

many, particularly those he served in northwest Florida. He was somewhat of an institution in our area.

Congressman Sikes is survived by his wife, Inez T. Sikes; a son, Robert K. Sikes of Orlando; a daughter, Bobbye Sikes Wicke of Indiana, and a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Congressman Robert L.F. Sikes was 88 years old, and passed away this morning.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. SHAYS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD NOT PASS THE GATT AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the administration sent to Congress the Uruguay Round of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It deserves to be defeated. The lawyers who wrote this 3,000-page agreement included not one single provision for child labor laws, for worker rights, for labor standards, or even any prohibition against slave labor. Even NAFTA, as bad as it was, had a side agreement on labor.

I believe strongly that our Government should begin to negotiate trade agreements that benefit the people in the plant floors, not just high-powered international financiers. GATT ignores labor issues. The administration tried but failed to get labor provisions included in this agreement. We are left with another international trade agreement that does nothing to promote fair trade. This agreement does nothing to address the cruelest and most prevalent unfair trade practice of all, the suppression of worker rights by governments seeking low wage, low standard competitive advantage on the world market.

Why should American workers, the backbone of our country, the backbone of our economy, why should American workers have to compete with workers who make \$2 a day if they are lucky? Until worker and labor standards are included in a trade agreement, we will never have fair trade, and American workers will continue to pay the price.

GATT is especially bad, because it would create a powerful new bureaucracy, an international bureaucracy known as the World Trade Organization. The WTO is a threat to the sovereignty of the United States and more trouble down the road for our country, for consumers, for people that work. Under the WTO, each nation in the world has one vote. Japan has one vote, Cuba has one vote, Haiti has one vote,

even Saint Lucia has one vote. Saint Lucia would have the same voting power in the WTO as does the United States.

Of the 120 countries in the WTO, 80 of them as members of the United Nations voted against the United States more than 50 percent of the time. So if Cuba and Haiti and Saint Lucia decided the United States food safety laws violated the GATT agreements, our clean food, clean food safety laws, they could haul the United States before the World Trade Organization, which could impose sanctions on the United States. That would hurt our products when we try to sell them on the world market.

If you like Japan writing trade rules, then you will love GATT. If you want to put the United States on the same level with countries the size of a postage stamp, then the World Trade Organization is for you, then GATT is for you.

Meanwhile, the international trade deficit is killing America's competitive position in the world. The U.S. trade deficit in July alone, in 1 month, reached \$10.99 billion, the second highest level in our country's history. We have done a good job the last 2 years getting the budget deficit down. Unfortunately, the trade deficit is getting larger and larger. The deficit with Japan alone in July was \$5.67 billion. The deficit with China, which uses slave labor and has all the human rights violations that people on this floor have talked about, the deficit just last month with China was \$2.67 billion.

For too many years, we have allowed other countries to write our trade laws. That trade deficit of over \$100 billion this year kills American jobs. Balancing our international trade account would save approximately 160,000 jobs every month. That is why fair trade is so important to building a strong economic future for northeast Ohio and building a strong economic future across this country. That is why I will be voting against GATT next week.

THE CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss a piece of legislation being introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from California [Mr. LEHMAN] and myself, dealing with the Classroom Technology Act, and I would like to yield to my colleague [Mr. LEHMAN].

Mr. LEHMAN. Mr. Speaker, there is much talk about the information superhighway and how the information revolution will affect our Nation's economic competitiveness. We usually discuss the information revolution in terms of maximizing worker productivity and improving the bottomline for business in the global economy, but

there is one major sector in our Nation that is being left to scavenge back on the home front during the information revolution—education.

Students cannot be adequately prepared for the use of technology in the workplace if they are not educated with computers and other technologies in the classroom. Being able to program the VCR or play video games is not good enough. We—as community leaders, as policymakers, as concerned Americans—must take the lead in helping our schools take advantage of computer, telecommunications, and other technologies to ensure that our children are eager to take on the world and its educational resources.

We have seen remarkable changes in learning technology over the past quarter century. And yet, technology has not transformed schools to the degree it has other aspects of our society. In fact, a teacher from the little red schoolhouse of last century could walk into a classroom today and feel comfortable because so little has changed.

While many schools have and use computers in instruction, few schools have the capacity for any degree of two-way voice, data and video networking with data bases and with other schools. Only 12 percent of U.S. classrooms have a telephone. Only 4 percent of teachers have a modem, and only 4 percent have access to internet—NEA survey.

The classroom remains isolated and simplistic at a time when the world is becoming more interactive and complex. We are letting our budgetary and other constraints limit the possibilities for our students, our future work force. Instead of yielding to these constraints, we must push ahead with innovative ways of meeting our students' technological needs.

Earlier, this year, Mr. Speaker, we made the initial plans to meet these needs when we passed the Goals 2000 legislation, which incorporated the use of technology and telecommunications in achieving the national education goals. This legislation, as well as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization—which includes a title for technology for education for the first time—set the standards which schools must aim for.

Unfortunately, the schools have not been provided with the tools to meet these standards. A report by the National Institutes of Standards and Technology underscored this fact when it determined that the computer base in elementary and secondary schools is completely inadequate to meet the telecommunications applications of today. The report notes that of 80 percent of the computer base, over 50 percent are Apple Two's. This puts the students-to-computers ratio of 14 to 1 in the United States in proper perspective—quality education data study.

If there are 14 students sharing one computer, and that computer is 10 years—and at least 4 generations—old, it is obvious that very little innovation