think that promise from the Chinese Government is worth?

And remember when you think of MFN that the intelligence sources indicate that the Chinese Government also sold M–11 missiles to Pakistan and patrol boats to Iran, and remember no sanctions were imposed for these actions. Remember, no sanctions were imposed for these actions.

Remember that on April 17, 1996, the Washington Times reported that Chinese nuclear technicians would be going to Iran to help build a uranium plant that will ''help Tehran's nuclear weapons program.'' Remember that, Members on both sides, when you think of MFN, remember that.

And also remember Taiwan. When you think of MFN, remember that the belligerent Government of the PRC conducted missile tests, military exercises, off the coast of Taiwan just weeks before the first democratic Presidential election in Taiwan's history.

So when you think and hear the words MFN, MFN, it is like a free word or term thrown around this town. Oh, some of the big, large K street law firms will do pretty well representing a few handful of businesses that are doing business in China but, as the gentlewoman from California has stated, it is a bad deal for us.

Economically, trade, blue-collar workers all over the country, from New England to the South, textile workers from the Midwest all the way to the west coast are losing jobs because of this trade.

Our Members should know that Windows 95 was available in pirated version in the streets of Beijing before it was available here, the intellectual property that the Chinese Government are exploiting with regard to American businesses. Remember those things.

And remember all of the other things, that the economic liberalization has done nothing to improve our relations. Remember Harry Wu, how he documents that there are more slave labor camps and gulags in China than there were in the Soviet Union.

I visited Beijing Prison No. 1, where we saw workers working on socks for export to the United States, and they were making jelly shoes that youngsters wear in the United States for export to the United States. Do you think an American company could compete with Tiananmen Square demonstrators working for nothing in a cold, snowy prison where there is no OSHA requirements, there is no EPA requirements, there are no minimum wage requirements? There are no requirements except you meet your quota or else.

So as we think of the word MFN, I hope we will think in terms of all the different issues, from religious persecution, Catholic priests and bishops in jail, evangelical pastors in jail, prisoners working in slave labor, even people working in sweat shops for 12 to 15 hours a day at 9 cents an hour that are taking away American jobs. Yet this administration and some in Congress on both sides of the aisle are clamoring to see that this Congress and this administration gives MFN to China.

I hope and pray that when the Congress votes on this issue this summer there will be a majority of men and women on both sides of the aisle that would join hands and vote to deny MFN for China, even though Clinton may veto the bill. Let it be on his conscience, not on ours. Even though Clinton may allow it to go through and we may not override the veto, let it be a burden that he has to carry, not that we have to carry.

This is, I think, one of the leading moral fundamental issues that this Congress will have to deal with in this country, because we all quote in these speeches we give on July 4 what the Declaration of Independence says. It says, ''We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal, endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.''

They did not come from Congress. It said ''by their Creator,'' their God. These are God-given rights. An individual, a Chinese person, man, woman, or child in China, is as entitled to the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of worship and life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as somebody in any other part of the world.

□ 1445

It says in the Bible: To whom much is given, much is expected. And much has been given to our country, because we have stood firm on these fundamental values on both sides of the aisle. I remember when the persecution took place in the Soviet Union, it was Senator Jackson, a Democrat, and Charlie Vanik, a Democrat, that passed Jackson-Vanik to put tight restrictions on the Soviet Union that would not give them MFN. We joined hands in a bipartisan way.

Let us hope when the roll is called, when the roll is called and we are given the opportunity to vote, let us hope that an overwhelming majority, not everyone, we are not going to get everyone, but an overwhelming majority will vote to deny MFN, most-favored-nation trading status, for a country that should not be given a most-favored-nation trading status because of all the very bad and very evil things, not only that it has done, but it continues to do and appears that is will do in the future.

GAS TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAUGHLIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. MARKEY] is recognized for 15 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to point out how much in agreement I am with the statements of the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. WOLF] and the gentlewoman from California [Ms. PELOSI] on the issues of China and the extent to which they stand in contempt of the values which this country hold so dear.

