

especially in light of the current crisis, this significantly mitigates the economic hazards of farming and ranching.

The bill also accelerates the phase-in of the health insurance deduction that will be extremely helpful to farmers and other self-employed people and their families. The full deduction will be realized in 2003.

Finally, Madam Speaker, this bill assists agricultural producers in meeting their tax obligations under the Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) of the 1996 farm bill. Congress already has provided the USDA with authority to speed up AMTA payments, which will help many farmers this year, and with this bill, these payments will receive an appropriate tax treatment.

This is a good bill. It will be helpful to American agriculture, and it is the very least we can do. I urge all my colleagues will vote for it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4738, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO RESPOND TO INCREASE OF STEEL IMPORTS AS A RESULT OF FINANCIAL CRISES IN ASIA AND RUSSIA

Mr. ARCHER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 350) calling on the President to take all necessary measures under existing law to respond to the significant increase of steel imports resulting from the financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 350

Whereas the current financial crises in Asia, Russia, and other regions have involved massive depreciation in the currencies of several key steel-producing and steel consuming countries, along with a collapse in the domestic demand for steel in these countries;

Whereas the crises have generated and will continue to generate significant increases in United States imports of steel, both from the countries whose currencies have depreciated in the crisis and from steel producing countries that are no longer able to export steel to the countries in economic crisis;

Whereas United States imports of finished steel mill products from Asian steel producing countries—the People's Republic of China, Japan, Korea, India, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Malaysia—have increased by over 70 percent in the first 5 months of 1998 compared to the same period in 1997;

Whereas year-to-date imports of steel from Russia now exceed the record import levels of 1997, and steel imports from Russia and Ukraine now approach 2,500,000 metric tons;

Whereas foreign government trade restrictions and private restraints of trade distort international trade and investment patterns

and result in burdens on United States commerce, including absorption of a disproportionate share of diverted steel trade;

Whereas the European Union, for example, despite also being a major economy, in 1997 imported only one-tenth as much finished steel products from Asian steel producing countries as the United States did and has restricted imports of steel from the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia;

Whereas the United States is simultaneously facing a substantial increase in steel imports from countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Russia, caused in part by the closure of Asian markets; and

Whereas many would recognize that there may be a need to determine if there should be improvements in the enforcement of United States trade laws to provide an effective response to such situations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress calls upon the President to—

(1) pursue vigorous enforcement of United States trade laws relating to unfair trade practices with respect to the significant increase of steel imports into the United States, using all remedies available under all those laws;

(2) pursue consultations with officials of Japan, Korea, the European Union, and other nations to eliminate import barriers that affect steel mill products and to increase access to their markets;

(3) closely monitor United States imports of steel and make the data gathered from such monitoring available to the public as soon as possible; and

(4) report to the Congress by no later than January 5, 1999, on the impact that the significant increase in steel imports is having on employment, prices, and investment in the United States steel industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and that I may include extraneous material on the resolution, H. Con. Res. 350, now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I wish to be recognized in opposition to the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman from New York opposed to the resolution?

Mr. RANGEL. No, Madam Speaker.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana is opposed to the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) will control 20 minutes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I also ask unanimous consent that we extend debate on this resolution for 1 additional hour, given the important nature of the resolution before the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) yield for the purpose of extending the debate for 1 additional hour?

Mr. ARCHER. No, Madam Speaker. I cannot accept, Madam Speaker. This bill is under suspension and should be covered by the normal rules for suspension.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) will be recognized for 20 minutes; the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) will be recognized for 20 minutes; and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) will be recognized for 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER).

Mr. ARCHER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.Con.Res. 350. I worked with my colleague from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) to develop this resolution which expresses the strong will of Congress that the President must respond to the significant increase in steel imports. This resolution expresses the clear signal that we must take action under our existing laws to preserve U.S. jobs in this vital sector.

Some are seeking to politicize this issue, asserting that this resolution is not strong enough. Frankly, I do not understand that strategy. We must be united in our call to the administration to take action. The resolution makes perfectly clear that Congress is gravely concerned that the financial crises in Asia and Russia have led to a collapse in demand for domestic steel and that a number of our trading partners are closing in their markets to foreign steel, leaving the U.S. vulnerable to sky-rocketing levels of imports.

In fact, this language in the resolution is virtually identical to the so-called bipartisan resolution, H.Con.Res. 328, introduced last month.

Furthermore, the resolution calls upon the President to pursue vigorous enforcement of U.S. trade laws with respect to steel; to negotiate with Japan and Korea and the EU to eliminate barriers and open their markets to the glut to the steel on the market; to closely monitor import levels; and to report to Congress by January 5 on the impact that the significant increase in steel imports is having on employment, prices, and investment here.

Madam Speaker, I hope we will not play politics today. We have no disagreement about the impact that the significant increase in steel imports is having on the U.S. industry and on its workers. I do not understand why this resolution should pass by anything other than a unanimous vote so that we can send a clear, united message to the President that the Congress is deeply concerned.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I have no speakers, so I reserve my time at this time.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) stated correctly that there is a significant problem with a surge in steel imports into the United States of America. In the first 6 months of this year compared to the first 6 months of last year, imports have surged from South Korea by 89 percent.

