

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MAKING IN ORDER MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2001

Mr. NUSSLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of Wednesday, December 5, 2001, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the following measures: H. Con. Res. 232, H.R. 3248, H. Con. Res. 280, H.R. 3322, H.R. 2238, H.R. 2115 and H.R. 2538.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. NUSSLE. Madam Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 301) and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 301

Resolved, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Boozman.

Veterans' Affairs: Mr. Boozman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBER OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, pursuant to section 491 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1098(c)), and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a 3-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Ms. Norine Fuller, Arlington, Virginia.

There was no objection.

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.

MIAMI WELCOMES DOLE FRESH FLOWERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, on December 9 of this year, approximately 300 employees will move into the newly-built world headquarters of Dole Fresh Flowers in Miami's International Corporate Park.

Miami has historically been the U.S. gateway for the floral industry, since the majority of flowers for commercial use are grown just south of us in South America.

Dole entered the flower business just 2 years ago, bringing to this industry 150 years' experience in growing, shipping, and marketing fresh produce around the world.

Dole consolidated four companies into a single entity, to be housed on 17 acres of land in a state-of-the-art facility measuring 328,000 square feet. Nearly 3 million stems of flowers will pass through the facility every day during this holiday season alone.

Employees have been eagerly awaiting the move to this efficient and beautiful new home since its groundbreaking last April.

□ 2000

Miami, and indeed all of our State of Florida, is enthusiastic about having this worldwide brand Dole in our community.

Welcome home, felicidades.

PASSAGE OF FAST TRACK LEGISLATION

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

Mr. BONIOR. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the flower company for locating in Miami, but I would like to tell my friends that the bloom is off the rose here on Fast Track coming up this Thursday.

Madam Speaker, this Thursday's vote on Fast Track is an ill-timed attempt to force a divisive issue on our Nation when we least can afford it. Last week, the United States was officially declared in recession. Job losses are skyrocketing as a result of the faltering economy and the September 11 attacks. Workers are unsure of their jobs and unsure of their futures.

Meanwhile, nothing, absolutely nothing, has been done to help these workers. The Republican leadership has blocked effort after effort to address these most important questions that affect working men and women in this country. A meaningful improvement of unemployment compensation laws, any attempt to help expand health care for those who are out of work, and any

other assistance that these worker desperately need, we have tried repeatedly month after month to get the leadership on the other side of the aisle to address these questions; and nothing has come from our efforts.

What the Republican leadership has done is use every opportunity available to spend billions of dollars in corporate tax benefits at the expense of working men and women in this country. We are waging war abroad, and we are united in that; but what is happening in this country is that the leadership of the Republican Party is waging war on the workers of this country.

This push for Fast Track is no different. Our flawed trade policies of the last decade have had a devastating toll on American workers. Since 1994, three million U.S. jobs have evaporated as a direct result of our failed trade policies.

In my home State of Michigan, over 150,000 jobs have been lost. Thousands of workers around the country are struggling to keep their jobs right now. They are in danger of becoming tomorrow's job-loss statistics.

It is time we reversed this trend. It is time we woke up and dealt with the crisis that is affecting millions of American workers and their families today. No money and unemployment comp to pay for the rent, to pay for the mortgage, to pay for education, to pay for food. No resources for health care, for members of the workforce or their families.

We do not need more job losses. We do not need more corporate giveaways, and we certainly do not need Fast Track.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for organizing this important discussion which we will have a little later on this floor tonight and for his work to highlight the efforts of Fast Track will have on all of our workers, including our farmers. Madam Speaker, many farmers are already reeling from bad trade deals. It is the same tune; it is the same song every time we get one of these things. Whether it is NAFTA or WTO or China, they come and they will offer the world, they will tell people they will fix this and they will fix that; and then the farmers, they get taken in every time on these things, not all of them. Some of them have figured it out, but the numbers prove what we have been saying all along: these trade policies are not good for our agriculture community.

I say to my colleagues, the timing of the Fast Track bill puts many U.S. farm bills in jeopardy once again, and the administration's willingness to put our trade laws on the table after the recent WTO ministerial shows our farmers have just as much to lose as every other worker in this country.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues look seriously at the proposal

that the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) is bringing to the floor. It is flawed. It does not deal with worker rights, environmental rights, farmer rights; and the upshot of all of this is that we will give away much of our authority and power in the United States House of Representatives and in the other body to deal fairly and adequately and substantively with trade laws that will affect not only those areas, labor, environment, agriculture, but a whole host of other areas that affect the American public.

I ask my colleagues to stand with us as we fight this ill-conceived idea of Fast Track.

OPPOSE FAST TRACK

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

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I am indeed new to this body; but I am by no means new to this issue. Prior to the great honor of serving in this body as the elected representative of the 9th Congressional District, I served as an iron worker for 18 years. I worked in the Quincy shipyard just outside of Boston. I worked in the steel mills in Michigan and Illinois, worked in United Auto Workers plants in Framingham, Massachusetts, and again in Michigan.

I have seen a lot of those jobs and a lot of those plants where I worked at one time disappear. I have seen them relocated. Good, highly skilled, well-paying jobs moved mostly to Mexico, but to other countries as well, in a race to find the lowest-paid worker and the least-strong labor standards and environmental standards.

