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TRADE POLICY IS CREATING A CRISIS

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, today, for the first time in 4 decades, the House of Representatives stood up against yet another bad trade agreement. Our trade policy is creating a crisis. It's eroding the incomes of the middle class. We're losing our manufacturing base in this country. We're borrowing \$2 billion a day from overseas making us vulnerable to countries like China and others who do not have our best interests in mind as they amount huge piles of our dollars because of the trade deficit.

Now, all the pointy-headed economists out there, they have a theory. The theory is when your dollar or your currency declines, at some point you kind of get to a point where your idled capacity ramps up, your goods become less expensive, and the world begins to buy your goods and your trade deficit goes away.

I confronted an economist over that vision a couple of years ago, and I said, well, that was an interesting theory, you know, 50 years ago. Maybe it even worked.

But what I said to him was what happens to the country that doesn't make anything anymore? Doesn't that mean, in fact, as your currency drops, you're still addicted to buying the goods made overseas or you're just not going to have those goods because you don't make them in the U.S. anymore?

There is no idle capacity to ramp up. Our companies of wholesale exported their manufacturing capacity to Mexico and China in the chase for ever cheaper, more exploitable labor around the world which has been encouraged by our trade agreements. Every other nation on earth has a trade policy to take care of the people of their own country. The United States has a trade policy to take care of the corporate elite in the United States of America and to heck with the rest of our country or even national security.

So why do I come to the floor today to talk about this? Two things: One is because we finally stood up against the free trade agreement and the fast-track gimmick that has jammed those things through time and time and time again. The President negotiated it in secret. You, Congress, you can't mess that up. We will lose respect around the world. You're just gonna take it. You can't amend it. And we'll fix it later. And later never comes.

But the second reason I come to the floor is because today, to the great surprise of those pointy-headed economists, our trade deficit got bigger even though we're in a recession and the dollar is dropping like a rock toward

the value of a rupee, which it will soon achieve if we don't do something to turn the tide.

So our trade deficit grew 5.7 percent to \$62.3 billion. We could be headed for a record trade deficit. Now why's that? Because those same goods that we don't make here anymore are more expensive now because we're still buying them with a depreciated dollar.

Of course, the nightmare scenario is the day when oil becomes denominated in somebody else's currency and countries refuse to take our currency and refuse to continue to lend us \$2 billion a day. And that day of reckoning may not be far off.

It's time for a new trade policy in America, one that brings and keeps high-value jobs here at home and gives us a future as a great power and a manufacturing power, not as a has-been.

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

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MAJOR ISSUES AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING CONGRESS ADDRESS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is now 5:10 p.m. on a Thursday afternoon. And for most individuals across this Nation, this is about the end of the fourth working day of the week. For the House, we've just completed less than two full days of work, but if you stretch it, it's really a little over two. Where's the House now? They've gone home. Where was the House on Monday? Home. Now, that's important because there are important things to do at home. But Madam Speaker, it's important to appreciate that there are major issues that the American people are demanding that Congress address.

We heard about one of them this afternoon: Gas prices. Gas prices significantly increased over the last 12 to 15 months, and this Congress has done nothing except raise taxes on American oil producers.

But the reason I want to bring focus to the issue of Congress going home is that we are now 55 days into a unilateral disarmament for our Nation. That is right, Madam Speaker. Fifty-five days ago, this House, the leadership in the House, chose to allow some amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to expire. Now, what did those amendments do? Those amendments which were adopted shortly after 9/11 allowed, e-d, past tense, allowed our intelligence community to listen or surveil or intercept phone or electronic communication between, Madam Speaker, between a foreign in-

dividual in a foreign land talking or communicating to a foreign individual in a foreign land. That is right, Madam Speaker. If an individual who wishes to do our Nation harm is speaking to another individual who wishes to do us harm, up until 55 days ago, we had an opportunity in this Nation to determine to listen to, to know what kind of communication that was. But 55 days ago, this leadership in this House chose to let that expire.

Now why did they choose to let that expire? Well, what they believe is that American trial lawyers ought to have the ability to sue communications companies who share that information with the United States government, with our intelligence community, the folks trying to keep us safe.

Madam Speaker, back in my district, the Sixth District of Georgia, the people don't understand the kind of leadership that would have the mentality to not allow our intelligence community to listen to a potential terrorist talking to another potential terrorist outside the United States. Not to an American, but to somebody who is not an American citizen. Consequently, Madam Speaker, we are now utilizing the same rules that we had in effect on September 10, 2001.

Madam Speaker, you hear a lot of talk about crises across this Nation, and our friends on the other side of the aisle talk about the crisis in this and the crisis in that. I'll tell you what we've got a crisis of in this Congress, Madam Speaker, and that is a Congress of irresponsibility, a crisis of irresponsibility and a leadership that refuses to allow this Congress to do its number one job, which is to protect our citizens and our constituents.

