

the possibility of an amendment of this nature. I have the greatest respect for the intentions of the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] in presenting this bill, both with respect to how the bill was put together and to what the implications of the bill are, and I would, far from speaking for him, nonetheless posit the proposition to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] and Members of the House, that essentially what the gentleman from Mississippi is proposing is entirely consonant with the object of the bill before us.

So in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just bring a bit of historical perspective to consideration of the bill.

At one point, and I am sure the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] will recall, we had a Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee which concerned itself with, among other things, the terms and conditions of international trade on the high seas. I consider that I was a reasonably well-informed individual in my life prior to coming to the Congress, but nonetheless was rather shocked and very chagrined to discover the degree to which disregard for the rules of international trade and disregard for the contractual agreements that had been reached between the United States and other nations, particularly China, was the fact of the matter before us in that committee.

□ 2200

We found that there were shipping trade violations, and I think the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] was a Member of that committee and could attest to the fact that I, among others, upon discovering it, simply could not understand why we do not enforce the rules we already have. I think we as Americans take some pride in the fact that we try to keep our agreements, we try to live up to our contracts. That was not taking place.

We have just had recent evidence of what can happen when we do take a stand. The proposition of gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] is such that we can, if it is put forward and agreed to, take the kind of stand that has been exemplified, Mr. Speaker, in recent days with the decision of the Maritime Commission to fine certain Japanese companies, shipping companies, for not living up to the rules and regulations to which they had agreed and which we live up to.

The fines were such that when they were imposed, that the executive, in the form, of course, of the President and his administration, was forced into the position, and, in fact, it may be apocryphal, but I heard at one point that the President or someone under his immediate authority said, can they do that? Who are these people? They are our Maritime Commission, and by God, they were doing their job. What their job was is not to turn the American people into suckers and saps,

where they are not made to be fools. People know that when it is happening.

One of the reasons there is cynicism abroad in the United States today is people know that they are being played for suckers. They do not like it. They want us, if we are on the floor of this House, free men and women elected by free men and women, to not be made fools of. They expect us to insist as legislators, as national legislators, that we carry these things out, that we see to it that the rules and regulations are obeyed. I think that is the intention of the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] with the bill.

I would like to say that I support the idea of reciprocity, and would ask the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON], in the context of what is possible under the rules as applied to the bill, whether or not the intent of the proposal of the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR], that is, that a review and reciprocity be instituted with respect to tariffs, might be possible to incorporate into the bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, in my 20 years in the Congress I guess I have never been accused of being soft on communism before. It is rather funny. But here I am, the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE] going after me.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SOLOMON. I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I realize, Mr. Speaker, that was said in a jocular fashion, and I can assure the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), neither the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] nor myself meant to impose any such kind of admonition on the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] with respect to his staunch defense of freedom against communism.

However, I do think in the spirit of the bill he put forward, we are requesting that he take into consideration the thrust of the proposition of the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR].

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to my good friend, the gentleman from Hawaii, first of all, the gentleman's amendment is out of order. Let me just say that the reason this is a middle-ground bill, and I will say it to the gentleman from New York [Mr. LAFALCE] as well, is because all nine of these bills were reported out of committee, reported out of the Committee on International Relations, reported out of the Committee on Banking and Financial Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on National Security, or they were waived by jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, let me, and I never want to do this, but let me admonish my good friend, the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR], a little bit. All of these bills were put together on a bipartisan nature. That is why they are middle of the road. Believe me, on

all nine of these bills I had tougher measures, but the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] and others objected to them. We made the decision to only put out the bills that were agreed to on a bipartisan basis. All nine are bipartisan.

I would say to the gentleman from Mississippi, the days are gone forever when a Member can stand here on this floor and just write out an amendment and send it to the desk without anybody ever having seen it. We do not do that. We do not allow it in the Committee on Rules.

Today Members have to have that amendment drafted by the bill drafting commission here. They have to submit that amendment and so many copies. We distribute it to every single committee of jurisdiction so everybody knows what these amendments are.

What is in these bills that are on the floor? They are all bipartisan. We asked for amendments on both sides of the aisle, and this was not just me, this was the staff of the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. DICK GEPHARDT] and the staff of the gentlewoman from California, [Ms. NANCY PELOSI], and Democrat staff on that side of the aisle contacted every Democrat and said, bring your amendments up to the Committee on Rules. Any significant amendment that was brought to us we made in order. We not only made them in order, two Republican amendments, five Democrat amendments, and five bipartisan amendments, we not only made them in order, we self-executed them into the bill, so when they came to this floor, they were totally bipartisan. That is what is on this floor right now.

By the way, I would say to my friend the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR], he was not in the Committee on Rules and did not bring any bill before us, any amendment before us. If he had, we would probably have self-executed it into the bill. I do not really know what his amendment would have done, but we certainly would have taken a good look at it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PAUL] for his remarks on this legislation.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment. I tend to agree with the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR] that much of what we have done so far on these various bills have not done a whole lot. We have talked about rectifying the conditions in China, changing human rights, dealing with forced labor, providing for religious freedom, and dealing with the abortion issue. I do not think much will come of those amendments. I felt that some of those were technically flawed. This amendment is different. This is a much better amendment. This amendment gets to the heart of the matter.

