

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 852.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Montana?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING WTO ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN DOHA, QATAR

Mr. ENGLISH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 262) expressing the sense of Congress that the President, at the WTO round of negotiations to be held at Doha, Qatar, from November 9–13, 2001, and at any subsequent round of negotiations, should preserve the ability of the United States to enforce rigorously its trade laws and should ensure that United States exports are not subject to the abusive use of trade laws by other countries.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Con. Res. 262

Whereas members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) have expressed an interest in improving and clarifying antidumping provisions contained in the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (commonly referred to as the "Antidumping Agreement") and subsidy provisions contained in the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO to be held in Doha, Qatar, from November 9–13, 2001;

Whereas the recent pattern of decisions by WTO dispute settlement panels and the WTO Appellate Body to impose obligations and restrictions on the use of antidumping and countervailing measures by WTO members under the Antidumping Agreement and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures has raised concerns; and

Whereas Congress is concerned that WTO dispute settlement panels and the WTO Appellate Body appropriately apply the standard of review contained in Article 17.6 of the Antidumping Agreement, to provide deference to a WTO member's permissible interpretation of provisions of the Agreement, and to a WTO member's evaluation of the facts where that evaluation is unbiased and objective and the establishment of the facts is proper: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that the President, at the WTO round of negotiations to be held at Doha, Qatar, from November 9–13, 2001, and at any subsequent round of negotiations of the WTO, should—

(1) preserve the ability of the United States to enforce rigorously its trade laws, including the antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and avoid agreements which lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies, in order to ensure that United States workers, agricul-

tural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions; and

(2) ensure that United States exports are not subject to the abusive use of trade laws, including antidumping and countervailing duty laws, by other countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGLISH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 262.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGLISH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the WTO negotiations in Qatar later this week are going to be enormously important. They are going to create an opportunity to move the world trading system in a direction which will allow us to provide not only freer trade but also fairer trade. We see an opportunity for a new agenda to emerge for the WTO out of this discussion, a new round which we think will yield positive results for America as well as the balance of our trading partners.

But as we move forward and see that agenda take shape, it is very important that the United States Congress weigh in particularly on one issue which should not be included on that agenda and has been long negotiated and long established. Here I am referring to the antidumping code.

As we engage in a new round of global trade talks, we do not want to see a reopening of the antidumping and countervailing duty laws which have already been negotiated to a conclusion through the WTO.

□ 1530

The history, Madam Speaker, is quite clear on this point. In a previous round, we had an opportunity to negotiate and to compromise, and all parties signed off on an antidumping code that establishes clear parameters by which domestic antidumping protections can be established, administered and moved forward fairly to all parties concerned.

We in America have maintained our antidumping laws well within those parameters, and we have every right to do so. We have not only an opportunity but also an obligation to maintain strong laws on the books that allow us to provide for a level playing field for American workers and American companies and insist that international standards be followed when it comes to trade practices. We have an opportunity and an obligation, in short, to

police our own markets, and that is all that we have done.

I went to the Seattle WTO conclave, which unfortunately did not yield a new round of talks, and at Seattle my role, as part of the official delegation, was to argue against a rising chorus of our trading partners who wanted to reopen the antidumping code, who saw the new round as an opportunity to water down antidumping and countervailing duties, who saw this as an opportunity to open up American markets in a way that would provide us with few options if faced with unfair trading practices.

The Seattle Round never materialized, but this weekend we have an opportunity in Qatar to see a new round initiated. Once again, some of our trading partners have come forward. All too often those trading partners, which have a history of having been guilty of dumping on our markets, have been found guilty in the past of having engaged in unfair trading practices as well as some partners who, we suspect, may simply want to muddy the waters, who do not want to go forward on some of the issues that are difficult to them, so they want to reintroduce other issues to slow down the process.

So far, the Bush administration has adopted a strong position, and I salute them. They have had the courage to say that the antidumping code has already been negotiated and it should be left off the agenda of the new round. I salute them for their firmness on this point, and I propose that the House, through this resolution, join them in offering strong support for the notion that the antidumping laws should not be included as part of this WTO round.

As I said, some countries found guilty in the past of dumping in the U.S. market are desperately trying to reopen the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws despite the best efforts of the Bush administration. In my view, this would be counterproductive for the United States.

I urge my colleagues in the House to take the same bold stance as the Bush administration by supporting this resolution today. I urge my colleagues to put the House on record as strongly opposed to including the antidumping and countervailing duty laws on the agenda of a new WTO negotiating round. This would send a clear and unambiguous message to our trading partners, we will not tolerate unfair trading practices, we will provide a level playing field for our workers, and we will not leave our markets vulnerable to predatory trade practices.

Our antidumping and countervailing duty protections are, in my view, absolutely essential for allowing this country to participate in the world trading system; they are important for policing our markets, and they are very important for ensuring that our partners' trade practices conform to the international standards that they have agreed to and that they play by the rules.