

committee set up last year, 1999, to deal with gun safety and juvenile justice, we have yet to have another meeting. The first meeting ended with disagreement and opening statements, but no action.

I would commend to my colleagues, for those who argue vigorously about the privileges of the Constitution in the second amendment, I would argue for them to understand the Constitution as a living document.

The Second Amendment was drafted and promoted at a time that this was an embryonic country. It was a beginning Nation. It was a Nation that feared to be taken over by those who had once been its colonizer, if you will. The Second Amendment related to a well-armed militia. I have no problem with people legally retaining their guns in their homes, but I do have a problem with criminals getting guns.

It is tragic that the House conference committee has not seen fit to meet and to deal with what America wants us to do: one, reasonable, safe gun safety laws; two, to close the loopholes so criminals do not get guns, so a little baby 6 years old does not have the opportunity, in a home that may not be the best, that may have a criminal element, to access a gun.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely tragic that we would have a situation where a child accessed a gun. What can we say about that, other than that we have not done our job? We must do our job. We must pass safety legislation that deals with trigger locks, that deals with smart guns, and we must find a way to convene and do what America desires us to do.

How many more killings will we see? How many more of those who are either deranged, needing mental assistance? How many more persons will we have suffering and losing their lives because we have not done our job?

Mr. Speaker, I think that in this instance all we can do is pray, but I think that what we can do in the future is to meet, and to be assured that as we meet, we have this committee that will find itself in its heart and in its mind to pass real gun safety legislation so that a 6-year-old does not have access to guns.

Mr. Speaker, to conclude my remarks, let me say that I hope that the conference committee will find its way to meet. If it meets, I hope we will find our way to vote for real gun safety legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks)

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES TO WITHDRAW FROM THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of and request cosponsors for a privileged resolution to withdraw the United States from the World Trade Organization.

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the United States was dealt a defeat in a tax dispute with the European Union by an unelected board of international bureaucrats. It seems that, according to the WTO, \$2.2 billion of United States tax reductions for American businesses violates WTO's rules and must be eliminated by October 1 of this year.

Much could be said about the WTO's mistaken Orwellian notion that allowing citizens to retain the fruits of their own labor constitutes subsidies and corporate welfare. However, we need not even reach the substance of this particular dispute prior to asking, by what authority does the World Trade Organization assume jurisdiction over the United States Federal tax policy? That is the question.

At last reading, the Constitution required that all appropriation bills originate in the House, and specified that only Congress has the power to lay and collect taxes. Taxation without representation was a predominant reason for America's fight for independence during the American Revolution. Yet, now we face an unconstitutional delegation of taxing authority to an unelected body of international bureaucrats.

Let me assure Members that this Nation does not need yet another bureaucratic hurdle to tax reduction. Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution reserves to Congress alone the authority for regulating foreign commerce. According to Article II, section 2, it reserves to the Senate the sole power to ratify agreements, namely, treaties, between the United States government and other governments.

We all saw the recent demonstrations at the World Trade Organization meetings in Seattle. Although many of those folks who were protesting were indeed rallying against what they see as evils of free trade and capitalist markets, the real problem when it comes to the World Trade Organization is not free trade. The World Trade Organization is the furthest thing from free trade.

Instead, it is an egregious attack upon our national sovereignty, and this is the reason why we must vigorously oppose it. No Nation can maintain its sovereignty if it surrenders its authority to an international collective. Since sovereignty is linked so closely to freedom, our very notion of American liberty is at stake in this issue.

Let us face it, free trade means trade without interference from govern-

mental or quasi-governmental agencies. The World Trade Organization is a quasi-governmental agency, and hence, it is not accurate to describe it as a vehicle of free trade. Let us call a spade a spade: the World Trade Organization is nothing other than a vehicle for managed trade whereby the politically connected get the benefits of exercising their position as a preferred group; preferred, that is, by the Washington and international political and bureaucratic establishments.

As a representative of the people of the 14th District of Texas and a Member of the United States Congress sworn to uphold the Constitution of this country, it is not my business to tell other countries whether or not they should be in the World Trade Organization. They can toss their own sovereignty out the window if they choose. I cannot tell China or Britain or anybody else that they should or should not join the World Trade Organization. That is not my constitutional role.

I can, however, say that the United States of America ought to withdraw its membership and funding from the WTO immediately.

We need to better explain that the Founding Fathers believed that tariffs were meant to raise revenues, not to erect trade barriers. American colonists even before the war for independence understood the difference.

When our Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution, they placed the treaty-making authority with the President and the Senate, but the authority to regulate commerce with the House. The effects of this are obvious. The Founders left us with a system that made no room for agreements regarding international trade; hence, our Nation was to be governed not by protection, but rather, by market principles. Trade barriers were not to be erected, period.

A revenue tariff was to be a major contributor to the U.S. Treasury, but only to fund the limited and constitutionally authorized responsibilities of the Federal government. Thus, the tariff would be low.

The colonists and Founders clearly recognized that these are tariffs or taxes on American consumers, they are not truly taxes on foreign corporations. This realization was made obvious by the British government's regulation of trade with the colonies, but it is a realization that has apparently been lost by today's protectionists.

Simply, protectionists seem to fail even to realize that raising the tariff is a tax hike on the American people.

OIL PIPELINE SAFETY

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

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, oil and gas pipeline accidents happen more often than we might think. Just within

the past few weeks, two major pipeline spills have occurred.

On February 5, an oil pipeline spilled approximately 70,000 gallons of crude oil into a lake in the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge near Philadelphia. The refuge incorporates the largest freshwater tidal marsh in the State and is habitat to two endangered species.

