

Per capita growth from 1980 to 2000 fell to half of what occurred between 1960 and 1980, 1980 prior to the imposition of the WTO-IMF package. I worry about the Vietnamese people if the PNTR should pass. If you care about Vietnam, then you should care to know that the PNTR could have the effect of causing, one, millions of peasants to be thrown off the land as agricultural supports are withdrawn; two, millions of workers to lose their jobs as state enterprises wither in the face of foreign competition or downsize and speed up operations in an effort to stay competitive.

Privatization, right on its way. At the beginning of this year, I was one of the Democratic representatives chosen by the Speaker of the House to visit Southeast Asia, and we visited Vietnam.

One of the things that struck me during the visit, particularly to the south part of Vietnam, was the ubiquitous nature of the bicycle. People use bicycles as a primary means of getting around, and it is linked to the culture. There are rules that impose high tariffs and taxes on bringing cars in to operate in Vietnam. Those rules and tariffs are just going to be wiped off the books, pushed aside.

This agreement is going to have a profound impact in creating a transition in the culture of Vietnam away from a use of an effective and efficient means of transportation, towards choking streets that are already clogged with a lot of people, with automobiles at a time that we should be thinking about the relationship between trade and global climate change.

I mean, after all, the WTO does not permit human rights, workers' rights or environmental quality principles to be put into trade agreements. So here we are celebrating the growth of free trade at the same time the worldwide economic crisis continues.

Somebody has got to make the connection between demanding that the WTO have environmental quality principles written into these agreements, and you are going to see countries like Vietnam suffer as a result of that lack. Have we not had enough of the folly of the World Trade Organization? Have we not lost enough good-paying jobs in this country? Have we not learned that the U.S. cannot for long be the world's biggest market and biggest consumer if our people are not making wealth through manufacturing? I mean, we need an American manufacturing policy where the maintenance of steel, automotive, aerospace and agriculture is seen as vital to our Nation's national security.

Mr. Speaker, if you care about jobs in the United States, then you should be concerned to learn that the U.S. balance of trade with Vietnam has gone from a surplus in 1993 to a deficit of over \$5 billion.

As Chinese manufacturers move south to Vietnam in search of even cheaper labor, more and more exports

will come from Vietnam to the United States and more and more jobs in the U.S. will disappear. Wake up, Congress. We have got close to an \$800 billion trade deficit, and this bill just keeps going in the same direction.

Goodbye, American jobs. No workers rights. No human rights. No environmental quality principles. Why are we doing this?

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida has the right to close?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has the right to close, that is correct.

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, I feel confident this measure before us will pass quite easily. I am glad that you have allowed the House to consider it today. I am sorry that Mr. RAMSTAD did not get a chance to come. We are going to miss Mr. SHAW as he leaves us. Mr. KOLBE, I am sorry he has left the floor. He was also a promoter of trade in underdeveloped countries and has been a real contributor to that effort here in the Congress.

However, this House has a little bit of work left to do in trade. And I talked to the chairman of the committee, Mr. THOMAS, before he left about whether or not we can get a bill between now and the time we get out of here. I would urge the Speaker and the chairman to act on a bill that extends the expiring trade preference programs, the Andean Trade Promotion Program and the generalized system of preferences. These are programs that have been in place for many, many years and have had a very positive effect in the underdeveloped world. And I think it is important that we not allow them to lapse in the midst of transition between party control and whatever.

There are a lot of people out there whose jobs depend on how those are implemented. And I think that the chairman understands that and has given me his assurance that he is going to talk to the Senate about whether we can get through such a piece of legislation, because it is vital to these developing countries and the workers and the American businessmen and consumers.

If you are trying to plan to source some of your material overseas and you do not know what the law is going to be applying to it, it is very hard for you to plan in advance, as the garment industry does or other industries. You need some certainty about when things are going to be available and what preferences will be in place so that the costs can be considered.

I would urge the Speaker in this thing to bring us a short-term clean extension. There are a lot of things out there that can get onto these bills that really do not add, in fact are very controversial.

But the clean extension should include the provisions for Haiti, which is

the poorest country in our hemisphere, and certainly we want to do what we can for them. Sub-Saharan Africa is also a very undeveloped area that is having enormous economic problems. And for those kinds of supports I think there ought not to be any kind of opposition to them. The problem is they always get coupled with everything else under the sun that people have always wanted to do.

I hope the chairman and the committee and the subcommittee and the Speaker will all come together and bring us a bill and we will support it as we have done this one today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of our time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge that after all of these years, I finally found something that I agree with with the gentleman from Washington, and that is the statement with regard to the Andean countries, Africa, and with Haiti.

I would hope if we cannot conclude a satisfactory agreement, free trade agreement with the countries that we are working with now, most notably Peru and Colombia, that we should have some short-term extension of the Andean preference for those countries.

At this time we do not have one, an agreement with Ecuador. However, Ecuador is in a situation now of going into an election where they have one pro-American candidate, and one that is pro-Chavez. I think we should watch that very closely, and I think that we have an obligation to do everything we can for our friends and their economic growth. I will leave it right there.

But I think that we need to, and I would hope that in the next Congress, which I regret that I will not be part of, to see these things through that we should continue our work to become, and continue to be free trade.

I would like to also comment on the comments made by my friend from Ohio with regard to the low wages and low standard of living in Vietnam. I traveled there in the late 1980s with then-chairman Gibbons. It is the same CODEL that Mr. THOMAS made reference to in his opening remarks.

There we saw a very impoverished nation. We stayed at a government house in which the conditions were deplorable. In fact, one of the spouses along on the trip took all of her husband's undershirts and laid them on the bed before she would even get into the bed. We had rolling blackouts. The country was an economic disaster.

But we saw something very important. And I think this was really driven home, particularly, Jake Pickrel, whom many of us know, his wife fell and broke her hip. The doctors who was traveling with us took her down to the hospital in Vietnam, and he came back and said this is 1950s technology, the x-ray equipment there. And of course we immediately flew her out of Vietnam, where she could get and did get proper treatment.