

The Sixers bandwagon refuses to stall.
Owner Pat Croce is on the edge of the seat,
Waiting to hand the Lakers a monumental
defeat.

The Lakers await, after their sweep,
But they can put away the brooms and get
ready to weep.

They played well, blowing through the West,
But they will need every minute of their
long 10-day rest.

Shaq and Kobe can play with the best,
But we will not be denied in our champion-
ship quest.

The Staples Center will be the place,
Just as in the Presidential race.
The Dems crowned Al Gore there,
While George W. was nominated, do you re-
member where?

That race turned out exactly right,
So when the day turns into night,
The Sixers will turn out the lights,
And it won't be from a rolling blackout,
But rather from the Philadelphia Sixers
knockout."

Go Sixers.

FREE TRADE COMMUNITY RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 1819, the Free Trade Community Relief Act. The bill has 68 cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans; and we represent large cities, small towns and rural counties. Our districts are diverse, but we all have something in common: We have lost jobs because of the impact of NAFTA since it was implemented in 1994.

Since then, factories have shut down across the country, including my district in Mississippi, and moved to Mexico, exploiting cheap labor and leaving thousands of dedicated American workers in trouble. Our once vibrant communities suffered immeasurably. Countless Main Street businesses have closed their doors.

My own county which I represent in Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi, has nearly 11 percent unemployment. Virtually no manufacturing jobs are left.

NAFTA included a job retraining program, that is what it is supposed to be called, to cope with the NAFTA-related job losses. However, not only has this program been underfunded, it completely misses the point that in many rural and inner-city areas, when a factory shuts down, there are no jobs to retrain the people for.

People who live in these communities do not need to be retrained for jobs that do not exist, they need actual jobs. The Free Trade Community Relief Act tackles this problem. It authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate NAFTA-impacted communities, similar to enterprise zones. They will get business tax incentives to locate in each community and hire local workers.

We have to give them a reason to want to go there. They need the tax in-

centives. These rural areas cannot survive like they are going right now.

This is not an anti-trade measure or a statement against NAFTA. Indeed, NAFTA has earned at least passing grades for its overall impact on the American economy. But as we hear more and more about new trade agreements, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas, we must be mindful of their potential and what they can do for jobs that leave our part of the country. We must protect the people and communities that might lose jobs if we do not build in protections for them.

The Free Trade Community Relief Act acknowledges the damages done by NAFTA and will serve as a model for community protection provisions that must be included in any future free trade agreements. The Free Trade Community Relief Act bill is a win-win for business and labor. It needs to become law, because there are so many unemployed Americans who are counting on us to act quickly.

If you look at the economies across not only Mississippi, but a lot of rural parts of the country, we find that jobs have left, and they are not being replaced. We need to act quickly, Mr. Speaker.

THE WOMAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that is critical to women's health: direct access to OB-GYNs. Too many women are denied access or forced to jump through numerous bureaucratic hoops before they can see their OB-GYN. This is simply unacceptable. A woman should not need a permission slip to see her doctor.

OB-GYNs provide basic critical health care for women, and every woman deserves direct access to her doctor. A recent American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Princeton survey of OB-GYNs show that 60 percent of all OB-GYNs in managed care reported that their patients are either limited or barred from seeing their OB-GYN without first getting permission from another physician. Nearly 75 percent also reported that their patients have to return to their primary care physician for permission before they can see their OB-GYN for necessary follow-up care. Equally astounding is that 28 percent of the OB-GYNs surveyed reported that even pregnant women must first receive another physician's permission before seeing an OB-GYN.

After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plans and providers in the State of California, I wrote a State law that gives women direct access to their OB-GYN. That law was a good first step. However, it still does not cover over 4.3 million Californians enrolled in self-in-

sured, federally regulated health plans. In March, I introduced the Woman Act to close this loophole and ensure all women in California have direct access to their OB-GYN.

Clearly this problem is not unique to California. There are still eight States that do not guarantee a woman direct access to her OB-GYN. Equally important to remember is that even if a woman lives in a State with direct access protections like California, she may not be able to see her OB-GYN without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan. This means that one in three insured families are not protected by State direct access to OB-GYN laws.

The time has clearly come to make direct access to OB-GYN a national standard. I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all my colleagues to pass this critical legislation quickly into law.

REMEMBERING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, this is June 6. Fifty-seven years ago today, June 6, 1944, a day that we now refer to as D-Day, was the day that the American and Allied Forces invaded Normandy, France and began the arduous task of winning Europe back against the Nazi tyranny. And they did this, and they did it well. World War II in Europe came to a close, beginning with the Normandy invasion on June 6.

I wonder how many people across our country remember today? There are those that were there, those that parachuted in, those that landed at the beach and fought their way through France and Belgium into Germany. But many hardly know the word "Normandy" or what it stands for.

Mr. Speaker, we think of our veterans and those that were lost in the conflicts of yesteryear on Memorial Day; we honor the veterans on November 11, Veterans' Day; but, in between, we do not seem to remember them. There seems to be a gap between civilian America and military America, whether they be veterans or whether they be the active duty and National Guard and reservists who wear the uniform at the present time.

I hope that we can pause for a moment and pay tribute to the valor of those who stormed the Normandy beaches, who parachuted into France that day and began to end the tyranny of Hitler's rein. And I hope that in the days ahead we can pay tribute to those, not just the veterans of yesteryear, but those who are serving in the Armed Forces, Guard and Reserve today, for without them we would not have nor be able to celebrate the freedoms that we enjoy.