

world are produced here in the United States, but our patients and our constituents are the last to receive them because of over-regulation and delays in the system which can be cleared up.

Do not get me wrong. The Food and Drug Administration serves a valuable purpose in maintaining high safety and efficacy standards. However, it is important to note that the FDA's actions directly affect the lives of patients and the ability of physicians to provide state-of-the-art care for their patients. What we need to have is a speeded up process to approve or disapprove drugs so that the investments made by biotech and pharmaceutical companies can result in having saved lives and the quality of those lives extended for many years to come.

In addition, the FDA regulates businesses that produce 25 percent of America's gross national product, so the agency's actions also impact on our country's economic well-being. The United States is far and away the world leader in pharmaceutical and biotech discovery, but many firms are moving clinical trials overseas because of needless trends that do not bode well for the economic future of the United States.

This can all be changed by legislation; by making sure that we speed up the process of FDA approval so that our constituents will have the benefit of these life-extending and live-saving drugs.

In my 13th Congressional District of Pennsylvania alone, we have 10 facilities of 4 major pharmaceutical companies that employ 11,000 people. Here they are at work very hard every day to make sure that we save lives and improve those lives. I would not want to see any of those companies or constituents lost their jobs because FDA regulation is so overburdened and so over-regulated that we delay, in fact, the service and the medical care for our constituents.

Americans want safe medicines. They want a strong FDA that will keep unsafe products off the market. But they also want to see more emphasis on quicker access to medicines, faster clinical trials, and the delivery of those services and devices to them. That is why I am introducing, working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to have the Life Extending and Life Saving Drug Act passed here in this 104th Congress. We need to take the action as soon as possible for the great benefit of our Nation's patients and our constituents. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the chairmen of the important committees, like Commerce's THOMAS BLILEY, to make sure we act critically, quickly, and in an efficient manner so that our constituents will be served and, in fact, an industry that is so vital to the country moves forward with economic stability.

WAKE UP, CONGRESS; WAKE UP, AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. FOLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank the employees of this House of Representatives who endured hours and hours of debate while this House went into 24-hour session the other evening: The cloakroom staff, the individual staff of the Members of Congress, the Clerk's office, the stenographers that had to take down every word, the pages that have come from around our Nation that have helped the Members, the whip teams and everyone else.

It was quite a spectacle. It was sad for me as a freshman Member of Congress to watch the delay after delay, the motions to rise, the various tactics in order to stall the progress of this House.

I came here to make a difference, to make change. And I know at times there are disagreements and I am certain at times the Republicans did it last time to a Democratic-controlled Congress, but I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stop this nonsense.

The American public is watching and they are sick and tired of watching Congress go into the night, go into the early morning hours, go 24 hours a day, spending taxpayers' dollars while these fine employees of the House of Representatives have to be away from their homes, while the young pages 16 and 17 years old are up all night long. That is wrong.

So the Democrats and Republicans have to become more responsible in this process and they have got to stop the nonsense and start doing the people's business. Start working on legislation that will change America's problems. I mean we must have had seven motions to rise the other day, which takes over 17 minutes per vote to do that work.

So we spent hours of wasted time coming back and forth to the Chamber. People think it is funny in the Chamber. They laugh. How long can this go on? Let us take to the mattresses. The American public who are watching on C-SPAN or reading in the newspapers of Congress' action are embarrassed. I am embarrassed as a Member of Congress for the actions we took the other day.

Let me talk about another problem that is confronting America and we have got to deal with it, and that is child abuse. The other day we may have read in the national newspapers about a young child named Wolfie whose parents abandoned him at a mall. A husband and wife abandoned their 3-year-old child and left him wandering in a mall thousands of miles away from their home.

In South Carolina a woman allows two young children to be driven into a lake and drowned. In Florida two par-

ents killed their 7-year-old daughter and left her in a closet for 4 days.

To those out there that have that type of mental illness, put your child up for adoption. Do not take that child's life. You know, children are being taken advantage of. Sexual abuse of our children, this has got to stop.

Members of Congress cannot legislate the protection of children, but neighbors have to be careful and watch out for those around them, the vulnerable children of our society that are falling prey to the sick individuals that would take their lives.

Reading the story of young Wolfie, I can only imagine the terror in his mind when his parents leave him in a mall and drive off in a car and they are found in a park in Maryland 3,000 miles away. Left in California, a 3-year-old child in a mall.

Many of you may have remembered the story of Adam Walsh, who was kidnaped from a mall in Florida, who was beheaded. They still do not have the killer. I understand they are pursuing somebody who may have been involved.

I think it is important that America wake up. The children are our future. When we talk about balanced budgets, we keep talking about children, saving the children's future, taking away the debt that is being piled on our children's future.

Madam Speaker and Members of this Congress, it is time to stop talking about the children in abstract and start talking about protecting their very precious lives, start talking about protecting children from the sick individuals that would destroy their futures and destroy their opportunities.

I ask God to bless the parents of children and, again I say to them, if you are not happy with your child, if you are not happy being parents, put your child up for adoption and let somebody love your child the way that they need to be loved to become responsible citizens.

Again, my hats are off to the dedicated employees of the House of Representatives who have endured many, many hours of debate and their willingness to put in that time to make America the great and strong Nation that it is.

WHY AMERICANS ARE ANGRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Vermont [Mr. SANDERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam Speaker, I want to just briefly this afternoon touch on two issues: One, maybe offer some explanation as to why the American people are so angry. We keep reading in the media about the angry white male, but I think it is not only the angry white male. A whole lot of people of all colors and ages are angry, and also on the floor of this House we hear a lot about class struggle. Class struggle. Let me say a word about that also if I might.

Madam Speaker, I think that the average American is in fact angry, and I believe that that average American has every reason in the world to be angry. What concerns me is very often our anger is taken out against the wrong opponent. But let us focus on why we should be angry.

Madam Speaker, in 1973, the United States reached a high point of its economic life with regard to the wages and benefits that middle-income and working people reached. Since that time, approximately 80 percent of the American working people have seen either a decline in their standard of living or economic stagnation. That means after 20 years of hard work, those people have gone nowhere economically.

Furthermore, what we are seeing is that the American worker, in order to compensate for the decline in his or her standard of living, is working longer hours. We are making lower wages. We are working longer hours. When you want to know why Americans are stressed out, why they are angry, why they are furious, we should understand that the average American today is working an extra 160 hours a year more in order to compensate for our falling standard of living.

Now, if middle-income people and middle-aged people should be worried, they are working longer hours, they are making less money, what about the younger people? And that is where the economy in the United States today looks extremely frightening.

The real wages of high school dropouts, that means people who did not graduate high school, plummeted 22 percent between 1973 and 1993.

For high school graduates who are entering into the job market, there has also been a precipitous decline in those wages. So what is going on is that as the standard of living of American workers declined in general, for the young workers it is becoming even worse.

But, Madam Speaker, we talk about increase in poverty in America, decline of the standard of living of American workers, the shrinking of the middle-class, the fact that 80 percent of our people are going nowhere economically except perhaps down. Is the economic crisis impacting all people? And the answer of course is no, it is not.

One of the very scary and unfair and unjust aspects of the American economy right now is that in many ways we are becoming two nations. The New York Times a few months ago reported that the wealthiest 1 percent of our population now owns 40 percent of the wealth of America. The richest 1 percent owns more wealth than the bottom 90 percent.

The gap between the rich and the poor is growing wider, and in fact it is today wider and we have a more unfair distribution of wealth than any other industrialized nation on Earth. For the richest people, these times are great times and we can understand why the columnists, who themselves make mil-

lions of dollars, or the owners of the TV stations are talking about a booming economy.

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It is booming, if you are making a whole lot of money. It is not booming if you are a middle-income or working-class person.

What I am also concerned about is that the nature of the new jobs that are being created are not only low-wage jobs, they are often part-time jobs. What we are seeing now is a proliferation of part-time jobs because companies would rather pay two workers at 20 hours a week without benefits than one worker 40 hours a week with benefits.

I wonder how many Americans know who the largest private employer is right now. People say, "Well, maybe it is General Electric, maybe it is General Motors, IBM." Wrong. The largest private employer today is Manpower, Incorporated, which is a temporary agency.

Very briefly, let me make some recommendations as to what we might want to do to address this very serious economic problem. No. 1, we have got to raise the minimum wage. Workers in America cannot continue to work for \$4.25 an hour. That is why so many of our working people are living in poverty.

No. 2, we need, in fact, a massive jobs training, jobs program, to rebuild this country. In my State of Vermont, all over America, there is an enormous amount of work to be done. Let us put people back to work at decent wages and rebuild this country.

A POSITIVE VIEW OF ROMANIA AND THE ROMANIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. FUNDERBURK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Madam Speaker, while the Romanian Government has sometimes gotten bad press in the United States for its slow transition to democratic government and privatization, and its part-free elections and media—the Romanian people deserve recognition for their long suffering struggles and their contributions. This afternoon I want to give a tribute to the Romanian people.

There are over one million people from Romania living abroad in Western Europe, North and South America, and Australia/New Zealand. They have made a name for themselves in all fields with some winning Nobel prizes. One of my colleagues in this House, Congressman MARTIN HOKE, has a Romanian mother. Nearly half a million people originally from Romania settled in America, living in every State. One Romanian—Dr. Nicholas Dima—assisted me in preparing this historical sketch.¹ There are Romanian settlements in North Carolina and Romanian professionals

¹ One Romanian hero, Father Calcin, who spent 16 years in Communist prisons for his religious faith is here today.

living in Durham, Buies Creek, Roanoke Rapids and other towns in the 2d district. Duke University has a Duke in Romania program, and professors and students from Romania can be found at many of our universities. Many Tar Heels have happily adopted lovely Romanian babies.

All of us in the Western World owe a debt of gratitude to the people of Romania because they provided a buffer zone which helped protect civilized Europe from the barbarians. When marauding hordes from the east threatened Europe, it was Romanians who almost alone in southeast Europe defended the west during the Middle Ages. They thus helped insulate western European civilization from destruction.

There are some 25 million Romanians living mainly in present-day Romanian and in the neighboring Republic of Moldova, formerly Bessarabia. Descending from the Dacians, one of the most ancient peoples in Europe, the Romanians have their linguistic roots in Rome (hence the name Romania), have deep cultural affinities with the west, and an unshakable admiration for America.

The country fell under the influence of the Romans almost 2,000 years ago, and the Romans gave the local population a new language, culture, and identity. When Roman soldiers withdrew from Dacia in the 3d century, the inhabitants of the country remained and survived as farmers and shepherds especially in and around the Carpathian mountain arch.

While the culture and language tied the Romanians to the west, the location of their land and the adoption of the eastern orthodox church connected them to the east.

The results of Romania's unique location and history are rich traditions and a beautiful culture. The Romanians developed an exquisite folk art, a fascinating folk music, and became one of the friendliest and most hospitable peoples in Europe. Unfortunately, the geo-political location of Romania has caused a lot of suffering for the people.

The Hungarians came to central Europe during the ninth century. They settled in current-day Hungary and began to move eastward into Transylvania, considered the cradle of the Romanian nation, between the 11th and 13th centuries.

While most Transylvanian Romanians stayed in their ancestral land, others crossed the Carpathian mountains where they met their brethren and founded Wallachia to the south around the beginning of the 14th century, and Moldova to the east in the mid-14th century. During the middle ages, these two principalities became the most important Romanian cultural and political centers. And while Moldova fortified the Dniester River to defend the country against the Tartars, Wallachia fought many wars to defend itself against the Ottoman Turks. In the end, however, both principalities had to sign special treaties with the Turks and to pay them tribute to keep their integrity.

During the late 18th and 19th centuries Tsarist Russia began to expand toward the Balkans. Claiming to liberate the Christians from the Turks, the Tsars were in fact aiming at Constantinople and the Mediterranean sea. After a war against Turkey, in 1812 Russia annexed the eastern half of Moldova, which later changed hands several times between Romania and Russia.

In 1859, Wallachia and Moldova united under the name of Romania, and the country