On January 27, approximately 500,000 gallons of oil leaked from a pipeline near Winchester, Kentucky. Officials are unsure how much of the oil will make its way into the Kentucky River, the main drinking water source for Lexington and other towns.

Thankfully, neither of these spills were ignited, like the spill which occurred in my district last June. The accident in my district resulted in three deaths, millions of dollars in property damage. How many more spills do we need to have before we act to improve our system of pipeline safety?

Recently, I introduced H.R. 3558, the Safe Pipelines Act of 2000. My bipartisan bill, which has been cosponsored by the entire Washington State House delegation, will enact much needed reforms to our Federal pipeline regulations, and will give the States a role in pipeline regulation, which they currently lack.

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Under my bill, pipelines will be required to be inspected both internally and with hydrostatic tests. Pipelines with a history of leaks will be specially targeted for more strenuous testing. All pipeline operators will be tested for qualifications and certified by the Department of Transportation.

The results of pipeline tests and inspections will be made available to the public and a nationwide map of all pipeline locations will be placed on the Internet where every citizen can easily access it. All pipeline ruptures and spills of more than 40 gallons will be reported to the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety and States will be able to set up their own pipeline safety programs for interstate pipelines, provided that the States have the resources and expertise necessary to carry out the programs and that State standards are at least as stringent as Federal standards.

In addition, the bill requires studies on a variety of technologies that may improve safety such as external leak detection systems and double-walled pipelines. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this bipartisan legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WALTER CRYAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. WEYGAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress my congratulations and sincere thanks to a good friend, Walter

Cryan, who is retiring from a 35-year career in broadcast journalism. Walter will be deeply missed. This great man, whom we have watched as anchor on Channel 12 for the last 35 years, will be missed because we know that the kind of journalism that he represents is not the norm today.

Walter Cryan heard the call of the media at a very early age. As a child growing up in Cambridge and Lowell, Massachusetts, a young Walter was enraptured by the world of radio and displayed a particular love for the Lone Ranger. At this time he was also exposed to journalistic greats such as Walter Winchell and Edward R. Murrow, who would undoubtedly influence his later career, though at the time he actually preferred the world of sports-casting.

With dreams of becoming a baseball announcer, Walter enrolled in the Leland Powers School of Radio and Television in Boston and later transferred to Boston University. After being drafted in the Army in 1952, Walter was stationed in Germany where he served as a broadcaster for the Armed Services Network.

Upon his return to the United States, Walter completed his communications degree and embarked upon a career that would eventually make him one of the most respected journalists in our State. After spending several years with a Massachusetts radio station, Walter made a decision that would shape the remainder of his life. With his wife's encouragement, he took a chance, and a pay cut, to move to Rhode Island in 1965 to pursue a position at WPRO Radio, which also happened to own Channel 12, a television station.

One year later, he was tapped as station anchor on the 11 p.m. news; and in 1967, he was tapped to be the 6 p.m. anchor, where he would remain for the next 33 years. With his straightforward reporting style and his dignified presence, he quickly developed into a Rhode Island favorite amongst all viewers.

Mr. Speaker, Rhode Island is not a large State; with a population of only a million people within about 1,200 square miles, the entire State has only one local affiliate for each of the network stations. And for this reason, though, our local nightly news anchors are particularly well known and recognized just as Peter Jennings, Tom Brokaw, and Dan Rather.

From his anchor desk, Walter Cryan has succeeded admirably in becoming a reliable and respected source of news in our State. His sincere demeanor and his warm personality contribute to his ability to relate to the viewers at home, which inspires a great deal of trust in all who watch this wonderful anchorman.

In times of prosperity and turmoil, of joy and despair, Walter has remained a steady presence at the anchor desk of Channel 12 news.

In 1996, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognized Walter's

service to the southeastern New England area by inducting him into the Silver Circle, a prestigious award given only to those who have served more than 25 years in the broadcasting industry.

One of Walter's greatest assets that he brings to his work is his great sense of perspective. The arrival of cable television and the Internet have caused the network ratings, especially in news broadcasts, to decline over recent years. In an attempt to attract more viewers, many network news programs have added more sensational reporting and entertainment type of news, a style very different from the days of Edward R. Murrow or Walter's youth.

Walter held a place for himself in the news media wonderland by maintaining his professional demeanor and his no-nonsense style of reporting. He carved a unique niche in Rhode Island media by displaying a remarkable understanding of why certain events occur and how they impact the public.

As a person, he has witnessed riots and war, deaths of public figures, economic booms and busts, countless elections and moments essential to our State's history. He has been always able to explain not only the news, but truly their significance to the people.

But there is also another side of Walter Cryan, a side that is certainly more sincere and dedicated and really shows the warm side of Walter Cryan. Walter has highlighted the cause of a facility, an institution known as Meeting Street Center, a Providence organization that assists special needs handicapped children. For the last 22 years, Walter has been an active advocate and a vocal advocate of this organization and he annually hosts their fund-raising telethon which has raised over \$4 million during his time.

During his telethons, he highlights extraordinary advances of the children at Meeting Street Center, how they have moved forward, the things they have done. Rhode Islanders have witnessed, live on TV sometimes, the first steps and the lives of these remarkable children.

Mr. Speaker, I end by saying that Walter Cryan has not only been a tremendous journalist for our State, a person who represents sensitivity and determination to his profession, but he has been a great family man dedicated to our community, to public service in the finest of ways. He is a great guy, and we are going to miss him dearly.

THE KEEP OUR PROMISES TO AMERICA'S MILITARY RETIREES ACT

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of great importance to me and I hope to my colleagues: The health and well-being of the brave men and women who