That leaves five more, all carefully chosen consensus bills which every Member can support, from the reauthorization of the Mammography Standards Act, assuring safe machinery to detect breast cancer, to a Sense of the House Resolution encouraging the Federal Government to raise its support for the burgeoning number of women-owned businesses. There is no gender preference here. All Members can support these bills.

PROTECT-THE-TRIAL-LAWYERS HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of squawking today from the Democrat side about their big protect-the-trial-lawyers health care bill. I think if you look at the Republican versus the Democrat bill, it is very clear: One of the bills gets you quickly into the courtroom, and the other one gets you quickly into the emergency room. The Republican bill gives you a choice of doctors; the Democrat bill gives you a choice of lawyers.

Now, we know that the trial bar gives obscenely to the other side. We know that many on the other side want to socialize medicine, and we know that socialization leads to rationing of health care. But we believe that American consumers should have a choice of doctors and a choice of plans without interference from HMOs and government regulators. We do not believe in centralized health care planning.

Last year my seven-year-old cut his foot and had to go in because of a complication to the surgery room and was in surgery for about two hours. During that time, and, I might add, there are certainly no atheists in a waiting room, but let me say this, while I was there, at least I knew that he was getting quality, professional, safe health care, free of excessive government bureaucracy regulating it and bringing down the quality. I was comforted by that, and I believe American consumers should be.

Vote for health care reform, not lawyer reform.

□ 1030

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the debate on health care reform in America.

On the one hand we have the Democrats' plan, which is patient protection. On the other hand we have the Republican plan, which is basically insurance industry protection. It really amounts to this: When HMOs make health care decisions instead of doctors, they ought to be liable.

When a young man in my district had a bicycle accident, the HMO wanted to make the decision that he not receive the treatment that his doctor recommended. If that young man is disfigured, the HMO ought to pay the cost, and that essentially is the difference in today's debate.

We guarantee patients' rights, because if we cannot enforce a right, it is not really a right, and the way we enforce it is the ability to go into one's State court and say look, the HMO made the decision, the HMO denied the doctor's recommendation, and the HMO ought to be held accountable. That is real HMO reform; that is not what the Republicans want to do.

The reason we need accountability is so that the HMOs have an incentive to do the right thing, listen to the doctors. If we take away the incentive, we take away our ability to enforce our rights. I urge us today to pass real health care reform, not insurance industry protection.

AMERICANS WANT CHOICE IN HEALTH CARE

(Mr. HASTERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of diatribe over here about health care, but the fact is that what the Republican Party is doing and what we are going to deliver to the American people is for the American people to make the choices of where they want to go on health care.

Also, I think most American people want to be able, if they have a malady or an illness, to get to a doctor's office or get to a hospital. They do not want to take the bypass to the courtroom or, heaven forbid, have to go hire a lawyer before they go get their health care.

Our friends on the other side of the aisle say one has to go to a lawyer, one has to go to a courtroom before they are going to get health care. Most people do not want that. They want to be expedited into the health care provider that they choose to get the health care that they want and to get it as cheaply and affordably and as quickly as possible.

That is exactly what the Republican health care bill does. It expedites people into health care and into the hospital room, not into the courtroom. Our friends on the other side have the Patients' Bill of Rights, and really it is probably the lawyers' right to bill. We do not want to do that. We want to give people good, quick, accessible health care, and that is what this bill does.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS AND DELIBERATIONS SHOULD BE BASED ON U.S. CONSTITUTION AND U.S. LAWS

(Mr. COBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, regrettably, Reuters this last week reported that several members of the U.S. Supreme Court, on a recent trip to Europe, announced that they would be willing to consider legal arguments based on decisions of the European Court of Justice. Justice Breyer said that American lawyers ''may cite an EU ruling in our court to further a point.'' Justice O'Connor said that she might cite decisions of that court in her future opinions.

Now, I certainly would not want to discourage these Justices from learning all they can about the laws and customs of our European neighbors. As a matter of fact, I would hope all of the members of the Supreme Court will continue to learn as much as they can. Like the rest of us, their knowledge is limited, and wisdom will come from greater and expanded learning.

But I would respectfully remind all of the Justices of the Supreme Court that it is their sworn duty to apply the U.S. Constitution, as written, and the laws of the United States, as written, to the cases that come before them. It is not to bring about some sort of global convergence between the American system of ordered liberty under law and some other system, whether from Europe or elsewhere.

I appreciate the interest of the Justices in comparative law, but I would urge them to keep the distinction in mind.

AMERICANS LOSE OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE FOR EDUCATION

(Mr. FOSSELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we got a perfect example and a distinction between right and wrong. In days when so many things become gray, we saw the President with much fanfare sign the IRS reform bill into law; and quietly, in the still of night, he vetoed I think a wonderful piece of legislation that would have empowered parents when it comes to education.

The education bill that passed both the House and Senate would have allowed parents to save as much as $2,000 a year per child in accounts that would earn tax-free interest, to be used for educational expenses from kindergarten through college.

Mr. Speaker, what we have here are two very diametrically opposed philosophies, one that believes that parents and local communities are the ones to determine what is best for their children when it comes to education, and the big bureaucrats, big government, monolithic approach that we know what is best here in Washington.

