

your chestnuts, the charge claims, and I quote, Rossotti got a conflict waiver from the Clinton administration in exchange for targeting and auditing Clinton's opponents.

What is the surprise? In addition, Rossotti is scheduled for another big, fat bonus from Congress.

Beam me up. The Internal Rectal Service does not need bonuses, they need abolished.

I yield back the fact that if a Member of Congress did what Rossotti did, you would go straight to the slammer.

ENERGY PRODUCTION NEEDED FOR OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the energy crisis America is facing is still with us. Americans need our country to invest in and produce more energy from the few sites we have available on our public lands. That is the goal of the bipartisan Energy Security Act which will allow for the production of wind, solar and geothermal energies on public lands. These are clean energies, renewable energies that leave our environment untouched.

We cannot keep pretending our energy challenges will take care of themselves if we just wait long enough. When we fail to act, prices rise and our seniors and small businesses, our farmers and low-income families suffer. They suffered last winter. They suffered this spring. They are suffering now under the hot summer sun. Be assured, without a comprehensive plan they will suffer next year, and the year after that.

We need to have the courage and the vision to realize that increased energy production plays a key role in a sound national energy policy. We need to pass the Republican energy package for the sake of our future, for the sake of America.

H.R. 2540, VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be here as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to share my strong support of H.R. 2540, the Veterans Benefits Act of 2001.

These men and women, uprooted from their families and communities, served our country with honor and dignity. Yet when it was time for the VA to serve them, thousands were categorically denied.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 612, the Persian Gulf War Illness Compensation Act of 2001 with two other

outstanding advocates for veterans, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY). This legislation garnered strong bipartisan support from over 225 Members of the House.

The Veterans Benefits Act of 2001 will now clarify VA standards for compensation by recognizing fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivity, and other ailments as key symptoms of undiagnosed or poorly defined illnesses associated with Gulf War service. Additionally, this bill extends the presumptive period for undiagnosed illnesses to December 31, 2003. This is a true victory for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, these veterans put their lives on the line to protect, defend and advance the ideals of democracy.

Vote for this bill. It is the right thing to do.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, Congress must pass trade promotion authority. International trade is an essential part of the U.S. economy. But when it comes to trade agreements, the U.S. is lagging behind significantly. Of the 130 preferential trade agreements that exist, the U.S. is a party to only two: NAFTA and a free trade agreement with Israel. That is it. The European Union has 27, 20 of which have been negotiated in the last 10 years. While the rest of the world is moving rapidly ahead, we are not.

Canada, our neighbor to the north, has agreements throughout the southern hemisphere. There are currently over 12 million U.S. jobs that depend upon exports. American jobs that export goods pay up to 18 percent more than the U.S. national average. As we can see, trade agreements are a crucial element for the success of the U.S. economy. Remember, the jobs stay here; the products are exported overseas.

Mr. Speaker, in order to get back in the game and develop a stronger economy, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting trade promotion authority.

PROUD TO SALUTE THE HONORABLE DONNA SHALALA, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute the Honorable Donna Shalala who has assumed the reins as the fifth president of the Uni-

versity of Miami. Donna Shalala was U.S. history's longest serving Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During her tenure, Dr. Shalala distinguished herself on a broad range of issues, including taking care of the needs of our elderly and our Nation's children.

She led campaigns for child immunization, for biomedical research, and played a key role in reforming our welfare system. In fact, the Washington Post described her as "one of the most successful government managers of our time."

Donna brings to UM more than 25 years of experience in education, also, including serving as President of Hunter College. As chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she was the first woman to head a Big 10 university.

The University of Miami is already a leader in international and medical education, biomedical research and environmental sciences, but with Donna Shalala at its helm, UM will be certain to reach great new heights.

The Florida congressional delegation welcomes Donna Shalala back to Washington, D.C. today and looks forward to helping her achieve her vision for the future of the University of Miami and for our South Florida community.

MANAGED CARE LEGISLATION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, some health plans systematically obstruct, delay and deny care. That is a fact.

Earlier this year, Republicans and Democrats negotiated a bill that contains the minimum protections necessary to get health insurance back on track. Ganske-Dingell reminds HMOs that they are being paid to provide coverage, not excuses. And it contains a right to sue with enough teeth in it to deter health plans from cheating their enrollees, and enough definition to preclude frivolous lawsuits.

Recourse in the courts is essential. If we tell HMOs that they are accountable, we must hold them accountable. Unfortunately, the Fletcher bill compromises away the two most important patient protections, leaving HMOs thrilled and consumers no better off. It provides a right to sue that cannot actually be exercised and a right to an external appeals process that simply cannot be trusted.

