

I was in the office here in the Rayburn Building when last year's bill, which I call the Steal American Technologies Act, H.R. 400, the equivalent of that was going through committee last year. There was a man from a solar energy company. He said, Mr. Congressman, if this passes and they publish all the information about my patent applications after 18 months, I will tell you what will happen. The Japanese will have all that information, and they will have it in production, with my new technology, before I am even issued my patent. They will take that profit that they have used from my technology and they will use it to destroy me. They will hire lawyers in the United States and elsewhere to destroy me and take away my rights to what I have developed with millions of dollars. That is what will happen. This will be a catastrophe for my company.

It is not hard to understand. They are going to publish everything for every brigand in the world to see. Yet they say it with a straight face; we have to do that because you have a hangnail. There is a little submarine patent problem here. We can solve the submarine patent problem. Do not let anybody talk about amputating your leg for a hangnail. Do not let anybody talk about destroying your rights as Americans because there are some problems in our country.

We have had problems with people who abuse their free speech. We have had problems with people who abuse the freedom of religion. We have had problems with our freedom in this country because some people misuse it. But that is no excuse to diminish the protection of these freedoms that are enjoyed by the American people. That is what we are being told we have to accept now, economically. They will win, unless the American people rise up and talk to their Members of Congress.

This is what will surprise everyone. Most Members of Congress have no idea this is going on. I would say 75 percent of the Members of Congress have no idea about this battle. If they do, they just heard a little bit about it, and it is only one thing they have heard in passing, and they have no idea of the magnitude of the decision that is going to be made. But they are being visited by lobbyists, and they are being visited and pressured by huge corporations that have connections to this international, global dream of a global marketplace, by multinational corporations who they emulate or are in economic relationships with.

These Members of Congress might go along with the pressure. But one thing I can tell you, in America, when the American people talk to their Members of Congress, when the American people watch how their Congressmen vote and let their Congressmen know that, let their Members of Congress know how important it is to you and to the future of our country about certain issues, this Congress responds.

Lobbyists and paid adversaries can be overcome when people who live throughout our country contact their Congressman and say, you have to defeat H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act; you have to defeat that. It is going to hurt our country, it is going to hurt the standard of living of normal people. You have to support this restoration of America's patent rights. You have to restore the patent term to the American people, as we have had in our country's past, because this will give us what we need to maintain the standard of living of regular people, not just the elite.

The elite has lost touch. I will tell Members something. If we had to depend on the elite of the business community to save American freedom, we would all be in chains right now. Most of the business elite of this country are looking for that extra 5-percent profit at the expense of every value and expense of the freedom of other people in the world. They do not care, because they want that extra 10-percent profit. We are not talking about the entrepreneurs who built American industry 100 years ago, people who knew what it was like to come from humble beginnings.

We are talking about people who have been educated at Harvard and educated at all these elitist schools who really do not identify with the American people. They identify more with the elite of other societies. They would rather hobnob with these people in other societies in their guarded, gated communities.

The American people need to express themselves, that they will not see their rights diminished in order to establish a global marketplace, or anything else. Yes, we will correct any abuses that exist. We are not a perfect country. But we will not see our freedoms diminished because some people abuse them.

We will enter this global marketplace with the protections we have had. We will win the competition, just the way we have beaten the competition before. We have beaten them because we had freedom and we had technology on our side. That is what our Founding Fathers saw so long ago, that people would come to this country, and that is why our country would prosper, that is why our people would be safe. Here we are, with a little obscure issue like patent law, a little issue like that, that has been discovered as very pivotal to the well-being of our country in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will pay attention, and I know they will, pay attention to calls from home when people call to say, for goodness sakes, do not support this H.R. 400, the Steal American Technologies Act, and please, cosponsor DANA ROHRBACHER's bill that will restore patent protection for the American people, and protect us.

By the way, one other part of H.R. 400 I need to tell you about. That is

something that is going to shock you more than anything I have said. It eliminates the Patent Office from the U.S. Government. It takes our patent examiners and turns it into a quasi-private corporation. It is like they are proposing in the Steal American Technologies Act to basically make the judges who determine who owns the technology, take them away from their civil service status and Government status now, which means they have to answer to us, and they are going to make it a quasi-independent organization.

They are going to publish all our secrets to the world. They are going to take away the guaranteed patent term. Now they are just going to obliterate the Patent Office as part of the U.S. Government. Does that not tell us something? We have to act. We would not let our courts be privatized by somebody who we did not know, who was going to run the show. We would not let that happen.

These hardworking patent examiners, these people are making decisions that affect not only the course of our country's future, but affect billions of dollars of wealth. They should be part of the Government. I believe in privatization, but you do not privatize something like that.

I would hope that people gather together and say we will not stand for this diminishing of our rights. I know we will come through, and America will not only survive, but America will prevail and America will be free, because that is the way God intended America to be.

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 Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. HOEKSTRA) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LATOURETTE, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

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

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. ANDREWS.

Ms. WOOLSEY.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. TRAFICANT.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Mr. MURTHA.

Ms. SLAUGHTER.