First of all, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), as well as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) and my own predecessor, John Joseph Moakley from Massachusetts, for their great work in fighting against this so-called Fast Track and also against NAFTA, which has served to really lower the working standards in some foreign countries that we are now dealing with as a result of NAFTA and which we seek to expand through this Fast Track legislation.

The proponents of this bill say that this is dearly tied to our fight against terrorism, but that cannot be further from the truth. The truth is, however, that Fast Track would do nothing to address America's security and economic needs in the wake of September 11. It neither rebuilds, nor does it restore the healing that is necessary to occur in this country.

What this does do is create what in effect is a silent auction, and what is being auctioned off here is first of all Congress' responsibility to deal with foreign trade. The United States Con-

stitution says that it requires that Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and it also says that it shall have the power to make all necessary laws proffered for carrying out those powers.

Fast Track changes all that. We give away our rights. We auction off the right to have a lively and open debate and choose instead to allow the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate these deals in secret. It should be no surprise that this country has not been well served by secret negotiations, and we have proof positive that this is not the way to conduct our trade policy. Look at NAFTA. Look at the recent round of discussions and the latest ministerial pronouncements as a result of the WTO conferences.

There are no guarantees, no enforcement mechanisms for enforcing our labor laws or human rights. There are no mechanisms, no enforcement devices that allow us to enforce safety standards for food and for the environment.

What one does see is great protections for multinational corporations, no protections for American jobs, and this is simply a pattern that we should not follow; we should expand for the sake of following what some describe as free trade, which is not free trade at all, but it is trade that is dictated by unelected bureaucrats who sit in Geneva, Switzerland.

This bill would cut the Congress out of the process. It would eliminate the constitutional obligation that Congress has right now to serve the people.

The American worker should not be forced to compete with auto workers making 67 cents an hour in the maquiladoras just over the Mexican border. The sons and daughters of America should not be forced to compete with slave labor, which Fast Track would allow. The sons and daughters of America, our workers, should not have to compete with child labor, which Fast Track allows.

Tonight, as we have our armed services personnel, our proud sons, fighting on the ground in Afghanistan to restore and to preserve peace at home, we are seeing through this Fast Track legislation the derogation of the very powers that they seek to protect. I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this Fast Track.

Now, this body stands to turn its back again on the American working men and women by engaging in this Fast-Track procedure.

I am new to public service, prior to the privilege of my office now, I was an ironworker for 18 years; I worked at the Quincy shipyard just outside of Boston, Steel Mills in Indiana, and GM plants in Framingham, and in Michigan. I've seen those jobs disappear with thousands of others because companies could exploit low-wage labor through unfair foreign competition. So, as you can see, I am not new to this issue.

The proponents of this bill, the President, Trade Representative Bob Zoellick, and oth-

ers, seek to link Fast Track to our Nation's antiterrorism efforts. At times, claiming that not to support this bill is to be less than patriotic.

The truth is, however, Fast Track would do nothing to address America's security and economic needs in the wake of September 11. Fast Track neither rebuilds, nor does it restore, it does not heal and it will not bring America together. Instead it will work to continue to drive America apart—starting with the denial of an open and honest debate on this very floor.

The United States Constitution says Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations; and it shall have the power to make all necessary laws proper for carrying out those powers.

Fast Track is a procedural rule that would obligate us to resign our responsibilities on behalf of our constituents. It makes us give up our rights and responsibilities to the people who sent us here.

Mr. Speaker, I can without a doubt affirm that my constituents did not send me here to give away their rights or allow their voices to be silenced.

And in silence and secret is exactly how these trade negotiations will be carried out under Fast Track. U.S. Trade Representatives, who are not elected by the people, will be deciding and negotiating in closed-door backroom sessions.

It is a troublesome process we endorse by engaging in this Fast-Track procedure and we do not have to look far to see the example of failure in that process. We can look to NAFTA.

We see it in the fact that there are no enforceable labor and environmental standards in NAFTA or in the proposed expansion of NAFTA to 34 other countries under the Free Trade Area of the Americas Act.

While the bill raises the issue of labor standards and raises the issue of environmental protections, enforcement of these issues is recklessly absent.

It is easy to see, Mr. Speaker, exactly who benefits from an extension of NAFTA just by examining the juxtaposition of enforceable worker and environmental rights with the rights of investors.

Most troublesome are the protections that allow corporations to impose rules on the global economy that effectively mute competing voices and values, while undermining the sovereign capacity of a nation to defend its own citizens' broader interests by overriding established rights in domestic law.

We have seen the United States has lost millions of dollars to corporations who have successfully sued States under NAFTA's Chapter 11 bylaws claiming that government efforts to improve environmental standards impeded company rights. These are cases not decided in Federal court but in a NAFTA tribunal—again—behind closed doors. The State of California stands to lose \$1 billion to the Methanex Company for trying to enforce laws that keep poisonous carcinogens out of gasoline.

In contrast we have seen what NAFTA has done for families, workers and the environment.

The impact of NAFTA on American jobs and worker's rights in member nations is astounding. In the 8 years of its existence, Trade Adjustment Assistance has tallied 800,000 American workers who have lost skilled, well-paid