□ 1800

Imports from Japan have surged 113 percent. Imports from Indonesia have surged over 300 percent. People have lost their jobs. They are not going to get laid off, they are not going to lose their jobs, they have lost their jobs.

The gentleman from Texas was also correct, that in a bipartisan fashion a period of time ago, a significant number of Members in the House of Representatives introduced a resolution to call upon the administration, that has not acted on this matter, to take action. The administration has not acted, and people have lost their jobs because of that. That is why we are here tonight, because if the President of the United States is not going to enforce the trade statutes of the United States of America, we have a constitutional responsibility to do it in this House.

I have the utmost respect for the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, as well as the Vice-Chair, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. QUINN), who chairs the executive committee.

We were all on that original resolution, and we called for the enhanced enforcement of the United States trade laws with respect to the surge in steel imports. We asked that the United States government use all remedies available under those laws, including offsetting duties, I stand to be corrected if that is not the law of the land today, and the instrument of the law under the Constitution that the President can use today.

We said in that resolution, that bipartisan resolution, calling upon our president, who has not acted, that he should use quantitative restraints if necessary. That is exactly what the European community has done. They have put up a wall. People are so cavalier when they come in. They say yes, the Europeans did it, but we are going to cause a crisis internationally if we simply protect ourselves from an illegal international action.

If I am wrong that quantitative restraints are not allowable under the law of the land today, I stand to be corrected right now, and other authorized remedial measures as appropriate that are available to the President of the United States.

The second paragraph of that resolution that was introduced in a bipartisan fashion to call upon the President, who has not acted, said that the Presi-

dent should pursue with all tools at his disposal a more equitable sharing of the burden of accepting imports of finished steel products from Asia and the countries within the Commonwealth.

The language we have before us today says that we should consult with the officials of Japan, we should consult with the officials of Korea, we should consult with the European Union. I bet Mr. Kim at Pohang Steel is going to lay awake tonight worrying about our consultation. We are going to consult him to death between now and January 3. Mr. Yakamura of Nippon Steel in Japan, the guy is probably going to have a heart attack because we are going to consult with the Japanese. We have been consulting for 6 months, and nobody has taken any action.

I bet the foreign ministers of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, I bet they are going to be apoplectic because we are going to consult with them.

Do Members know what, they have a job. They have a job. But 450 white-collar workers at Inland Steel in Chicago, Indiana, they do not have a job today. They do not have a job today. On October 7, 2 days ago, or 5 days ago, I stand corrected, Timken Steel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, laid off 160 workers. They do not have a job today. That foreign minister in France got his job.

Forty-seven steelworkers who were laid off at three Ohio steel-producing facilities last month, those 47 workers, I will bet most of them are married, I will bet most have kids, most have a mortgage, and they cannot wait until January 5, with Christmas and Thanksgiving, and three months of feeding their kids and sending them to school.

We have 40 union workers laid off at Timken Steel in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. We had, on September 2nd, 400 people laid off at Inland Steel, in addition to the 450. Geneva Steel in Utah, an 18 percent cutback, 355 people as of September 29. As of 1½ weeks ago, those 350, they are not working, but the guy in Luxembourg, the guy in Japan, the guy in Korea, he is working. He is working.

The President has done nothing. We have an obligation to do something. The third portion of our resolution, bipartisanly introduced, said that the administration ought to establish a task force within the branch with the responsibility for closely monitoring imports. No great quibble here.

The resolution before us today says we will continue to closely monitor. A lot of good that has done for all of these other people that have continued to lose their jobs, the 200 people in Fairfield, Alabama, who on September 1 were laid off by U.S. Steel, the 100 people in Mon Valley, Pittsburgh, who were laid off on September 1.

That monitoring so far to date, the last 6 months, has not helped the peo-

ple at Slater Steel, where 51 positions were eliminated last week. Last Thursday, 51 people lost their jobs. It did not help them that we have been monitoring since last summer.

The last part of our resolution said that there should be a report to us, to the Republicans, to the Democrats, a report to us by the President, who has not acted, on the comprehensive plan we want him to develop to deal with this surge. We want a plan in place. We want action taken no later than that. The resolution before us today said that the President ought to report back and say he should tell us what the impact is by January 5.

I have a couple more. Acme Steel in Riverdale, Illinois. They just filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. A good thing we had a bankruptcy bill on the House floor last week. We anticipated that event.

We have lost jobs. We are losing jobs as the weeks go by. We are asking for the President to come back in 3 months with this resolution and say, tell us what the impact is, Mr. President. We would really like to know.

Everybody in this Chamber is smart enough to know what the problem is. I respect all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, because we all want the same thing to happen. We want the President of the United States to act. We want this institution to act.

But in the last day or two of this Congress, to stand before the American people with a resolution that says, report back to us on the impact, let us monitor this, let us consult people to death, is a sham, and I am not going to lie to the workers who are losing their jobs every day.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 350 recognizes that the U.S. steel industry is experiencing difficulties as a result of a significant increase in imports of steel into the United States, and calls on the President to take all measures under existing law to respond to this increase.

