

In addition to the Government of Vietnam's human rights violations against its own people, in August, the Government of Vietnam arrested and held a U.S. citizen, Cong Thanh Do—on false charges. Only with the efforts of many U.S. officials was Mr. Do released.

The Government of Vietnam arrested and imprisoned Mr. Do, a U.S. citizen, on false charges even when it was trying to convince the U.S. Congress to grant it permanent normal trade relations.

What practices will the Government of Vietnam engage in when they are not trying to convince the U.S. Congress to pass PNTR?

I think it would be irresponsible for this Congress to establish permanent normal trade relations with the Government of Vietnam at this time, without including critical human rights protections.

There is concern on both sides of the aisle about the continued human rights violations by the Government of Vietnam.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill until critical human rights protections are included.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately the Republican Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee introduced a 259-page trade bill that was delivered too late for most of us to really study. Many of us have not had a chance to thoroughly read the bill, let alone participate in committee hearings or a markup on the bill.

Even though we are on the House floor tonight getting ready to vote on a bill we know very little about.

Tucked away on page 74 of this 259-page bill is what appears to be a small provision on extending permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) with Vietnam, a bill that failed in the House last month.

Although I support some provisions in the bill before us, I am voting against H.R. 6406 because the PNTR provision does not do anything to improve human rights conditions in Vietnam.

We have a unique opportunity to significantly affect the state of human rights and political and religious freedom in Vietnam. It is a mistake not to use the leverage of PNTR to begin to gain these improvements in Vietnam.

Just two months ago, the Vietnamese government arrested my constituent, a U.S. citizen, Cong Thanh Do. Mr. Do had posted comments on the internet while at home in San Jose, California advocating that Vietnam undergo a peaceful transition to a multi-party democracy. For exercising his U.S. Constitutional right of free speech, the Vietnamese arrested him and held him in prison for 38 days in Vietnam without charges.

Other U.S. citizens have been imprisoned in Vietnam for what appear to be political reasons, including the sister of another one of my constituents, Thuong Nguyen "Cuc" Foshee, who was also released after pressure from U.S. legislators in the time before consideration of PNTR.

These Americans were freed, not because Vietnam had a sudden change of heart on human rights in their country, but precisely because they care so deeply about gaining permanent normal trade relations with the U.S. Given this experience, we know Vietnam is willing to make changes on human rights if we demand it in exchange for PNTR.

Sadly, although both Mr. Do and Ms. Foshee are free today and back in America, I am concerned about hundreds of Vietnamese

nationals as well as other U.S. citizens imprisoned in Vietnam.

The Vietnamese government has repeatedly violated human rights. Hundreds of Vietnamese have been imprisoned, put under house arrest, or placed under intense surveillance for simply practicing their religion or speaking out about democracy and human rights in Vietnam.

Following his return to the U.S., Mr. Do provided me a disturbing list of over 130 Vietnamese nationals and U.S. citizens he believes are currently imprisoned in Vietnam as prisoners of conscience or harassed by the government for simply speaking about democracy and human rights.

In addition, groups such as the Human Rights Watch have published reports of 355 Montagnard prisoners of conscience currently imprisoned in Vietnam.

I am not alone in my concerns about Vietnam's human rights record. The Department of State, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Amnesty International, the Committee to Protect Journalists, and various Vietnamese-American groups have documented egregious violations of religious freedom, human rights, and free speech in Vietnam.

I have been a supporter of international trade. But I also know that the Vietnamese Government would correct their behavior in order to perfect a trading relationship with the United States. Given the alarming human rights violations currently underway in Vietnam, it seems a mistake for our country to grant PNTR to Vietnam without requiring that the Vietnamese government make significant improvements in respecting human rights, free speech, and freedom of religion.

The United States of America has a long and honorable tradition of safeguarding freedom and human rights throughout the world, especially with our trading partners. We should not make an exception for Vietnam.

At a time when we are spending 8 to 10 billion dollars a month and shedding the blood of our American servicemen and women proclaiming the cause to be democracy for Iraq, how is it that we can fail to use our mere economic leverage to try to achieve human rights in Vietnam?

With Vietnam's strong interest in PNTR, Congress has a unique opportunity to bring about substantive improvements in human rights. We should not pass up this one-time opportunity by sneaking through PNTR in a 259-page bill that was just introduced yesterday in the last week of a lame duck Congress.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am voting in opposition to H.R. 6406. This legislation addresses multiple trade issues which will have an important impact on the rights of workers.

I strongly support extending the benefits of the Andean Trade Preferences program, and I would like to vote for its renewal. However, H.R. 6406 only extends the Andean Trade Preferences program for 6 months and then holds any future extension hostage to the passage of the Colombia and Peru free trade agreements. The model used to draft these free trade agreements has failed to protect workers, and any trade agreement with either nation will require substantial review.

Additionally, H.R. 6406 includes an extension of Permanent Normal Trade Relations to Vietnam. Workers in Vietnam are denied basic

human and labor rights, including the freedom of association and the right to form independent unions. Vietnam should meet all of the core international labor standards before it receives an extension of Permanent Normal Trade Relations.

Sadly, this legislation mixes good ideas with bad ones. For example, we ought to have the opportunity to cast a clear up or down vote on the Andean Trade Preferences, rather than be forced to vote against it because it is tied to flawed trade agreements. This bill was hastily written and given inadequate time for debate. While I support trade, we must ensure that our trade policy benefits working families, increases exports, decreases our trade deficit, and guarantees basic labor rights. Because this bill endangers these goals, I cannot support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYES). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1100, the bill is considered read, and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 212, noes 184, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 539]

AYES—212

Ackerman	Chocola	Hart
Baird	Clay	Hastert
Bartlett (MD)	Cole (OK)	Hastings (FL)
Barton (TX)	Cooper	Hensarling
Bass	Costa	Hergert
Bean	Cramer	Herseth
Beauprez	Crenshaw	Hinojosa
Becerra	Crowley	Hobson
Berkley	Cuellar	Hooley
Biggert	Culberson	Hoyer
Bilbray	Cummings	Hulshof
Bishop (GA)	Davis (AL)	Hyde
Bishop (NY)	Davis (CA)	Inslée
Blackburn	Davis (FL)	Israel
Blunt	Davis (KY)	Issa
Boehlert	Davis, Tom	Istook
Boehner	DeGette	Jackson-Lee
Bonilla	Delahunt	(TX)
Bono	Dent	Johnson (CT)
Boozman	Dicks	Johnson, E. B.
Boren	Doggett	Jones (OH)
Boustany	Drake	Keller
Boyd	Dreier	Kennedy (MN)
Bradley (NH)	Ehlers	Kilpatrick (MI)
Brady (TX)	Emanuel	Kind
Brown-Waite,	Emerson	King (IA)
Ginny	Engel	Kirk
Buyer	Eshoo	Kline
Calvert	Farr	Knollenberg
Camp (MI)	Feeney	Kuhl (NY)
Campbell (CA)	Ferguson	LaHood
Cannon	Flake	Larsen (WA)
Cantor	Fossella	Larson (CT)
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Latham
Capps	Garrett (NJ)	Leach
Capuano	Gilchrest	Levin
Cardin	Gonzalez	Lewis (CA)
Cardoza	Goodlatte	Lewis (KY)
Carnahan	Granger	Linder
Case	Graves	Lowe
Castle	Harman	Lungren, Daniel
Chabot	Harris	E.