

PASSAGE OF TRADE PROMOTION
AUTHORITY

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of Kansas, family farms are no longer able to make ends meet. Farmers tell me it is crucial that we expand markets for their products now or they will not be in business in 10 years.

Today, one in three acres planted by our farmers is harvested for export. We can and should do better.

Trade Promotion Authority is a tool that can boost the profits of American farmers and make them even more self-sufficient. If we streamline the trade agreement process that President Bush must follow, we will have increased competition, economic efficiency, and greater markets for our farm products.

As the key player on the world stage, we should give President Bush our vote of confidence to promote trade without excessive barriers.

I believe in the American farmer, and I trust President Bush. I urge my colleagues to allow the President to create more markets for American grains and products by granting Trade Promotion Authority.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST
ISRAEL

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

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, and I will introduce a resolution that categorically condemns this week's outrageous terrorist strikes against the State of Israel and Israeli people.

In the attacks of September 11, our Nation suffered the loss of over 3,000 innocent men, women, and children. Since that fateful day, our ally Israel has suffered a comparable loss. With 6 million citizens compared to our 280 million, Israel's 60 victims since September equates to over 2,700 American victims. Nearly half this number perished in a span of just 14 hours this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is currently targeting regimes that harbor terrorists, as well as terrorists themselves. Israel must also target the terrorists' protectors. The Palestinian Authority bears full responsibility for the attacks of December 1 and 2, just as the Taliban bears full responsibility for the attacks of September 11.

I urge all of our colleagues to join the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and me in this resolution expressing solidarity with the people of Israel.

VOTING FOR 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, when we vote in 2 days on Trade Promotion Authority, nothing less than American leadership in the world is at stake.

As we lead the world in an effort to eradicate terrorism, we risk abdicating our position of leadership in an area that is just as vital to America's well-being and that is international trade.

The United States has been falling rapidly behind the rest of the world in international trade. I said rapidly behind. There are more than 130 trade agreements in effect in the world today, but the United States is party to just three.

For the world's most open society, the U.S., which should be leading the charge to open up other countries to our products, this is a sorry state of affairs.

We have a chance on Thursday to reclaim the mantle of leadership by passing TPA. When we do, the exports will go abroad; and the high paying jobs will stay here.

I urge all my colleagues to support TPA.

RECOGNITION OF THE ROLE
WOMEN PLAYED IN THE TRAG-
EDY OF SEPTEMBER 11

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I join the other members of the Caucus of Women's Issues at a luncheon to honor women at Ground Zero.

To look at the media reporting, we believe that all who responded were men; but as was the case, there was a need, and the women were there were, firefighters, police officers, construction workers, emergency medical personnel, doctors, nurses and others, putting their lives on the line and in some cases giving their lives.

I want to thank the co-chairs, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), for having the NOW legal defense and education fund, and Lieutenant Brenda Berkman there to tell the story of the brave and selfless women who were there with the men to respond in our country's tragic hour of need.

The story brought a tear to many an eye, male and female, not just because of the stories the women told, and they were powerful, but also because once again women were invisible, in the media, in the new recruits, also in the recovery planning; and this is America, not Afghanistan.

This is a potent reminder that women even here are still underrep-

resented at high levels of business and politics and that we are underpaid and have less opportunity.

As we put our country back on the road to recovery, let us not get back to normal. Let us get better.

HALT STORAGE OF NUCLEAR
WASTE AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(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, here we go again. The General Accounting Office, a nonpartisan congressional investigative agency, is calling on the President and the Department of Energy to indefinitely postpone its decision on whether to build a huge permanent centralized waste storage site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

The GAO report calls the plan to bury waste at Yucca Mountain a failed scientific process, echoing the concern I and my fellow Nevadans have expressed for years.

Yet the report goes on further; it warns that the plans the DOE has been showing to Congress and Nevadans may not describe the facilities that DOE would actually develop.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the plan to bury nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain has not only been an obscene waste of taxpayer money but also a huge conspiracy to misrepresent the facts and deceive the American public.

It is time for the DOE to tell the truth. Storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain is not a safe plan, and I call upon my colleagues in the Congress to protect the American people and halt Yucca Mountain.

SUPPORT TRADE PROMOTION
AUTHORITY

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, we hear many reasons why this House should pass legislation to renew Trade Promotion Authority. Today, I rise on behalf of working American families who need TPA.

American families in the bottom 20 percent of the income scale spend 52 percent of their after-tax income on food and clothing. Unfortunately for these hard-working families, food and clothing are the most heavily taxed income sectors, accounting for more than half of U.S. import taxes.

In fact, the average American family of four pays \$1,100 every year because of import taxes. Talk about regressive taxation. Families struggling to make ends meet are disproportionately hit by import taxes at the same time our trade negotiators sit on the sidelines, lacking authority to make the deals needed to eliminate these taxes.