently, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the most prestigious science and engineering university in the country, issued a report revealing that female professors at the school suffer from pervasive discrimination. That is why I introduced the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering and