

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) having assumed the chair, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

IN HONOR OF MAISIE DEVORE AND THE PEOPLE OF ESKRIDGE, KANSAS

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in honor of one of my constituents, Maisie DeVore, of Eskridge, Kansas. Her story, that I want to describe here in a few moments, demonstrates what one determined person can do to make a difference in the lives of others and in the life of her community.

Maisie DeVore is 82 years old. Thirty years ago, Maisie decided that her community of Eskridge, population 530, needed a swimming pool; and she set about raising the funds to build one.

Over the course of 3 decades, Maisie earned a few dollars at a time by collecting aluminum cans, selling homemade jelly, and auctioning off her homemade afghans. Over the years, Maisie's hard work earned her more than \$100,000, which, coupled with a \$73,000 granted from the State of Kansas, provided the funds necessary to make her vision a reality.

The Eskridge Community Pool officially opened this past Saturday, July 14, 2001. Maisie was telling me this past Saturday that when she started this project, her kids were 7 and 12. They are now adults living in another community; but, still, the pool was opened.

Fittingly, Maisie was the first person in the pool. She was soon followed by about 50 of the younger residents of Eskridge. I was fortunate to be in Eskridge to share this city-wide celebration that was declared Maisie DeVore Day.

At the completion of her many years of work, Maisie's accomplishment has drawn the attention of State and national media and will be featured this Sunday on the CBS Sunday Morning Show.

Maisie's commitment to the welfare of her community and neighbors is a great example of service and leadership. More than the accomplishment of a personal goal, Maisie's success is a uniting theme for an entire community. Her story demonstrates that one individual, one individual, can bring a community together and truly make a difference in the lives of others.

The completion of this project marks a major achievement for Maisie DeVore and for the community of Eskridge. This facility promises to be a tremendous asset and a source of pride for this small community.

This story is about small-town America and what the life of one individual can do to benefit his or her neighbors.

So I rise tonight on the floor of the House of Representatives to commend Maisie DeVore for her unending work, her vision, and her completion of this community project. I salute Maisie DeVore and the community of Eskridge.

EXPLAINING THE DANGERS OF FAST TRACK TRADE PROPOSALS

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening first of all to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for arranging a discussion this evening on the important issue of trade, especially the fast track procedure that is making its way through this community. It is essential for the American people to truly understand what this fast track trade proposal is all about and how damaging it can be to each and every one of our individual lives.

Now, the procedure that is known as fast track puts our trade laws and everything that is associated with them on a rush course through Congress. It limits the time we can spend on important issues that deal with food safety, with agriculture, with the environment, and worker laws and worker protections. It allows only an up-or-down vote, and no amendments, on huge trade bills, like the GATT bill in 1995 or the NAFTA bill in 1993. It leaves Congress with little power to stop the bad parts of trade legislation from becoming law.

I would remind my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that this whole idea of fast track is something that is relatively new. It was only in 1974 when Richard Nixon first proposed it. It has only been used five times. In fact, during the last administration, the Clinton administration, we did 200 trade deals around the world successfully without fast track.

This is a huge usurpation of the authority given to the United States House of Representatives and the Con-

gress by the Constitution of the United States. By doing so, it not only threatens the work that we do here on behalf of the American people on food safety, on labor law, on the environment and all kinds of other important issues; but it also affects what happens to the activity at the local level, in the village, in the city, in the township or at the State level. Those laws are in jeopardy as well.

Now, let me say this, Mr. Speaker: we have worked very hard over the last 100 years in this country to put into law these protections. There was a time that we did not have food safety laws. Upton Sinclair wrote the wonderful novel called "The Jungle," and it alerted the American people to what was happening in food safety and food spoilage. There was a movement called the Progressive Movement, and a lot of things flowed from that.

The labor movement flowed at the beginning of the century, so people could have workmen's comp, unemployment comp, good pay, pensions and overtime protection and all of those things we have in law today.

All of that is at risk with these trade laws. If we continue on the path that we are on, or we have been on, we are spiraling down to the least common denominator in our law. We are going into the valley where countries who have no protections for their workers simply live today.

When we fail to meet these standards, workers in Bangladesh remain in sweatshops. When we fail to meet these standards of worker safety and the environment, children in the Ivory Coast are forced into slave labor. At home, workers lose their jobs because companies relocate to areas with fewer safety and environmental standards.

We have seen the great exodus out of many of our communities. Manufacturing concerns get up and go. They do not want to pay the \$12 an hour, the \$14 an hour. They go down to Mexico where they pay less than \$1 an hour.

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They manufacture and assemble what they have to, ship it right back across the border, often on trucks that are not safe, moving through our country, with no protection for the Mexican workers down there. So the Mexican worker loses, our worker loses. The only people that profit are basically the wealthy multinational corporations and the CEOs, particularly at the top of those corporations.

Mr. Speaker, we simply cannot afford the negative consequences that come along with bad trade deals. Too much is at stake. I would just urge my colleagues tonight, as we proceed on this debate on fast track, to be very careful and very thoughtful in how we approach it.

This is a very important issue for the future of this country and for the future of our children. We need to have

environmental safety laws into all of our trade deals, and we need to also make sure we have worker rights embodied in the core agreements of our trade deals so that our workers are not punished here at home and the workers abroad and in developing countries as well have a chance to earn a decent wage so that they can buy the products that they are making.