There use of slave labor in their country to undercut the prices of goods that are then sold in this country and others around the world is reprehensible. Their sale of nuclear materials to Pakistan and into the Middle East is also reprehensible and will ultimately come back to harm us and harm other countries in the world.

Their pirating of goods from our country, software, intellectual property, while only at the beginning, is going to finally wind up hurting us in the one area which we believe this country should be in the lead in terms of ensuring that we are guaranteeing each child the opportunity to work in these high end skill areas in computers, in software, in telecommunications. These are not areas where we should allow the Chinese to take our intellectual property. What they have done in Taiwan, what they have done in other areas of their foreign policy, all of its is absolutely unacceptable. I hope that the wisdom of Ms. PELOSI and Mr. WOLF are heard here on the floor of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time, however, on a different subject. This week, the House will vote on the 4.3-cent gas tax repeal. This is perhaps the most unnecessary, most misguided legislative back flip of the 104th Congress. President Clinton already acted to break the oil price spiral of this spring by moving against the wishes of the oil industry to speed up the sale of the 12 million barrels of oil from the strategic petroleum reserve.

He has also wisely initiated an investigation into the true causes of the 20- to 40-cent increase that some motorists have been forced to pay at the gas pump in March and April and May. And now, just today, Saddam Hussein has finally accepted the demands of the United Nations for allowing him to sell Iraqi oil on the world market. Oil prices may not finally come down from their 6-year highs, but we have just begun pumping up the hype over cutting the gas tax.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the Republican rhetoric will soar. Never mind that most economists say that this 4-cent cut will go right into the pockets of, you guessed it, the oil companies, Even the oil companies themselves have conceded that they are unlikely to pass this tax through to consumers. They intend to keep it, plain and simple. And there is nothing in the package we will vote on tomorrow to prevent the outrageous outcome.

I asked the Rules Committee for an amendment to fix this diversion of the tax cut to the oil companies, but the Rules Committee has prevented me from offering that alternative.

Mr. Speaker, I had a quite simple amendment for this body. If you own a car, all you have to do is just check off

on your tax form next year that you own a car and get back 30 bucks. The average American drives 12,000 miles a year. As a result, at 20 miles to a gallon on average, that is 600 gallons. You multiply the 600 gallons by 4.37 cents, and you get about 30 bucks. That is what this whole debate is about, by the way, 30 bucks.

The simplest way of making sure that the American taxpayer gets it back is just putting it right on the tax form. If we are going to give a tax cut, why would we give it to the oil companies and ask them to perhaps at the pump at some point in the future to see, pretty please, if they would pass it on to the consumer when we can just put it as a line on the tax form? And that way the taxpayer gets it back guaranteed if they own a car and they check it off on the form.

But, no, the Republicans refused to allow that to be made in order as an amendment so that we can make sure that it is the consumer and not the oil companies who get this tax break.

Now, my constituents are appalled that Congress would respond to soaring gas prices by sending a rebate to the oil companies. They just do not trust the oil companies and neither should you. Just this weekend a preliminary study from the Interior Department uncovered a royalty ripoff by the oil companies of over $850 million owed but not paid to the Federal Government, to the Federal taxpayers. Why should we rebate the gas tax to these deadbeat drillers who raise gas prices?

Mr. Speaker, if the Interior Department investigation of the royalty ripoff found $850 million in overcharges, what will the Department of Energy investigation of the gas price rip-off find? Well, guess what. The Republicans are proposing to pay for the gas tax by taking it from the Department of Energy. That is right, they are cutting $600 million from the very agency which is investigating the gas price ripoff. Looks like they want to call off the DOE bloodhounds before they catch up with the oil companies. Not since Hogan's Heroes have we had so many Sergeant Schultz characters averting their eyes from wrongdoing while chanting ''I hear nothing, I see nothing.'' This is the response which we get from the Republican side. But the American people can see it more clearly.