It is possible, due to a veto or some other technique, that this does not become law, but it should. If it became law, it would restrict our funding for

the Chinese. This is what should be done.

I do not believe that the type of legislation that we have been passing can really change the nature of China. I believe that we have a responsibility here in the Congress to provide for the freest society possible and to set the best example for the record, and that is the best way to change the internal affairs of other nations, and that we do not have this moral authority or constitutional authority to impose our will. But in the same light, we do not have the responsibility or authority, nor should we ever take hard-earned funds from the American taxpayers to subsidize regimes like Red China. So this is why I feel strongly about this issue, that we should stop this loaning through these international agencies.

When the foreign operations appropriation bill came to the floor, we discussed the issue of the Export-Import Bank. This does not deal with the Export-Import Bank, this deals with the \$4 billion they get from the international agency.

I applaud the chairman for dealing with this. But I proposed an amendment that would deal with the direct subsidies of \$4 billion more from the Export-Import Bank which goes to Red China. We were able to garner 40 votes to send a message and say that China should not be receiving these subsidies. So even with the best of light on legislation like this, it is moving in the right direction, it is doing the right thing, but still, the American people will be obliged to provide \$4 billion worth of aid to Red China through the Export-Import Bank. I do not believe this is a proper function for government. I do not believe for a minute the American people want to do this. I believe it is endorsement of a system that we do not like.

At the same time, I do not believe these token bills that we have passed will do hardly anything to change the internal nature of what is occurring in Red China. But if we could send them a message and say we would not subsidize them, take the funds away, someday maybe we will reconsider taking away the funds from the Ex-Im, but we ought to pass this bill tonight.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify a point. The distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules said that the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services had reported out the bill. Then he changed that and said, well, they did not report it out, but they had waived jurisdiction.

If they did do this, it was not by committee vote, it was by unilateral decision of the chairman without any consultation with the minority. And it is further my understanding that the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, who, according to the chairman of the Committee on Rules, waived jurisdiction, also opposes this bill.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LAFALCE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I just spoke with the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, and he said he would vote for the bill.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, because he is one of the most respected Members of this body, not knowing what he is going to say, I am going to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. BLUNT]. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, one thing for sure, I am certainly not going to oppose the gentleman's bill or his efforts.

I must disagree in one area. I think the gentleman's bill will do an awful lot. It sets the tone of the way we should be looking at China, and perhaps the greatest national security threat in our history is looking at us, and we are financing it.

Some of the young Members do not know this, but the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] does. Years ago I had language in a defense appropriation bill that Chairman Rostenkowski would not tolerate. He demanded the rule be left open, and it was, I say to the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE].

When we came over to the floor, completely open, he says, I will not do waivers of points of order against this bill because I will strike the Traficant language. Listen to what the Traficant language was. It says if a foreign country denies American companies the right to bid on their government contracts, their companies domiciled therein, incorporated under their law, cannot bid on our defense contracts.

That went really to the wire, did it not, because the first title of that appropriation bill was the Army, and I raised a point of order. The point of order was sustained because the authorization bill was not passed, and I struck every penny in it for the Army.

The second title was the Air Force. They sustained the strike, and the Air Force was completely obliterated from the bill. Then the leaders came over and said, we cannot have the Senate write the bill. If you yield back those strikes, we will allow your provision. I say to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR], that is what it took to pass that provision.

Let me say this to the gentleman, our trade program is goofy. We will probably annualize a \$60 billion trade surplus for China next year. I am not going to talk about human rights. I am going to talk about business. Look at the scoreboard. We are getting our clock cleaned.

I know this is not germane, and I know there are going to be some par-

liamentary maneuvers, but I want to say this to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. TAYLOR], he is on the right track. I did it once before, and I had to do something I did not like doing, but when we get to the point where we are issuing Chinese boots to our military troops, we had better sit back and take a good look.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILL YOUNG, chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security of the Committee on Appropriations, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHN MURTHA, for looking into that issue and taking care of it.

But I support this bill from the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON]. I support every bill that has come out here relative to China. I supported this rule. I was wishing I had more time to really talk about those Communist dictators, but with that I will let it lay.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California, Mr. DANA ROHRABACHER, who is one of the most fierce fighters for human rights in this entire body.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2605. In 1997, Communist China will have a \$50 billion trade surplus with the United States of America. That is \$50 billion. At the same time, China is the largest recipient of international financial loans and subsidies, including an annual amount of almost \$4 billion in U.S. loans and subsidies through international financial institutions.

□ 2215

At the same time that all that is going on, China is engaged in a massive buildup of its military capabilities. Who are those military men in the employ of the Communist Chinese dictatorship going to use those weapons against? It makes no sense for us to be financing projects for the Communist Chinese while they are building up their military and they have the weapons to use against us that we are financing by making sure they do not have to pay for other things.

They have got the money to pay for those other projects themselves. If they have got the money to build up their military, they can pay for all of their own projects. Sometimes it is argued they say, well, American companies will not get this project or that project in building up some infrastructure or whatever project unless we give them some type of a subsidized loan.

Why should we subsidize those projects, those public work projects, in Communist China? We have got lots of public work projects we could finance with that money in the United States. None of this makes any sense. And the money is drawn right out of the pool of money that is available to the American people.

Vote "yes" on Solomon. Vote to support a sane policy on providing loans to this dictatorship.

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. GOODE].