SUPPORT EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, Della Mae is a wonderful, loving, 79-year-old woman totally debilitated by Alzheimer's disease. Joey was a promising young man in his early 20s who died a horrible death; a cruel, tragic death from diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, Della Mae is my mother. Joey was my first cousin. On behalf of my beloved mother and my first cousin, I plead with the President and the Congress to accept the NIH report on the medical value of embryonic stem cell research and to not block Federal funding for this promising, life-saving research; on behalf of not only my mother and my first cousin, but 100 million other Americans suffering from Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, as well as spinal cord injuries resulting in paralysis.

Mr. Speaker, I have watched several close friends devastated by Parkinson's Disease and spinal cord injuries, conditions that could also be aided by embryonic stem cell research. Who amongst us, who amongst us has not been profoundly moved by the sight of former President Ronald Reagan, that giant of a man, now reduced to a mere shadow of his former self by Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Speaker, the scientific evidence is overwhelming that stem cells collected from surplus embryos have great potential to regenerate specific types of human tissues and offer hope for millions of Americans devastated by these and other cruel, fatal diseases. According to research doctors I have talked to at the Mayo Clinic as well as NIH, a vaccine to prevent the onset of Alzheimer's is less than 5 years away, thanks in large part to stem cell research.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, using surplus embryos from in-vitro fertilization that would otherwise be discarded has the potential to save lives and prevent terrible human suffering. Members and the President need to listen to respected colleagues like Senators Orrin Hatch and Connie Mack, as well as Secretary Tommy Thompson, when they tell us this is not an abortion issue.

The President and Members need to be clear, Mr. Speaker, that abortion politics should not enter into this decision and certainly should not influence this critical decision.

Embryonic stem cell research, in fact, will prolong life, will improve life, and give hope of life for millions of American people suffering the ravages of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, and multiple sclerosis, not to mention spinal cord paralysis.

So, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of millions of Americans with debilitating, incurable disorders, I respectfully urge the President and the Congress to approve crucial Federal funding for this life-saving medical research. In approving such funding, Mr. Speaker, we can also adopt the same model of accountability and oversight that is used in fetal tissue transplantation research which allows the best possible science to progress.

Mr. Speaker, it is too late for my dear mother and my deceased cousin, but it is not too late for 100 million other American people counting on the President and the Congress to give them hope. Let us give them hope. Let us give them life. Let us support funding for life-saving and life-extending embryonic stem cell research. It is clearly, clearly the right thing to do.

THOUGHTS ON THE U.S. FLAG AND A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to come over today for the discussion of the flag amendment because of meeting with some of my constituents and because of an important markup in the Committee on Resources. However, I would like to tell my colleagues and others about an article or a column that was written in the July 9 issue of Newsweek Magazine by a woman named Joan Jacobsen.

She told that she was an antiwar protestor in the late 1960s and early 1970s and had many very bitter arguments with her father who was a brigadier general in the Army. Then she wrote a few days ago about her father's passing. She said this: "Two days after my father died, as the visiting hours at the funeral home ended and we were putting on our coats, there was one last visitor. He was a stooped, solitary man who walked slowly to the open coffin and gazed down at my father, lying in his military dress uniform. Suddenly, the visitor stood up straight, and still looking at his Army comrade, gave the brisk salute of the spirited young GI that he must have been 55 years ago. Then he slowly lowered his arm and became an old man once more, turning and shuffling out the door. His gallant gesture has come to symbolize

a profound shift in my feelings toward the United States military."

Ms. Jacobsen continued: "The following day at the funeral service, the soldiers draped the American flag over the coffin and accompanied it from the church to the cemetery. As we gathered at my father's grave site under a light December rain, four members of the honor guard stood at attention. One soldier raised his rifle and fired three shots while the bugler played Taps. The flag was removed from the coffin and slowly and meticulously folded into a triangular shape. After one soldier inserted the empty casings into the flag's angled pocket, the rest of the guard lined up in formation behind the highest-ranking officer, who approached my teenage son. The officer, holding the folded flag on his outstretched palms and looking straight at my boy, said, 'Please accept this flag on behalf of a grateful Nation.'

"And so it was, at the end, the United States Army that provided my family and me with a noble conclusion to my father's life. I began to realize that the military traditions I had once considered unquestionably rigid endure because they serve a purpose. Every morning, as long as he was able," and I want everyone to hear this, especially, "Every morning, as long as he was able, my father raised the American flag on the pole outside his house, observed a moment of silence, then stood at attention and saluted. I had always thought this exercise sweetly eccentric," Ms. Jacobsen said, "but also meaningless. Now, I envy the ritual."

Mr. Speaker, I think in at least a small way, this lady has explained what this flag means to so many people in this country, and that this flag is a whole lot more than just a simple piece of cloth.

In the great song of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," Mr. Speaker, it says, "In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me. As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free."

That is what so much of what we do today is all about. The battle or the struggle for freedom is ongoing. It is never ending. There are always tyrants and dictators from abroad who would take our freedom away if they had the slightest chance to do so, and there are always liberal elitists and bureaucrats from within who want to live our lives for us and spend our money for us and take away our freedom, slowly but surely.

I think of this in relation to a hearing before the Subcommittee on National Parks this morning. We talked about the Antiquities Act. Mr. Speaker, one can never satisfy government's appetite for money or land. We talked in the hearing this morning about how 70 million acres have been locked up,