

We have too many instances of forced labor, and this needs to stop. I only wish U.S. corporations were willing to cooperate with this movement.

It takes some leadership at the national level here in this country, not only from the government but from our corporate leaders. I wish someone would stand out and say we are going to set the pattern and treat workers abroad with respect and dignity. I think once that wave starts, it is pretty hard to stop. What we need to do is continue to press. We need to continue to support the ILO and their efforts to educate workers around the globe that they have these rights. We as a country, as people, as governments, and as corporations ought to stand up for those rights.

DECISION TO CHANGE HEADGEAR OF U.S. ARMY FROM FOLDING GREEN CAPS TO BLACK BERETS DISAGREED WITH BY MANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week I attended a briefing before the House Committee on Armed Services regarding the decision to change the headgear of the United States Army from the traditional green folding cap to a black beret. There have been many hearings and briefings since this decision was announced, and it seems to me, following each one, another bit of information not previously known has come to light.

The decision to disregard the history and proud tradition of the Rangers was the first bad decision. The decision to bypass the Berry amendment and purchase the berets from China and other foreign countries, rather than buy them from U.S. suppliers, was the second bad decision.

I did not believe that this decision could become any worse, but the longer the situation drags on, the worse it seems to become. The bottom line is that we have troops without adequate ammunition and pilots who cannot fly because of a lack of funds, so why would the Army spend \$23 million to change the color of a hat on the whim of one general? It just does not add up. Just like a dead fish, this seems to be rotting from the head down.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard from many of our retired and active duty Rangers, among them Sgt. Bill Round from my district and Sgt. David Nielsen, who are both veterans. Believe me when I say, contrary to what has been reported, they are not pleased with the decision to change the beret designation to tan.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will testify before the House Committee on Small

Business regarding the matter in which the Berry amendment was arbitrarily dismissed. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) and the Committee on Small Business are to be commended for calling the hearing so that the Committee on Small Business can flesh out how the decision to bypass the Berry amendment was reached.

During my testimony, I will be discussing a bill that I have introduced that will prevent an error like this from ever happening again in the future. However, the immediate need needs to be addressed right now. The decision regarding the change from folding green hats to black beret appears to be dying a slow death. Murmurings are circulating about shoddy workmanship, and I am sure that other problems will come to light following the hearing tomorrow.

The time to bring an end to this ill-fated decision has come. It is my hope that the Congress and the administration can stop this outrage once and for all and restore the emblem which for so long has been a symbol of excellence in the United States Army, the Rangers wearing the black beret.

INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED WORKERS' RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), for organizing this evening's discussion on so critical an issue as international workers' rights. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) has been a champion for workers' rights at home and abroad, and I am proud to join him in this discussion.

Work is fundamental to our existence. It gives our life meaning, and it is necessary so workers can provide for even the most basic human needs, like food, shelter and clothing. We say that women and men share the same fundamental rights when they are at work. We say that the new global economy is creating unprecedented opportunities and new-found rights for workers, especially women, including the right to work free from gender discrimination, yet clearly we are not doing enough to make this a reality.

Gender wage discrimination is a national and international atrocity which continues to hold our global community captive and hinders further progress.

From the United States to Japan, from South Africa to the Netherlands, women are paid less than men. What is worse is that there is no indication that this will soon change for women worldwide. Across the globe, the United States Congress has the ability to protect workers' rights, including

the right to work free from gender discrimination. As the most powerful nation in the world, we have the responsibility to influence other governments to defend workers' rights, to ensure that women workers are paid a fair wage so they can support their families. It is time that we live up to these responsibilities.

For decades women have been fighting for their right to enter the labor force, and progress has been made in terms of women in the workforce. With the globalization of the economy, women have assumed extraordinary responsibilities and have adapted to the duties of providing for the security of their families. They have taken on roles in the workplace and in their communities, oftentimes to lessen the harm from local and national crises, for example, the women that enter the agriculture sector in Africa in order to alleviate their families from the burdens of famine that have plagued Africa.

For the past 2 decades, the level of women's participation in the labor force has been increasing. In fact, in 1994, approximately 45 percent of the world's women from the ages of 15 to 64 were economically active. The rate at which women are becoming economically active is almost twice the rate for men. In the United States, Canada and the Scandinavian countries, women now make up nearly half the active population, with activity rates of over 70 percent in core age groups. Unfortunately, this is only half the story.

It is simply unacceptable that not all women have been able to choose to enter the workforce and those that do encounter additional barriers and violations of their rights. Although women have benefited a great deal from the changing global economy and newly created jobs, unequal pay remains a problem and job equality has declined.

I cannot believe that the majority of women worldwide continue to earn on the average only 50 to 80 percent of what men earn. In Japan, the Republic of Korea, women's salaries are roughly half of men's salaries. In developed countries, including the United States, the pay gap varies between 30 percent to slightly less than 10 percent. Worldwide, women earn an average of 75 percent of men's pay in nonagricultural work. These are outright violations of workers' rights, and the injustices persist despite undeniable success which women have achieved in accessing education and vocational and professional training. We can no longer assume that the women arriving in the job market have fewer skills and less training than men.

In spite of numerous international conventions and laws guaranteeing the equality of opportunity and treatment, discrimination between the sexes persists. Women still assume the double