Gas prices go up, oil company profits have gone up. The pay of oil company executives in the last 60 days has been soaring. The top 30 executives at the biggest 6 oil companies have seen their incomes increase on an average of $700,000 just for those 60 days. Investigations of the oil companies get curtailed. Deadbeat drillers do not pay royalties. Congress cuts a tax that has nothing to do with the increases, allowing the industry to make even more.

Let us defeat this unfair rule on the gas tax repeal so that we can amend the bill to ensure that all of the savings are passed on to the consumer. That is, after all, the entire intent of this exercise, to make sure every driver, every owner of every automobile gets back the $30 that the 4 cents a year per gallon represents.

Now, how did we get into this mess? Well, as all consumers know, their oil prices have gone up at the gas pump 20 to 40 cents a gallon in 1996. But the Republicans and the oil companies, they keep pointing back to a 4.3-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax in 1993. Why do they not have the hearings? Why do we not have the investigation into why gas prices went up this year 20 to 40 cents? We know it had nothing to do with that gas tax in 1993. What did it have anything to do with? Well, it had everything to do with the issue of the oil companies keeping their inventories at historic lows. What had happened was, they bet, the oil companies, that Saddam Hussein would be allowed to sell 2 billion dollars' worth of oil each 6 months into the global economy. As a result, what they did was they took their oil stocks that they keep here in the United States, and they reduced them down to 100 million barrels a day below where they historically had had them.

In other words, like a reckless driver on a bet, the industry simply drove with the needle on empty, passing right by any number of global filling stations that were, by the way, awash with oil all last year in this, in a foolish attempt to buy cheap from a terrorist who wanted to sell oil to get money to buy guns, and he would not accept any restrictions upon the sale of that oil in terms of where the profits would go.

Of course, the oil companies are not gambling with their own money. They are gambling with your money. In a free market, the oil industry would be punished for this outrageous behavior by consumers switching to other fuels. But cars cannot be switched overnight to alternatives. So instead of being punished, this inelastic market rewards the negligent parties with higher prices at the pump and higher profits in the board room.

In fact, the personal compensation of oil executives has gone up nearly as fast as the price of gasoline. As I have said, oil company stock, executive stock options rose $33 million in just the last 60 days for the top five executives in the six largest oil companies. They must be crying all the way to the bank.

Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, we have absolutely no response from the Republicans in terms of conducting the hearings that are necessary to find out exactly what did happen. If they did, we would be putting the moral pressure, which we should, upon these oil companies to keep inventory high. We sent 500,000 American men and women to the Persian Gulf in 1991, not to prop up a nascent democracy in Kuwait. No, we did it in order to ensure that the oil supply would come to our country.

The oil companies should not be under price controls, but they should have a moral responsibility to every other industry in this country, to every consumer in this country to keep their tanks filled in case Saddam Hussein or any other dictator in this world decides to play games with our oil marketplace. That is all we ask from them in return for the deployment of 500,000 men and women in 1991, billions of dollars on a yearly basis to keep the oil lines open into our country. If the store runs out of Cheerios, you buy corn flakes. If they do not have orange juice, you buy grapefruit juice. But if there is no gasoline, there is nothing else you can put in your tank and they know it.

The oil companies have no right to conduct themselves in that way, oblivious to the impact it has on our entire economy. That is why oil prices went up 20 to 40 cents at the pump. And that is why this whole debate over the 4.3-cent gas tax in 1993 is a political diversionary tactic by the Republicans intended to ensure that there would be no inspection of what the oil company responsibility is to our country.

So I ask once again for the Republican leadership to give us the opportunity to put in order an amendment which will ensure that the tax break will go directly to the consumers. Under their formulation, it goes to the oil companies. Out of all industries in this country after the last 6 months with their spike, with the spike in the prices that they are able to charge for this one good that goes in every gasoline tank in our country, we should ensure that it does not go into their pockets.

So that is why I rise, Mr. Speaker, and I would hope that my colleagues tomorrow would defeat the rule, which denies us the ability of ensuring that this tax break goes directly to consumers.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT), for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. WOLF) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WICKER, for 5 minutes, on May 21.

Mr. MCINTOSH, for 5 minutes, on May 23.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to: