

projected to grow to well over \$40 billion for this year, and shortly will surpass Japan as the country with our largest trade deficit.

Mr. Speaker, much of this is due to lack of market access for United States products which are not allowed into China, products made in America. But today, I want to call to my colleagues' attention to the intellectual property violations and piracy. That figure of \$2.5 billion lost in 1995 alone is over and above the trade deficit.

The deficit figure of \$35 billion for last year does not include the loss to our economy from China's violations of United States intellectual property rights, including the piracy of compact discs, videos, and software, which cost the United States economy \$2.3 billion in 1995, by industry figures.

My bill would impose increased tariffs on Chinese products to compensate for the loss to the United States economy resulting from China's intellectual property rights violations. It would leave the discretion to the President of the United States to determine the figure and the criteria for what the sanctions would be.

Since 1991, the United States Government has repeatedly tried to encourage the Chinese Government to halt the piracy and to provide market access for United States products. The efforts, which I will outline briefly, have not been successful.

In 1991, and 1992, the Bush administration initiated a special 301 investigation of China's intellectual property rights practices and published a list of Chinese products for possible sanction. Shortly thereafter, the Chinese Government, as a response to that, agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding designed to address piracy concerns.

Mr. Speaker, under the MOU they agreed to strengthen their patent, property rights and trade secret laws and to improve protection of U.S. intellectual property. None of this happened, and the piracy of U.S. IPR continued.

In 1994, the Clinton administration's United States Trade Representative initiated another special 301 investigation, noting that while China had implemented several new laws, they were not enforcing the laws. The United States Trade Representative added to his list of concerns trade barriers restricting access to China's markets for United States movies, videos, and sound recordings.

In 1995, the USTR issued a list of products once again which would be subject to increased tariffs as a result of China's lack of action on IPR and piracy.

Mr. Speaker, despite all of these efforts by United States officials, the Chinese Government is not abiding by the agreement, piracy is increasing, and market access to United States products is being denied. In addition, the Chinese Government today has castigated the United States for consider-

ing protecting its own intellectual property.

Mr. Speaker, this comes at a time that we are telling the workers of America that we live in a global economy, that many products which are labor intensive must be made in areas where labor is less costly, but that the comparative advantage of the United States is our intellectual property, our ideas, information, our software. If this is so, then all the more reason for this Congress and this administration, the Clinton administration, to call a halt to the theft of our intellectual property by China.

Mr. Speaker, we have tried year in and year out with memoranda of understanding and with agreements. Enough is enough. The theft of intellectual property hurts American workers, costs American jobs, and undermines our global economic competitiveness.

I hope that my colleagues will agree to cosponsor my bill to implement sanctions against China for its intellectual property violations. I hope Members will call my office to say they would like to be original cosponsors, before the bill is introduced this week for American workers, for American competitiveness.

CHANGES IN AMERICA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. HANCOCK] is recognized during morning business for 3 minutes.

Mr. HANCOCK. Mr. Speaker, on May 27, 1947, Central High School, Springfield, MO, graduated 563 students. On June 13 and 14, 1997, the class of 1947 will commemorate the 50th anniversary of this momentous and historical occasion. Rarely does a Member of the United States Congress have the opportunity to acknowledge the 50th anniversary of his own high school graduating class in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Even I cannot do it because I will no longer be a Member of the U.S. Congress on the actual date next year.

Many of our class only remain in our memories. This pleasant memory of a group of 563, most of whom went on to become outstanding citizens and contributors to society, is a tribute to the educational system existing 50 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to take this opportunity for a few very brief remarks about the changes in our educational system in the past 50 years.

This class of 1947 attended school when sleeping or chewing gum in class and running in the halls were heinous crimes. The class of 1947 had student hall monitors instead of armed police officers and entrance metal detectors. Discipline was demanded and I do not know of any of the 563 students even confronting the school administration with their attorney concerning their Rights. Attention deficiency syndrome

was treated with a failing grade. Now we give the parents a check and treat the kids with psychological evaluation to find out why they do not like their parents or themselves.

No, this was not a perfect time. Smoking tobacco and some alcohol use existed. However, marijuana and cocaine was not part of our vocabulary. This was when local school boards made decisions rather than the bureaucrats in the State and Federal Departments of Stupidity. The National Education Association was in its infancy. Too bad it survived and grew into the monster it now is.

Every one of us who graduated in 1947 should be thankful for having lived in the fastest growing economy the world has ever seen, in the greatest country ever envisioned by mankind.

If I could have one wish for future generations, it would be for our educational system to again teach that freedom is not free, it always requires sacrifice and that civil rights never should supersede our God given inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

On our 50th anniversary it is time to reflect and also to look foreword. Change is inevitable. Let us pray that the principles we were taught will some day again be in vogue.

I am looking foreword to June 13-14, 1997, in Springfield, MO, to seeing the senior high school class of 1947.

A RESPONSIBLE REPEAL OF THE GAS TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. BENTSEN] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to cut the gas tax by 4.3 cents per gallon through the end of 1996, and to offset the cost of repeal with an immediate elimination of the ethanol subsidy. We should repeal this additional gas tax and provide relief to American consumers as soon as possible, but we must do it in a way that is fiscally responsible, environmentally sensitive, and truly responsive to the needs of American taxpayers.

Over the last month, gasoline prices have increased to their highest level since the gulf war in 1991. According to the American Automobile Association, the average price of regular unleaded self-serve gasoline in the Houston area, which I represent, has jumped over 20 cents in the month of April.

Mr. Speaker, while we should address this rapid rise in retail gas prices, we should not do so with cuts in education as some in the House Republican leadership have proposed. The American people have already rejected Republican cuts in education throughout the budget debate. They are not about to be fooled twice. What they deserve is some commonsense legislation to provide relief to millions of Americans faced with soaring gas prices.