The financial crisis or crises in Asia and Russia have made a number of industries, including steel, vulnerable to increased imports from countries seeking to bolster their currencies and improve the current account balances.

This resolution is tough but fair, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I support using our existing trade laws to address the question of whether steel is being traded unfairly and injuring our industry and workers. In fact, I understand that the steel industry has brought a number of antidumping petitions within the last 2 weeks. I urge the industry to continue to pursue this track, and the Commerce Department and the International Trade Commission to consider these petitions promptly.

Some say that we should change our trade laws in advance to accommodate

these cases before they have been decided. Much as I sympathize with the plight of the U.S. steel industry and its workers, I believe it would be premature to make such changes.

First, we must not prejudge or interfere with the outcome of pending litigation. Second, we must resist the urge to unilaterally close our markets at this delicate time. Shutting our doors through protection would set a bad example for Asia and Russia, and for the rest of the world, that closed trade is an acceptable policy in difficult economic times. History shows us that it clearly is not. We should not tolerate policies that limit imports of our goods and services, and we should not permit Asia and Russia to increase U.S.-bound exports excessively, to the detriment of our companies and workers.

Instead, we must pursue trade liberalization abroad by action to increase our access to other markets. We should be on the lookout for increased Asian and Russian trade barriers. We must also encourage Japan to open its markets to absorb excess capacity from its neighbors.

In short, we have to do everything we can to get the Asian region and Russia back to health so their consumers may continue to purchase our goods and services and create opportunities for our companies and workers. The financial crisis is an opportunity to foster trade liberalization in these markets, make systematic changes that will open markets, increase transparency, and bolster confidence.

Accordingly, the resolution calls upon the President to pursue vigorous enforcement of U.S. trade laws relating to unfair trade practices using all remedies available under all those laws, pursue consultations with our trading partners to eliminate barriers and increase access to those markets, closely monitor U.S. imports of steel, make that data available to the public, and report to Congress by January 5 on the impact the significant increase in steel imports is having on employment, prices, and investment in the industry.

I would like to congratulate several of my colleagues for their role in bringing this resolution to the floor today, including the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER).

I would particularly like to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), who, while not a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, has worked hard on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this resolution, which sends a strong warning to our trading partners that we are on the lookout for our steel industry and its workers.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KLINK).

Mr. KLINK. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Madam Speaker, I decided to run for Congress after I covered in the news business the decline of the American steel industry while working for a television station in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. 155,000 industrial jobs were lost while this country and this Congress and various presidents sat here and fiddled and carried on, and did not care about what was happening in what has become known as the rust belt of this Nation.

My dear colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) just talked a moment ago about the hundreds of our constituents in this country who are losing their jobs each day, and each one of them is a tragic story. Each one of them is someone who cannot make a car payment, cannot make a mortgage payment, does not know how they are going to pay the bills.

They had a great job in the American steel industry, in a Nation that has led the production of steel for generations. Now, we are saying to them, the President will not stand up for you. He will not use the tools at his disposal, and this Congress can just use a lighter shade of pale of the resolution that this Congress in a bipartisan manner suggested that we pass to force this administration to do everything in their power to stand up for this industry and for those American workers.

Steel prices in this country have fallen 20 percent over the last 3 months, and workers are being laid off because the Asian countries and Russia are dumping their steel on this country. Unfair trade practices are taking place that are having an incredibly bad effect across this Nation.

What do we do? We want to study the issue. We want to consult about the issue. We want to formulate a report which will come back after the first of the year. I will tell Members right now what the report is going to say. I will save the Members the money, the millions of dollars it would take to write that report. What is going to happen is more workers will be laid off, steel plants will close, and our communities will fall apart.

We have to take action. These trade laws are on the books. Allegheny Ludlum in Leechburg, which is just outside of my district, they have already laid off over 100 workers this year because of the cheap foreign imported steel.

There is not a college, there is not an MBA course, there is not a university in this Nation that can teach you how to run a steel plant when you have become as efficient as you can, when you are producing steel cheaper than you have ever done, you are producing as much as you can produce, and you are still losing money. Why are we losing money? Because we are allowing this cheap imported steel to be dumped here that is being subsidized by other nations.

The truth of the matter is that instead of calling on the President to pursue enhanced enforcement, we are

now saying, just vigorous enforcement. Instead of calling upon the President to use all the tools at his disposal to share Asian and Russian imports with Japan and the European union, this bill suggests we pursue consultations.

We have pursued enough consultations, Madam Speaker. It is time we take action. This bill is a sham.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Madam Speaker, this resolution puts our trading partners on notice that the U.S. Congress will not tolerate predatory trade practices. This resolution also pressures the administration to use its legal authority, including remedies that in my view could include offsetting duties and quantitative restraints, to the benefit of a strategic sector of the American economy.

