

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 trade promotion authority. America's taxes on foreign imports are already near zero, but foreign taxes on the products of U.S. workers are often prohibitive, killing American jobs and opportunity. Cutting or eliminating foreign taxes on American exports is thus the key to expanding America's economic leadership.

Trade expansion through lower foreign taxes will help increase economic growth. Already, the growth in foreign markets is helping to create jobs for Americans. One in three U.S. farm acres is planted for export and 12 million American jobs have been generated by exports.

In order to achieve reductions in foreign taxes on U.S. exports, the executive branch must have the specific authority from Congress to negotiate trade agreements with other countries. This authority, known as trade promotion authority, lets America speak with one voice in international trade negotiations. It is the key to opening foreign markets to America's farmers, workers, investors and businesses.

ELECTION REFORM

(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, since September 11, we have been focused on fighting terrorism across this Nation. However, this Congress has not failed to address its other priorities among the American people. One of them is to reform our election laws after last year's election chaos.

What I rise today to do is to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) of the Committee on House Administration for their hard work in creating a bipartisan piece of legislation which addresses campaign finance reform, and it does it in three critical ways:

First, this piece of legislation tells Congress that it must resist the urge to federalize what is constitutionally preferred by States and localities. The primacy of States and localities in the area of elections must be respected. Congress should seek to empower the duly elected State and local officials, not dictate to them.

Secondly, Congress must examine ways to eliminate fraud. Inaccuracies in voter rolls lead to all sorts of problems nationwide, including fraud. The days of the "cemetery vote" and other "ghost" voting must come to a rapid close everywhere.

Finally, Congress must address disenfranchisement, whether intentional

or unintentional. One person, one vote is a principle that crosses all party lines.

AIRPORT SECURITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, today this Chamber will take up the difficult question of airport security. As a conservative, you can imagine I was loath to support any wanton expansion of the Federal Government. Accordingly, I opposed the version of airport security that emerged from the other Chamber, believing it to be simply a large bureaucratic explosion of government.

I am proud to have passed and supported the House version of the bill, and I am proud today to rise in support of the compromise on the Aviation Security Act. In the compromise bill, like the House bill, Americans do not have to wait a year for airport security. There is immediate remedy, using public and private blended and flexible sources. Five airports will participate in a pilot project studying public and private solutions. And there is a third year opt-out. We are giving the President the flexible program he has requested.

Exempting these Federal employees from Civil Service Act requirements and creating a system that on the eve of one of our most important and most traveled family holidays will send a strong message of confidence to the American people. I urge my colleagues to support the conference report for the Aviation Security Act.

AN IMMIGRATION LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, we are tightening security everywhere as we should, but we are about to make a big mistake by reinstituting a big loophole. Some are seeking to revive the part of our immigration law called section 245(i). This law lets illegal aliens, if they are married or related to a legal resident or sponsored by an employer, simply pay a \$1,000 fee for instant legalization. These lawbreakers do not have to leave the country and they do not even have to undergo any background checks.

Section 245(i) violates usual legal requirements. It is an amnesty. It led to a rush of sham marriages last April when the 245(i) deadline expired. Some sham marriages have been connected with accused terrorists. Without background checks, we do not know if the illegals using 245(i) are terrorists or criminals or sympathizers of our enemies.

Mr. Speaker, we should permanently dump 245(i). Illegal aliens should have to go back to their home country first. We need to be a nation of laws. We cannot afford this security risk.

ON THE PASSING OF OFFICER VAN ETTEN

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today in memory of Officer LaValle Van Etten, one of my constituents from Stafford, Virginia, and a Capitol Hill police officer, who died suddenly on November 10.

A Marine Corps veteran and Capitol Hill police officer, Officer Van Etten spent his life protecting people and putting the safety of others ahead of his own.

Whenever someone like Officer Van Etten puts his or her life on the line to protect our Nation, they should be commended. This man proved his love for country as a Marine and as a member of a select group entrusted to guard America's Capitol and those who work to do the people's business.

Our Nation's center of government lost a hero on November 10, a dedicated protector of freedom and liberty who died at a much too early age. We should always reflect on the dedication put forth by our Capitol Hill police. They deserve our thanks.

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

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

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, we are now focusing on airport security. That is appropriate. But in doing that, I hope that we are not neglecting security of other very essential parts of our infrastructure. I am thinking particularly of water.

Our vast municipal and public water systems were developed to be economical and to be efficient, and they are both. We are one of the few countries in the world that can water our grass and wash our cars and flush our toilets and fight our fires with drinking water. Our water systems were not developed with any eye toward security.

We just passed out of the Committee on Science a very important bill that supports R&D, looking at ways to make our very important water system infrastructure more secure to terrorists. This bill needs to come very quickly to the floor because this is one area of our infrastructure we cannot afford to continue to be at risk.