

that the last conversation we had was a really good one.”

I pay tribute to Michael McGinty today.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the issue of trade promotion authority today.

The benefits of international trade have been clear for decades. Trade fosters not only economic growth, but also the growth of free and democratic societies around the world. As the most prosperous Nation in the world, we understand the importance of expanding trade, and expanding trade helps spread our values overseas.

It is not a coincidence that many of the economies most engaged in trade have also pursued political freedom. South Korea, Taiwan, and Mexico are just three examples. If economic isolation were the answer, then Cuba and North Korea would be among the wealthiest and most prosperous countries in the world.

Now more than ever the U.S. has a moral obligation to lead the fight for democracy around the world. Free trade offers one of the best ways to promote a democratic society. We must lead by example. Support trade promotion authority.

THE AVIATION SECURITY BILL

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, over the last 2 months we have seen reports of knives, guns, mace, and stun guns slip past keystone cop security guards at our Nation's airports, and still the GOP defends the third-rate rent-a-cops at our airports.

Two days ago, one of the airport screeners at Logan Airport in Boston who was tasked with protecting the traveling public left her checkpoint unattended for 4 minutes while passengers gained unfettered access to the gate area.

There have been over 90 breaches of security since September 11. In the words of our colleague from Ohio, “Beam us all up. Have we totally lost it? Have we learned nothing from the events of September 11?” I find it incredible that negotiation for this bill have dragged on this long.

There is no compromise when it comes to the security of our aviation system. The status quo has failed us, and continues to fail us every day. We must do away with private security firms at these checkpoints and implement the federalization of our airport security apparatus immediately.

This country has suffered enough, and we have an obligation to protect each and every one of our citizens. We must do that today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). With reference to a previous speaker, the Chair reiterates that Members should not urge action by the other body.

TRADE

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, as Americans struggle with economic uncertainty, Congress seeks to stimulate our stalled economy and create new jobs. However, I daresay that many of my colleagues have overlooked one of the most consistent and dependable solutions available, one that Congress has the ability to foster: Trade.

Recent studies have found that if global trade barriers were cut by one-third, the world economy would increase by more than \$600 billion a year. Eliminating trade barriers altogether would increase the global economy by nearly \$2 trillion.

The infusion of this much capital into the world market would serve as an engine of economic growth and improve the standard of living for all Americans.

Also, it would be unwise to ignore the fact that, since 1990, more than 20 million new jobs have been created in the United States.

It is not merely coincidental that this increase corresponds to the enactment of trade agreements such as NAFTA and GATT. In fact, trade has stimulated job creation, resulting not only in new jobs, but in higher wages in those jobs supported by exports.

As we seek to alleviate economic hardship, the U.S. must look beyond our borders to increase interaction with our trading partners, and Congress can facilitate this by supporting trade promotion authority.

RAMADAN GREETING

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

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, it is highly appropriate that we welcome Imam Yahya Hendi. This body represents all Americans, and it is extremely appropriate, then, that we should welcome the Imam today to help celebrate the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan, which is set to begin tomorrow.

Islam is not only one of the world's great religions, but it is one of the great American religions. American Muslims have immigrated to this country from all corners of the globe, and in all parts of the United States Muslims are valued, integral members of our communities.

It is an honor for me to represent the largest Arab American community in the United States. As Ramadan begins, I extend my personal greetings to all Muslim Americans, particularly my friends and constituents in Michigan's 16th District.

Mr. Speaker, I also send best wishes to our Muslim friends and allies in the Middle East and South Asia, as well as Muslims in all corners of the world. To our allies in the Islamic world, I would also like to express my gratitude for their friendship, particularly at this difficult time. As President Bush has pointed out, the United States is not at war with Islam. We are at war with terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, some of what has been said over the last couple of months has painted a highly inaccurate picture of Islam. Islam is not a religion of division and intolerance, but rather, a religion which values diversity and understanding. It is, above all else, a religion of peace and progress.

Americans must not tolerate injustices committed out of ignorance against any group of Americans, particularly against Muslim Americans, who share with us the horror of the events of September 11, which to them are particularly offensive because the Muslim community feels it is grossly improper that the perpetrators expressly attempted to use that faith as an excuse for a horrible crime.

In this month of introspection, faith, prayer, and cleansing, I again wish to relay my greetings and best wishes to the Muslims in southeast Michigan and in the United States, as well as all the Muslims in the world.

IN HONOR OF TUBBY RAYMOND'S 300TH WIN

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

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a football legend, the great Harold Tubby Raymond, head coach of the University of Delaware Fighting Blue Hens.

A lover of sports since he was a kid, Tubby played football and baseball in college. Unable to hit the curve ball, Tubby realized early on that his future was in coaching, and what a future he has had. Tubby won his 300th game on Saturday, November 10, 2001. He became one of only nine elite coaches to win so many games.

Most importantly, Tubby won them all at the University of Delaware.