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Madam Speaker, I call on the Speaker and I call on the majority leader and I call on the majority party in the House of Representatives to bring the Protect America Act to the floor. It's a bill that has bipartisan support. A majority of individuals in the House have said they will support it. It would pass if it were brought up today. But what were we talking about today? Bills that didn't have to do with the security of the United States.

I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to bring that bill to the floor, allow it to pass as it has in the Senate, in a bipartisan way, so that we can return home and tell our constituents that we acted positively to assist in protecting them and their families.

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

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SANCTUARY CITY SAN FRANCISCO

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, some in the most radical elements of the pro-illegal immigration groups advocate something called "Reconquista," or that is to say, they want to have that part of the United States that was ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. They want to have it voided, and either that chunk of America returned to Mexico or become a second nation. I mean, it's pretty bizarre, but that's what they push for.

Sometimes I hear some of the things said by some of the officials in San Francisco. And I would suggest that if advocates for this Reconquista would agree to take San Francisco first, I might be sympathetic to their particular point of view. Because some of the things that are done, some of the statements that are made are quite bizarre, to say the least, and would indicate a lack of willingness on the part of its citizens, or at least expressed by some of its public officials, a lack of willingness to adhere to the laws of this United States of America.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported recently that Mayor Gavin Newsom announced a new initiative advertising his city as a sanctuary for illegal aliens. According to this report, San Francisco plans to spend \$83,000 to print brochures in half a dozen languages reassuring illegal aliens that they are welcome to stay and access public services. He went on to declare that, we don't care what your status is, we want you to participate in the life of our city.

It goes without saying that this is dangerous policy, and it makes no sense in a post 9/11 environment. It's also a flagrant violation of Federal law. In 1996, Congress passed and President Clinton signed immigration enforcement legislation making policies like San Francisco's that provide sanctuary to illegal aliens and potential terrorists by refusing to report them to Federal authorities, making that action illegal, as I say. But unfortunately for America, the Bush Administration doesn't seem to care.

Dozens of major cities have enacted these kinds of reckless policies, barring law enforcement personnel from cooperation with Federal immigration enforcement efforts, and with disastrous results I might add. In Denver, a sanctuary city, a police officer was shot and killed and a second officer critically wounded on Mother's Day of 2005 by an illegal alien who was later arrested. He had been stopped twice for driving without a license and had to

appear in municipal court twice. In April, less than one month before the shooting, the man was in court with a Mexican driver's license, yet no one asked him about his immigration status because of Denver's sanctuary city policy. If the perpetrator had been deported in April, that police officer might still be alive.

This tragic case is just one example, and there are countless others. These policies are responsible for thousands of major crimes around our country, and could have been prevented. These irresponsible city leaders gamble not only with the safety of their own residents, but with the residents of neighboring communities and the entire United States as well.

Madam Speaker, the American people have demanded an end to these dangerous policies, and Congress has responded by passing legislation to outlaw them. So the question is, will President Bush allow this rogue mayor to put the rest of the country at risk, or will he finally live up to his oath of office and enforce the law?

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MCHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I love America, and I cherish the values and principles that America represents. Those values are increasingly threatened today by an erosion of one of the primary bonds that keeps us together, a common language.

Large scale legal and illegal immigration threatens our societal cohesion and America's shared values when arrivals are unwilling to learn English. The current policies of our Federal Government actually enable this erosion when it provides official documents in multiple languages. This eliminates any incentive to learn English. America's genius as a melting-pot Nation has always been promoted by assimilation to a common language, and that language is English.

Today, I am introducing legislation that declares English to be the official language of the United States Government. Under the English As the Official

Language Act of 2008, no person has an entitlement to receive Federal documents and services in languages other than English unless required by law. If the U.S. government is generous enough to make an exception, the exception does not create a legal entitlement or precedent to additional services in any other language other than English. This essential legislation will significantly reduce costs to our Federal Government and will encourage new legal immigrants to quickly adopt America's native tongue.

Learning English has always been and will continue to be a key step in achieving the American Dream. I applaud my fellow colleague in the other House, Senator JIM INHOFE, for introducing identical legislation in the Senate, and for his continued leadership on this critically important issue.

Making English the official language of our great land is not just about preserving our culture and heritage. Learning English is an essential step for our Nation's newest potential citizens that they must take if they want to achieve the American Dream. I plead with my colleagues to strengthen America by supporting English As the Official Language Act of 2008.

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

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WE CANNOT SAY WE DID NOT KNOW

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

Mr. WOLF. In his first speech in the British Parliament in 1789 describing the slave trade, William Wilberforce concluded telling his colleagues this, he said, "Having heard all of this, you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say you did not know."

Not one Member of the 110th Congress can say they do not know about the Nation's long-term financial outlook which former Comptroller General David Walker said will "result in a tsunami of spending and debt that could swamp our ship of state."

According to the Government Accountability Office, America is \$5.3 trillion deep in publicly held debt and has estimated \$54.3 trillion in unfunded promised benefits if we don't change our current course. And that is trillions with a "T."