

crossings of the corridor. It would also ensure the development of more efficient trade routes. One year after its formation, this Commission would make recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation indicating the most desirable routes for East-West expansion of the corridor, and for possible expansion of the corridor to the Canadian border.

We should not wait until our borders and our trade routes are completely overwhelmed to take decisive action. Rather, our infrastructure and our border enforcement agencies should keep pace with growing trade levels, and with the realities of increasing international interdependence.

The Camino Real Corridor is clearly the best place to start, but it need not be an end point. This project ought to serve as a model for future initiatives in other major border cities. It will also serve as a starting point for an important highway network that will connect Mexico with the interior United States, and possibly with Canada.

I recognize that we are operating in a political climate where it is more popular to criticize than to create, and much easier to deconstruct than to construct. But it is important to recognize that one of the fundamental roles of the Federal Government has always been the funding and oversight of interstate projects that are central to national growth and prosperity. The creation of the Camino Real Corridor is such a project, and consequently, it deserves support.

REPEAL THE "MOTOR VOTER"
BILL

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, on May 10, 1993, President Clinton signed into law a \$200 million unfunded Federal mandate called "The National Voter Registration Act of 1993." I am today introducing a bill to repeal it.

This law, commonly referred to as the "motor voter" bill, tramples on States rights by requiring them to implement a law that allows people to register to vote by mail, or when they apply for a driver's license, or welfare. Proponents of the measure argued that this was the answer to voter apathy. They reasoned that by making voter registration easier, voter turnout would increase. However, there is little, if any, evidence to validate this contention. In fact, over the past three decades, voter registration requirements have grown easier and easier, yet voter turnout has actually decreased over the same time period.

Moreover, by easing registration requirements, and not providing the States with the funds necessary to keep their registration lists up-to-date and clean, the motor voter bill will most likely increase election fraud.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Congress should not be legislating in this area. The States know best how to develop voter registration programs in their own jurisdictions with the least cost and chance of fraud and abuse. It is senseless to undermine their voter registration programs by requiring them to comply with a nationalized costly mandate.

Our new congressional leaders have pledged to make it tougher for the Federal

Government to place unfunded Federal mandates on the States. The bill I am proposing today is in step with the pledge, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

NATIONAL FIREARMS POLICY
COMMISSION ACT

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, during the 103d Congress, I introduced H.R. 4423, the "National Firearms Policy Commission Act," legislation that will bring the President, Members of Congress, Justices of the Supreme Court, gun ownership advocacy groups, law enforcement groups, and private citizens together to exchange their views on Federal firearms policy so that a consensus on Federal policy can be reached. I rise today to reintroduce this legislation, and I invite all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of this important bill.

In the 103d session alone, Congress passed two of the most sweeping firearms policy bills in the history of this country: the Brady bill and the assault weapons ban. From the introduction of those bills to the final vote, America came to see just how large the gap between both sides of the gun control debate is. And yet despite all the debate on these two pivotal pieces of legislation, it has become even clearer that each side's views are only being further entrenched, not altered through pragmatic discussion that will ensure that each side is heard. My bill will promote that type of pragmatic discussion.

Specifically, this legislation will establish a 39-member Commission, which will include the following parties: the U.S. Attorney General, five Members of the House, five Senators, three Supreme Court Justices, five private citizens appointed by the President, five private citizens appointed by the Senate, five private citizens appointed by the House, five members representing gun ownership advocacy groups, and five representatives from law enforcement. The chairman of the Commission will have 6 months to transmit its recommendations to the President and Congress. Aside from travel expenses, members of the Commission will serve without pay. The Commission will, however, be authorized to hire and pay its own staff and staff from other Federal agencies.

For the past 10 years, Congress has been caught in the middle of a tug of war between law enforcement and the NRA. As a result, Congress has been unable to develop a real consensus on how to address violent crime and firearms policy. The goal of the Commission I have proposed is to forge a consensus on these issues and present to Congress and the President a list of legislative initiatives that can be adopted with bipartisan support.

Let us bring rational dialogue to Federal firearms policy. Please cosponsor this important legislative initiative.

TRADE AND JOB SECURITY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, December 21, 1994 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRADE AND JOB SECURITY

America's middle-class workers are increasingly frustrated and concerned about their economic future. They are working harder and longer than ever but their income is just not growing. Many are concerned about their job security and worry that their job could be the next to be eliminated. One third of those recently polled said they are worse off than they expected to be at this age, and close to two thirds said they do not expect their children to do as well as they have done. Too many individuals believe the American dream is simply beyond their reach.

It used to be that if workers were conscientious and performed their jobs well they could expect to advance and prosper in the years ahead. Today, however, many workers—both blue collar and white collar—face an uncertain future. They may encounter foreign competition, corporate downsizing, automation, or the increased use of computers. In a recent survey, three out of four employers said that their own employees fear losing their jobs. As the Secretary of Labor puts it, the middle class has become the anxious class.

EXPANDING TRADE

One of their biggest concerns is foreign competition created by the dynamic global marketplace. Congress and all recent Presidents have taken steps to expand U.S. trade opportunities. Since the late 1970s, several bilateral and multilateral agreements have been approved, including the Tokyo Round expansion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement, the North America Free Trade Agreement, and the new GATT agreements that create, among other things, the World Trade Organization. Next might be free trade agreements with Chile and other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

On balance, I think expanded trade is a plus for American workers. Trade now accounts for a large share of U.S. economic growth, and it means expanded sales for U.S. businesses. The recently approved expansion of GATT, for example, will provide stable rules for trade and remove restrictions that limit sales of our goods and services abroad. The Council of Economic Advisors estimates that GATT will boost U.S. economic output \$100-200 billion within ten years.

At the same time I recognize that expanded trade is a threat to some U.S. workers. Trade may generate more U.S. jobs than it eliminates, but it does put some Americans out of work. While the President talks about the millions of good paying jobs created by free trade, many middle-class workers believe the benefits of trade go to a few talented, well-educated professionals and executives while they fall behind.

STEPS NEEDED

The remedy is not to simply close our markets to trade. We are one of the most competitive countries in the world and many U.S. jobs are already tied to exports and trade. But we do need to take several steps to improve our ability to deal with this changing environment and reduce job insecurity for many Americans.