

class in this country. And when labor unions were strong, when they had about 35 percent of the workers in this country, they are down to about 10 percent now in the private sector, when they had that percentage, people's wages were up there. They were up there.

When they had 35 percent of the work force in this country, they were getting a comparable amount of the productivity in wages. But when they started to slide and decline in their numbers in the 1960's and the 1970's and the 1980's, what they were able to get for their workers, as it relates to the productivity that the workers were creating, was less and less and less to the point now where they get about a third of the productivity that they performed, their workers.

So the labor unions are an important ingredient. Whether they are here in this country or in Canada or we saw them go arm in arm in Korea recently to demand justice and they won. We saw Parisian workers and German workers march arm in arm in Paris, metal workers, for their rights. They won.

Workers have to come together in solidarity with church groups, with other workers to form a countervailing force to stop this type of activity against working people both here and abroad.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Another point, I have a lot of small business in my district, not a lot of large manufacturers. It came to some of the small businesses and the Chamber of Commerce in my hometown of Springfield, when what had been a profitable door and window manufacturing company was bought out by a nonunion firm from out of state. And they came in with the intent of busting the union, and it did not take very long for the business community, the small business community in this small town in Oregon to figure out, you know, if the people who work at Morgan Nicolai see their wages go down by 50 percent, which was what was being proposed in the busting of the union, they will not have the money for the dry cleaning or the restaurants or the new televisions and the other things.

Actually the workers got support from the traditional community. The small business community in many cases has not yet made that linkage. But it is their livelihood that is also being threatened by this downward trend. It is just not people who work for wages in factories. It is not just union members in the public or private sector. It is everybody who they patronize.

And as we drive down wages in this country, we are ripping the heart out of all of middle-class America. Particularly disheartening to see it happening in this case where not only have the workers in Mexico seen their standard of living go down, but America workers are seeing their standard of living decline, while CEO's in this country go to

200 times average wages of manufacturing employees. What are they doing with all that money? They should not be so greedy. It is just extraordinary to me. It is a recipe for disaster, a recipe for disaster.

Indeed, it is. And we are creating a hollow shell under this economy of ours; and some day it is going to collapse, and when it collapses, it is going to come down with a thud that is going to shake the boots off of people in this country.

Too many folks in America are making money on money, not enough making it on manufacturing and building things that are important for our economy and for our communities.

And when this wage issue continues to erode, as it inevitably will with these trade agreements, I think it does not bode well for our children and grandchildren. And I am very, very concerned about it and I am very disappointed about this tragic turn that many of our colleagues have bought into with respect to trade like we have to do this because it is the only way that we can compete.

It is nonsense, it is crazy, and it is driving the living standards of a lot of our families into the ground.

I thank my colleague for coming.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. BONIOR. And I appreciate his taking the time this afternoon to speak on this issue. We will be joined by others of our colleagues to discuss this issue as we move closer to talking about additional trade agreements as they come to this floor.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 400, 21ST CENTURY PATENT SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MCINNIS (during the special order of the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. BONIOR) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-56) on the resolution (H. Res. 116) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 400) to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patents, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MCINNIS (during the special order of the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. BONIOR) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-57) on the resolution (H. Res. 117) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 7, 1997, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. COBURN] for 60 minutes.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, I have two charts that I would like for the American public to see because I think they very importantly make some cases for where we are today; and I have committed that I will spend the time that is necessary to communicate to the people in my district and people throughout this country what is really happening to us in terms of our budget.

We hear a completely different rhetoric today than what we heard just 2 years ago. And the question that comes to my mind is, Why has the rhetoric changed? And I think the rhetoric has changed because people are fearful for their jobs.

It was not that the rhetoric was wrong. The rhetoric was right, but the results of not communicating the importance of what our job is and not communicating exactly where we are.

I would want people to look at these two charts. One is from 1972, and the other is for this fiscal year, 1997. And they really show the heart of the problem that this country faces with its budget.

If we look at 1972, what we realize is that our entire Federal budget was \$231 billion. Whereas, in 1997, we are going to spend \$1,632 billion, which is a significant, 700-percent increase, in a mere 25 years in the amount of dollars that we actually spend.

Critics will say, well, that is not real dollars. But it is a significant increase in real dollars to the 700 percentage points.

When we look at the total, the other thing that we first notice is that, of the interest payments that we made on the national debt in 1972, that it was a mere \$16 billion, that, in fact, we were spending about 7 percent of our budget on interest; and now we spend 15 percent of our budget on interest, and no small number whatsoever, \$248 billion, which is more than the entire amount that we spent on ourselves in 1972.

The other thing that these pie charts show is they show the fix that we are in unless we have the courage to make the changes in the programs that are driving the budget deficit.

We have three choices. As the yellow portion shows that, in 1972, discretionary spending, the things that your Representative truly gets to make a choice on every year and vote on, accounted for 55 percent of the budget. Today, as we can see, it accounts for 34 percent. In the year 2002, it will account for approximately 20 percent.

So what is happening is, the areas where your Representative can make a difference in terms of the discretionary budget is slipping every year in terms of both total dollars and in terms of the percentage of the budget.

The other thing to note is that the interest portion of that has risen 1,600 percent. So if we go to the red area and we see that in 1972 mandatory spending was 38 percent and it is now 51 percent