Sadly, the President vetoed a great opportunity for American parents to save more for their children, to improve their education, and instead,

what we have is a defense of the status quo and more of the same.

DISAPPROVAL OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR CHINA

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 121) disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of House Joint Resolution 121 is as follows:

H.J. RES. 121

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress does not approve the extension of the authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 recommended by the President to the Congress on June 3, 1998, with respect to the People's Republic of China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, July 17, 1998, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARCHER) and a Member in support of the joint resolution each will control 2 hours.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Joint Resolution 121.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ARCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield one-half of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI) in opposition to the resolution, and that he be permitted to yield blocks of time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in support of my resolution, and that half of our time, of the 2 hours, be yielded to the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK) for purposes of control.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that following my opening remarks, the gentleman from Omaha, Nebraska (Mr. CHRISTENSEN) be allowed to manage the time in support of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 121, which would disapprove the annual extension of normal trade relations with China. The open lines of communication and exchange that accompany a basic trade relationship with China protect the economic and foreign policy interests of the United States in a strategically important region of the world. At the same time, trading with China allows Americans to play a role as a friend and teacher in opening this country to our ideals of freedom, democracy, and private enterprise.

With a severe economic depression facing many Asian countries, the U.S. cannot afford to adopt a protectionist response to objectionable behavior by the Chinese Government. Certainly U.S. workers and firms would suffer mirror trade retaliation against the $17 billion in goods and services that they sell to China. In addition, consumers would see an increase in the prices of necessities of life in the marketplace on those goods that are sold in this country, imported from China. But revoking NTR, normal trade relations, this year could also trigger more currency devaluations in the region, further compounding the steep drop in demand for U.S. exports that has already occurred.

For Americans, maintaining normal trade relations means preserving 200,000 jobs supported directly by U.S. exports to China. These jobs typically pay about 15 percent more than non-export-related jobs. If we revoked NTR, China would have the legal right to retaliate by raising tariffs on U.S. exports in a wide range of sectors, including telecommunications, information technology, aircraft, soybeans, cotton and wheat, to name a few. Providing a tremendous competitive advantage to European and Japanese companies, we would be inflicting direct harm to U.S. workers and businesses, as well as undermining their future prosperity.

Trade with China, Mr. Speaker, enhances the affordability of clothing and many household items, thereby making a substantial contribution to the standard of living of all Americans, particularly those in lower income categories. Failure to renew NTR would exact the highest toll on low-income families, resulting in an increased tax burden of about 1 to 2 percent of their annual income, almost $300 a year.

U.S. issues of national security are also at stake. Revoking NTR would deal a devastating blow to the people of Hong Kong as they struggle to maintain their way of life and autonomy following the territory's reversion to China. Taiwan's economy, too, would suffer severe disruption. If the U.S. is to find a common ground with China on issues such as North Korea and weapons proliferation, we need a functioning bilateral relationship.

A Nation of 1.2 billion citizens with a history of 5,000 years cannot be expected to give in to our wishes because we threaten Smoot-Hawley tariffs, averaging about 50 percent, against their imports. Human nature is what it is; threats of this kind only provoke a backlash of resistance on the part of the country we are aiming to improve.

We will not ensure continued improvements in respect to human rights, religious freedom and democratic principles by turning our backs on the Chinese people and relinquishing our influence, in effect, unilaterally turning it over to Japan and to Europe. It is crucial that U.S. businesses and religious leaders remain engaged in China as an example and as a voice for our values.

Denying normal trade relations with China means severing ties that would take years to repair, so for the interests of all Americans and for the Chinese people, I urge a ''no'' vote on H.J. Res. 121.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, last month the President of the United States was received by the Communist dictators who run China in the very place where those dictators killed over 1,000 people in 1989; that place was Tiananmen Square.

Mr. Speaker, that was morally wrong. Indeed, as I said before the Committee on Ways and Means, it was morally revolting, but it represents the logical result of our policy of appeasement of Communist China. The continuing, unlinked, and the unconditional conferring of Most-Favored-Nation trade status on China is the cornerstone of the appeasement policy, Mr. Speaker, so I have introduced this resolution that is before the House today, again for the ninth consecutive year, and which would suspend temporarily China's MFN status.

Mr. Speaker, ever since the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, there has been a sharp division within the Congress between those who advocate a policy of so-called engagement with Communist China and those who believe that a corrupt dictatorship should not be coddled, especially a dictatorship that is pursuing an arms buildup of unprecedented scope. Look at this headline in today's paper: China Conducted Tests as Clinton Visited on Nuclear Missiles.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at the record. Nine years have gone by since 1989 when Congress first debated the merits of Most Favored Nation status for China. The advocates of engagement with China have told us for 9 consecutive years running that a policy of open, unfettered trade with China, as my colleagues have just heard the gentleman from Texas say, is the way to open up the Chinese market to American goods, to improve the human rights conditions for the Chinese people, and to modify the Chinese regimes' rogue behavior around the world. Let me tell my colleagues, it is rogue.

But what does the record show on opening up the Chinese markets to American goods? Forget it, I say to my