I call on the administration to act expeditiously to eliminate the damage that is being caused by illegal dumping of foreign steel products. Russia, Brazil, Korea, China, and Japan should not be allowed to export their economic mismanagement to the United States.

□ 1815

Dumping is an unfair, intolerable and illegal trade practice that is hurting American steel companies and putting American jobs at risk.

Due to their economic crises, foreign steel companies in these countries and elsewhere cannot sell their products for domestic consumption. In order to liquidate their inventory, foreign steel producers are dumping their products in the U.S. by selling at prices below production costs.

Steel imports through May 1998 increased by a staggering figure, over 70 percent from last year, and now constitute one-third of the domestic steel market. Over the last decade, Mr. Speaker, the American steel industry has been revitalized and become one of the most competitive industries in the world. This substantial accomplishment is now in jeopardy due to illegally traded steel imports, and the companies involved support this resolution.

Let us be clear, a vote for this resolution is a vote for a strong domestic steel industry. A vote against this resolution, contrary to what we have heard on the other side, is a vote against the vital interest of every American steelworker whose job is at risk because of illegal imports.

Mr. Speaker, I challenge every Member of this body who aspires to represent working families to set aside partisan poses and vote for fair trade and for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, if I could ask the Chair what the time remaining is on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The gentleman from Indiana

(Mr. VISCLOSKY) has 9 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) has 11½ minutes remaining.

MR. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), chair of the Congressional Steel Caucus.

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the slogan, "Stand up for steel." Today we are standing up for steel. What we are really talking about are two objectives. One is to save steel jobs in this Nation, the other is to get the President and the Cabinet members energized to help us save those steel jobs.

This is the message that we want to send down Pennsylvania Avenue. We have had discussions. We have had a lot of talk, but now we need action.

Other speakers have detailed the extent of the problem. Exports are up from Russia, 45 percent; from Korea, 89 percent; from Japan, 113 percent; Indonesia, 308 percent. And, of course, the European Union put in quotas, as was mentioned earlier. Even though their population is the same as ours, roughly, they import one-tenth as does the United States. I think it tells us very clearly how we are being the target for all the surplus steel capacity around the world.

What we do in this resolution is say to the administration: Take action. It is a strong message. We can talk about semantics. We can split hairs. The real answer is we have got to get the message down there. And whether it is the resolution offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY), whether it is mine, whether it is the resolution offered by the gentleman from Texas (Chairman ARCHER), none of those will mean anything unless the administration is willing to take action.

But I would point out to my colleagues that in this resolution before us today we call for the President of the United States to pursue vigorous enforcement of our unfair trading laws using all remedies available under all laws. In other words, use all of the tools available.

Are there tools? Yes, there are tools. The President can invoke national security matters and immediately put on quantitative restraints, if the President were willing to do this.

Mr. Speaker, he can pursue the test of emergency conditions in the United States, and there is an emergency. Again, the President can act without any further action.

Thirdly, the President and the Commerce Department can bring 201 and 301 cases. They have not done so.

Fourthly, they can find critical circumstances under dumping, allowing retroactive imposition of duties. So, there are many tools available.

Last week I, as chairman of the Steel Caucus, along with the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) met with

Senator SPECTER, chairman in the Senate, and Senator ROCKEFELLER, and we met with Treasury Secretary Rubin, Secretary of Commerce Dailey, with Trade Ambassador Barshefsky, and with the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, Mr. Gene Sperling. We gave them the outlines of the problem. And what we had from them is talk. As I said to them, there is a Chinese proverb that says, "Talk does not cook rice."

What we need is for this administration to start dealing with this problem and not giving us talk. This resolution provides for disclosure to the public so we know what is going on. And I think that it will require action by our Committee on Ways and Means.

I would point out of all the resolutions, this is the one coming out of our Committee on Ways and Means. To really work on this problem, we need the cooperation and we need the help and we need action by the Committee on Ways and Means.

But right now, the President of the United States can take action to save those steel jobs. Mr. Speaker, I say to the President, "Mr. President, we want you and your cabinet and your administration to stand up for steel."

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Committee on Ways and Means has acted. I think we all ought to recognize, though, they acted only because we had such a strong vote last week on this issue that showed we could have passed the resolution that was originally introduced.

Now, if my colleagues want to be "Congressman Feelgood," go ahead and vote for this resolution, this watered-down, tooth-pulled language that has no strength in it. If they want to be "Mr. Feelgood," then vote for it.

But if they want to be "Congressman Do-Good," then let us bring this resolution back to the floor that so many of us cosponsored. What we need is some real action.

We need action on voluntary restraint agreements, as we had during the Reagan administration. The gentleman from Ohio will remember that very well. We need retroactive countervailing duties assured to be imposed, once the findings are made on the countervailing duty cases that are pending.

We need to have Japan reduce its exports to the United States. We need Japan to raise their prices to real market condition prices. We need tough language, not this watered-down language that we are dealing with here.

The actions that can be taken with Japan, with Korea to privatize its steel industry, to bring its exports down to the level prior to this past May. And for the European Union to end their quotas on Russian steel that have cut Russian exports to the European Community countries by 50 percent, so that Russia now leapfrogs Europe and dumps their steel in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these are specific, direct actions that can be taken and we ought to be telling the administration: Do it. Do something good. Stand up for steel.

Let us stand up for something that means action, not just "significant increase," not just "under existing laws," not "establish a monitoring program," as provided in this resolution. That means nothing.

As the gentleman from Indiana said, I tell my colleagues, the leadership in Japan is not quaking in their boots over this language, and neither should the Members on this floor. We ought to have something a lot tougher.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and a good friend of steel.

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. Frankly, it is time that we give a wakeup call to the White House. While steelworkers in Illinois and across this country are losing their jobs, the Clinton administration does nothing.

Tonight, the President is in New York spending an evening with the "limousine liberals," and nothing is being done about steel jobs in Illinois. We are losing jobs in Illinois because the Clinton administration is doing nothing. This Congress needs to speak and call for action, because Illinois workers are losing their jobs while Bill Clinton is in New York.

Asian countries, the countries of Asia and Russia are dumping steel in Illinois and it is costing Illinois workers their jobs. Steel imports from Japan have doubled, while Bill Clinton sleeps. Steel imports from Korea have gone up 89 percent, while the Clinton administration does nothing.

We need action Mr. Speaker. That is why this resolution and that is why this Congress should speak in a bipartisan, unanimous vote telling the Clinton administration get off of its duff and do something and go to work to protect Illinois steel jobs.

There are 20 firms in the south suburbs of the south side of Chicago that I have the privilege of representing. Every one of them are hurting. As the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKY) pointed out, Acme Steel filed for bankruptcy. Birmingham Steel, which has 400 jobs in Bourbonnais, has now reduced its hours down to where they are only working 4 days a week in order to avoid layoffs. In September, they shut down for a full week, idling 280 workers. Belson Scrap and Steel, 110 employees. They have had to reduce their payroll by 10 percent.

Because the Clinton administration is doing nothing, workers are hurting. We need action. Let us give a bipartisan vote to this resolution and demand action out of Clinton administration.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 350 which calls on the President to enforce existing trade laws to respond to the overwhelming increase in foreign steel imports resulting from the Asian financial crisis.

Mr. Speaker passage of H. Con. Res. 350 is of the utmost importance to the future of the American steel industry and to thousands of steelworkers around the country, many of which I represent in the 11th Congressional District in Chicago's south suburbs. The economic problems in Russia, Asia and Latin America have lead to large scale dumping of foreign steel on the U.S. market with most of this steel being sold at below the price of production in their home markets. As you know Mr. Speaker, this is an unfair and illegal trade practice under both international and U.S. trade policies, and the dumping of foreign steel threatens many good paying American jobs.

This past spring, I along with 64 other members of this House signed a letter to the President asking him to enforce existing U.S. laws against these unfairly traded steel imports. Unfortunately Mr. Speaker, the Administration has failed to act on behalf of the steel industry and American workers. In fact, the problem has only grown worse since this spring, Steel imports for this past July were up almost 45% over July 1997. Imports from Japan and South Korea are up over 113% and 89% respectively.

The impact of this dumped steel has already resulted in layoffs and reduced orders in factories around the country. U.S. Steel has laid off over 100 workers in Pittsburgh and is planning to lay off more workers as orders continue to slow. Geneva Steel has had to let go of over 500 employees, and Northwestern Steel and Wire Company in my state of Illinois has said that it might have to let go as many as 450 workers because of these unfair trade practices. Even Acme Steel Company in Chicago has been forced to file for bankruptcy protection putting even more jobs in question.

I have over 20 firms in my district that produce steel or steel products. Some of these firms are large corporations like Birmingham Steel whose mill in Joliet, Illinois employs almost 400 people, while others are small family owned businesses like Belson Scrap and Steel in Bourbonnais, Illinois with 110 employees. Without immediate action to stem the tide of this unfairly dumped steel, I fear that these steel producers and their workers will face severe harm.

Mr. Speaker, both the steel industry and the steelworkers union have filed suit to stop these unfair practices, but, without swift action by the Administration to stop this unchecked flow of dumped steel, it may be too late for many of our steel companies and steel workers to wait for the courts resolution.

The steel industry has rebounded from the financial difficulties of the 1980's that cost our country over 325,000 jobs. The American steel industry once in decline, now produces the lowest cost and highest quality steel on the planet. If we fail to ensure that American steel plays on a level playing field with the rest of the world, then we place American steel companies and American workers including the 400 at Birmingham Steel and the 110 at Belson in my district in great harm.

It's time to send a message to the Administration, foreign governments, and American workers, that this Congress will not stand idle

when American jobs are at stake. I ask for your support for this industry and this important legislation.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute and 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) earlier in his remarks talked about the "Visclosky resolution." That was not the Visclosky resolution. That was a bipartisan resolution that the caucus agreed to. We had cosponsors of that resolution language on both sides.

The gentleman from Ohio has had people losing their jobs as recently as 5 days ago: September 2, September 29, October 1, October 8.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the privileged resolution that the gentleman from Indiana introduced, and he was the sponsor of that.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Which I sponsored, but which contained the bipartisan language.

Mr. REGULA. Most of it, yes.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, most of the bipartisan language. So, this was not a partisan issue.

The administration has not acted and that is why we are here tonight. The Commerce Department has not initiated its own investigation. The Trade Rep's office has not initiated its own investigation. Neither has the Commerce Department or Trade Rep office called for countervailing duties. No one in the administration has pressured the European Union to discuss sharing the burden of the financial crisis in Russia or Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I will close my portion of the remarks by indicating that this is not the best all of us can do collectively. The best we can do collectively is to send this back to the committee of jurisdiction and tell them to do better on Wednesday.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H. Con. Res. 350 calling on our President to promptly take all necessary measures to stop the dumping of foreign steel on our markets.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH), sponsors of this measure, along with the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER), chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

U.S. jobs are at stake if we fail to ensure that foreign markets discontinue

the restriction of U.S. steel exports. The administration has told Congress that it is enforcing our trade laws vigorously. Well, foreign steel is still surging into our country from Asia and threatening the jobs of our steelworkers plus the future of our industry, that by all odds is the lowest cost, most efficient producer of steel in the entire world.

I also call on the European Union to do its part to meet the ongoing crisis in Russia by opening its market to the import of Russian steel products. It should stop cutting back its imports from Russia, if it is to put in place a long-term solution to the global financial crisis.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

□ 1830

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), a distinguished member of the Congressional Steel Caucus and a strong friend of steel.

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) for their work to bring this resolution to the floor today.

The United States steel industry is the most efficient and competitive in the world. Currently, however, the industry is in a crisis due to the dumping onto the U.S. markets of below-cost production of steel from countries in financial distress. Although I support this resolution, I strongly believe that we must have an immediate ban on certain foreign steel imports to give the U.S. steel industry a level playing field.

My bill, 4762, which has 6 Republicans and 5 Democrats, does that. The current GATT agreement and the U.S. review process for trade complaints do nothing to help the families who have already lost their jobs. It is wrong to let American jobs die as part of a backdoor foreign policy method for keeping foreign governments and economies afloat. By leaving our ports open to this flood of steel while Europe maintains trade barriers is exactly what we are doing.

I urge the President to immediately stop this flood of foreign, unfairly priced steel. If our trade partners do not like it, let them file a case and go through the same lengthy bureaucratic process that we have to suffer. Seven steel company presidents, 12 Governors and the United Steelworkers of America have pleaded with the President to halt these imports.

This resolution urges the President to engage Europe and Japan to end their trade barriers. I ask for everyone to support this resolution as a first step in an effort to give America's steelworkers a fair chance to compete.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of steelworkers in the greater Cleveland area who work at LTV Steel and steelworkers everywhere across this country who realize that this crisis in steel is real.

Workers are losing their jobs, plants are in danger of being shut down, but enforcement of our trade laws is not happening. Today we have the opportunity and the duty to ensure our protections for steel are enforced. But this concurrent resolution is weak. What are we afraid of?

If not now, when is it appropriate to impose quantitative restrictions on steel imports? If not now, when is it appropriate to raise tariffs? What are we about if we allow our steelworkers to lose their jobs without taking emergency actions to protect them?

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), a strong friend of steel.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the gentleman from Ohio for their leadership, and also my colleague from Indiana for his leadership, and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) for his part in this important issue, because we clearly see American steel companies being driven out of business with unfair market practices.

We can talk as Republicans all we want about free trade, but, in fact, when you have people who cheat, who do not follow the rules, you cannot have free trade.

I, too, wish this resolution were tougher, but the plain truth of the matter is we are at the end of the session. The Senate is not in session. The only thing we can do at this point is a resolution that puts us on record. This is the best we can do.

If this resolution would go down, it would be a terrible sign because thus far we have been working in a bipartisan way between the two sides to try to point out to this administration and this Congress what is happening in the steel industry.

This book, *American Steel*, which I would recommend to anyone, tells the details of the founding of NUCOR as well as what was later developed as Steel Dynamics in Indiana. Those two companies drove the price of steel down, yet they cannot compete because of this illegal dumping. We have put so many restrictions on our steel industry, yet they have been innovative.

If we at times do not offer protection when other countries will not play fair, we will not have a steel industry. If we do not have a steel industry, how can we talk about national defense? How can we talk about being a strong Nation if we do not have something as fundamental as steel in this country? We cannot just produce hamburgers and CDs and the type of soft things, those are important, but steel is a foundational part of our country. We

cannot lose this industry. This resolution puts us on record as a Congress. If it goes down, it will be a bad, bad signal.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT), my friend and the friend of everybody in economic risk in this country.

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, nearly all of the great economic improvement in the country has the fingerprints of one of America's great chairmen, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER). If there is a better Member than the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), I do not know him. My friend and neighbor from nearby western Pennsylvania, thank you for all the good things you have done for workers, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH). So do not take my comments as an attack on you. I am fed up the way our Nation has handled trade matters.

Specifically, we are mandated by the Constitution to regulate commerce with foreign nations. What we have not delegated to the White House, the White House has usurped.

How, they say, can I oppose this resolution? It is nonbinding. The Democrats, it is nonbinding.

Here is my position, here is simply why. They are both nonbinding. Why not make them specific? Why not direct the President to look at this issue? The issue today is not just trade, it is illegal trade.

The steelworkers of America oppose this resolution because it does not specifically address dumping.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) said there is so much surplus overseas and that we end up buying it all because no one else overseas seems to be taking this surplus. Well, that is not the only problem. This surplus is coming into our country below production cost. Attractive, is it not?

Where is the specificity? Where is it coming from? Japan, Russia, Brazil. Let us talk about Japan. Every President since Richard Nixon threatened Japan with sanctions to open up their market and stop this illegal trade. Every one right up to William Jefferson Clinton. Evidently they never complied. I mean, that is a truthful statement. Workers are fed up.

My community has been decimated, 55,000 steelworkers, Gonesville. And it is our fault.

Let us look at Russia. We are now giving Russia foreign aid. Russia, subsidizing their industries, and the Communists are battling with Yeltsin. Who knows who might win? We are losing.

Let us look at Brazil. We are going to shut the government down over an \$18 billion bailout in the international monetary slush fund for Brazil. Brazil is taking our money. They are subsidizing their steel industry, and they are selling steel in the United States of America below their production cost.

Mr. Speaker, I am not talking today about our resolution. I am talking about our failure to basically perform our constitutional mandate. We have allowed White House after White House after White House to negotiate with Communists, foreign leaders. The Constitution does not say we consult; the Constitution says we act.

Specifically, I have before and will have before the House, if this is voted down, a very simple, straightforward resolution that I think the Committee on Ways and Means should bring out. It says, the administration should review every bit of steel coming into our country.

Number two, we review and identify. If there is, in fact, illegal dumping, document it and impose a 1-year ban on anybody dumping illegally in our country. That includes Japan, Russia and Brazil.

Number three, same as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), put that task force together to closely monitor these imports in the future. And finally, report back by January 5, 1999, on the actions the executive branch expects to implement due to the fact that they have uncovered illegal dumping.

We need some specificity. God Almighty here. Democrats with nonbinding resolutions; Republicans with nonbinding resolutions, nonbinding resolutions that are watered down, watered down, watered down without meaning, without focus, without law.

Hell, if we were to do something, we would have brought out the Aderholt bill. I do not slam the Republican Party. I am not slamming the Democrats. It has happened on both sides.

Do you know who I am slamming? All of the Congress. We have allowed the White House to conduct business, and, by God, they should do what the Congress of the United States says or veto it.

I would appreciate a no vote on this resolution.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the resolution.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, normally I would be happy to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Youngstown, and, in fact, most of what he said I agree with. But he put his finger on something that I think was critical when he said that our so-called watered-down resolution is watered down only in the sense that the other side's resolution is watered down. The Regula resolution does not specifically address dumping, nor does ours.

However, ours does put this body on record focusing on this issue. This is,

contrary to what we have heard, the only vote we will get on this issue this session. So I want to make it clear here, a vote for this resolution is a vote for a strong domestic steel industry. The American Iron and Steel Institute supports this resolution. A vote against this resolution is a vote against the vital interests of every American steelworker whose job is at risk for illegal imports.

Let us not make a distinction without a difference, as the other side has. Let us support jobs. Let us vote for this resolution as the one way of registering our will in favor of domestic steel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 350.

The question was taken.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today and then on the motion to suspend the rules postponed from Saturday, October 10, 1998, in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3494, de novo;

H. Con. Res. 350, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2095, de novo.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SEXUAL PREDATOR PUNISHMENT ACT OF 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and concurring in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 3494.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 3494.

The question was taken.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 0, answered "present" 2, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 521]