We need to enact legislation that does not just sound like it protects patients but actually does protect patients. Ganske-Dingell fits that bill. I ask for House support.

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SUPPORT FLETCHER HEALTH CARE REFORM

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am going to talk about Benny Johnson, no relationship.

Benny Johnson of Logic I sales in Richardson, Texas, employs 18 people and pays over \$80,000 a year for health insurance for himself, his employees, and their families. Benny has paid for their health insurance for nearly 20 years.

If health insurance premiums rise much higher, Benny is going to have to reduce benefits, drop coverage, or change plans, ending relationships with doctors they trust and know. Why would his premiums go up? Because of the McCain-Kennedy legislation in the House and Senate, which everybody knows would drive costs up.

This potentially could add Benny and his employees, and their families, to the 43 million Americans without health insurance.

It is just plain wrong. It has to stop. We have to think of Benny, his employees, and his families. Let us support the Fletcher bill.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP ON TRADE

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, in just a few minutes, the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) will begin the debate on the very important U.S.-Jordan Free Trade Agreement, but I want to take a moment to talk about a very important issue which we are going to be phasing in in the not-too-distant future, and that is the issue of Trade Promotion Authority.

Since that authority expired in 1994, our trading partners have been very busy negotiating a web of trade agreements that excludes the United States. Today we sit here wasting valuable time that the President and his trade negotiators could be using to improve the lives of families here in the United States and around the world.

Free trade has been a boom for the American family, from higher paying jobs to lower prices. The North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization have increased the overall national income by \$40 billion to \$60 billion. Continued efforts to open new markets help working families that bear the brunt of hidden imported taxes on everyday items like clothes, food, and electronics. And, with 97 percent of exporters coming from small or medium-sized companies,

increased exports mean better, higher paying export jobs for workers that make up the heart and soul of this country.

Along with American workers, open trade has helped to raise more than 100 million people out of poverty in the last decade. A recent World Bank study showed that developing countries that participate actively in trade grow faster and reduce poverty faster than countries that isolate themselves.

We should grant the President Trade Promotion Authority as soon as possible to ensure that the United States continues to lead in the global economy and the fight to spread democracy and freedom throughout the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

UNITED STATES-JORDAN FREE TRADE AREA IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2603) to implement the agreement establishing a United States-Jordan free trade area, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2603

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act".

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to implement the agreement between the United States and Jordan establishing a free trade area;

(2) to strengthen and develop the economic relations between the United States and Jordan for their mutual benefit; and

(3) to establish free trade between the 2 nations through the removal of trade barriers.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this Act:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term "Agreement" means the Agreement between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area, entered into on October 24, 2000.

(2) HTS.—The term "HTS" means the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

TITLE I—TARIFF MODIFICATIONS; RULES OF ORIGIN

SEC. 101. TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.

(a) TARIFF MODIFICATIONS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT.—The President may proclaim—

(1) such modifications or continuation of any duty,

(2) such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or

(3) such additional duties,

as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out article 2.1 of the Agreement and the schedule of duty reductions with respect to Jordan set out in Annex 2.1 of the Agreement.

(b) OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.—The President may proclaim—

(1) such modifications or continuation of any duty,

(2) such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or

(3) such additional duties,

as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to maintain the general level of reciprocal and mutually advantageous concessions with respect to Jordan provided for by the Agreement.

SEC. 102. RULES OF ORIGIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ELIGIBLE ARTICLES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The reduction or elimination of any duty imposed on any article by the United States provided for in the Agreement shall apply only if—

(i) that article is imported directly from Jordan into the customs territory of the United States; and

(ii) that article—

(I) is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan; or

(II) is a new or different article of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufactured in Jordan and meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) GENERAL RULE.—The requirements of this subparagraph are that with respect to an article described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), the sum of—

(I) the cost or value of the materials produced in Jordan, plus

(II) the direct costs of processing operations performed in Jordan, is not less than 35 percent of the appraised value of such article at the time it is entered.

(ii) MATERIALS PRODUCED IN UNITED STATES.—If the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States is included with respect to an article to which this paragraph applies, an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered that is attributable to such United States cost or value may be applied toward determining the percentage referred to in clause (i).

(2) EXCLUSIONS.—No article may be considered to meet the requirements of paragraph (1)(A) by virtue of having merely undergone—

(A) simple combining or packaging operations; or

(B) mere dilution with water or mere dilution with another substance that does not materially alter the characteristics of the article.

(b) DIRECT COSTS OF PROCESSING OPERATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As used in this section, the term "direct costs of processing operations" includes, but is not limited to—

(A) all actual labor costs involved in the growth, production, manufacture, or assembly of the specific merchandise, including fringe benefits, on-the-job training, and the cost of engineering, supervisory, quality control, and similar personnel; and