YEAS—400

Abercrombie	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (CT)
Ackerman	Dickey	Johnson (WI)
Aderholt	Dicks	Johnson, E.B.
Allen	Dingell	Johnson, Sam
Andrews	Dixon	Jones
Archer	Doggett	Kanjorski
Armey	Dooley	Kaptur
Bachus	Doolittle	Kasich
Baesler	Doyle	Kelly
Baker	Dreier	Kennedy (MA)
Baldacci	Duncan	Kennedy (RI)
Ballenger	Dunn	Kildee
Barcia	Edwards	Kim
Barr	Ehrlich	Kind (WI)
Barrett (NE)	Emerson	King (NY)
Barrett (WI)	Engel	Kingston
Bartlett	English	Klecza
Barton	Ensign	Klink
Bass	Eshoo	Klug
Bateman	Etheridge	Knollenberg
Becerra	Evans	Kolbe
Bentsen	Everett	Kucinich
Bereuter	Ewing	LaFalce
Berry	Farr	LaHood
Bilbray	Fattah	Lantos
Billirakis	Fawell	Latham
Bishop	Fazio	LaTourette
Blagojevich	Filner	Lazio
Billey	Foley	Leach
Blumenauer	Forbes	Lee
Blunt	Ford	Levin
Boehlert	Fossella	Lewis (CA)
Boehner	Fowler	Lewis (GA)
Bonilla	Fox	Lewis (KY)
Bonior	Frank (MA)	Linder
Bono	Franks (NJ)	Lipinski
Boswell	Frelinghuysen	Livingston
Boyd	Frost	LoBiondo
Brady (PA)	Furse	Lowey
Brady (TX)	Galleghy	Lucas
Brown (CA)	Ganske	Luther
Brown (FL)	Gejdenson	Maloney (CT)
Brown (OH)	Gekas	Maloney (NY)
Bryant	Gibbons	Manton
Bunning	Gilchrest	Manzullo
Burr	Gillmor	Markey
Burton	Gilman	Martinez
Buyer	Gonzalez	Mascara
Callahan	Goode	Matsui
Calvert	Goodlatte	McCarthy (NY)
Camp	Goodling	McCrery
Campbell	Gordon	McDade
Canady	Goss	McDermott
Cannon	Granger	McGovern
Capps	Green	McHale
Cardin	Greenwood	McHugh
Carson	Gutierrez	McInnis
Chabot	Gutknecht	McIntosh
Chambliss	Hall (OH)	McIntyre
Chenoweth	Hall (TX)	McKeon
Christensen	Hamilton	McKinney
Clay	Hansen	McNulty
Clayton	Harman	Meehan
Clement	Hastert	Meek (FL)
Clyburn	Hastings (FL)	Meeks (NY)
Coble	Hastings (WA)	Menendez
Coburn	Hayworth	Metcalfe
Collins	Hefley	Mica
Combest	Herger	Millender-
Condit	Hill	McDonald
Conyers	Hilleary	Miller (CA)
Cook	Hilliard	Miller (FL)
Costello	Hinojosa	Minge
Cox	Hobson	Mink
Coyne	Hoekstra	Moakley
Cramer	Holden	Moran (KS)
Crane	Hooey	Moran (VA)
Crapo	Horn	Morella
Cubin	Hostettler	Myrick
Cummings	Houghton	Nadler
Cunningham	Hoyer	Neal
Danner	Hulshof	Nethercutt
Davis (FL)	Hunter	Neumann
Davis (IL)	Hutchinson	Ney
Davis (VA)	Hyde	Northup
Deal	Istook	Nussle
DeFazio	Jackson (IL)	Oberstar
DeGette	Jackson-Lee	Obey
DeLaunt	(TX)	Olver
DeLauro	Jefferson	Ortiz
DeLay	Jenkins	Owens

Oxley	Sabo	Stupak
Packard	Salmon	Sununu
Pallone	Sanchez	Talent
Pappas	Sanders	Tanner
Parker	Sandlin	Tauscher
Pascarella	Sanford	Tauzin
Pastor	Sawyer	Taylor (NC)
Paxon	Saxton	Thomas
Payne	Schaefer, Dan	Thompson
Pease	Schaffer, Bob	Thornberry
Pelosi	Schumer	Thune
Peterson (MN)	Scott	Thurman
Peterson (PA)	Sensenbrenner	Tiahrt
Petri	Serrano	Tierney
Pickering	Sessions	Torres
Pickett	Shadegg	Towns
Pitts	Shaw	Trafficant
Pombo	Shays	Turner
Pomeroy	Sherman	Upton
Porter	Shimkus	Velazquez
Portman	Shuster	Vento
Price (NC)	Sisisky	Visclosky
Quinn	Skeen	Walsh
Radanovich	Skelton	Wamp
Ramstad	Slaughter	Waters
Rangel	Smith (MI)	Watkins
Redmond	Smith (NJ)	Watt (NC)
Regula	Smith (OR)	Watts (OK)
Reyes	Smith (TX)	Weldon (FL)
Riggs	Smith, Adam	Weldon (PA)
Riley	Smith, Linda	Weller
Rivers	Snowbarger	Wexler
Rodriguez	Snyder	Weygand
Roemer	Solomon	White
Rogan	Souder	Whitfield
Rogers	Spence	Wicker
Rohrabacher	Stabenow	Wilson
Rothman	Stark	Wise
Roukema	Stearns	Wolf
Roybal-Allard	Stenholm	Woolsey
Royce	Stokes	Wynn
Rush	Strickland	Young (AK)
Ryun	Stump	Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Lofgren

Paul

NOT VOTING—32

Berman	Inglis	Poshard
Borski	John	Pryce (OH)
Boucher	Kennelly	Rahall
Castle	Kilpatrick	Ros-Lehtinen
Cooksey	Lampson	Scarborough
Deutsch	Largent	Skaggs
Ehlers	McCarthy (MO)	Spratt
Gephardt	McCollum	Taylor (MS)
Graham	Mollohan	Waxman
Hefner	Murtha	Yates
Hinchey	Norwood	

□ 1905

The Clerk announced the following pairs:

Mr. LEVIN and Mr. HALL of Texas changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

Ms. LOFGREN changed her vote from "yea" to "present."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device may be taken on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.