



TEXAS EAGLE FORUM
TORCH

February 2014 • Volume 27 • No. 2

Fast-Tracking Federal Trade Agreements Hurts American Workers

By Cathie Adams, TEF President, 1/13/14

President Barack Obama said in his 2013 State of the Union Address that “[T]rade that is fair and free across the Atlantic supports millions of good-paying American jobs.” But free

trade agreements (FTA) have not only failed to create American jobs, they have caused job losses and dramatically increased trade deficits.

The year before the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the U.S. ran a \$1.6 billion trade *surplus* with Mexico, but in 2012, we ran a \$64 billion *deficit*. As for jobs, NAFTA was supposed to create 20,000 new American jobs, but by 2010, NAFTA had eliminated 682,900 U.S. jobs, some in every state.

The 2012 Korea-U.S. Trade Agreement was supposed to create 70,000 new U.S. jobs, but it cost 40,000 instead. And the U.S. trade deficit increased by \$5.8 billion, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

In fact, the Congressional Research Service reports that since 2000, about one-third (5.5 million) of America’s manufacturing jobs have disappeared.

In spite of the massive job losses and dangerous deficits, Obama has directed his U.S. Trade Representative to secretly negotiate not just one, but two new FTAs. The first is the **Trans-Pacific Partnership** (TPP), currently an agreement with 12 nations, including NAFTA partners Canada and Mexico. It could eventually expand to as many as 21 nations, counting China and Russia. The second FTA is the **Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership** (TTIP) with the European Union’s 28 nations.

Considering 92 million Americans are out of work according to January jobless figures, and the federal debt over \$17 trillion, almost \$55,000 per citizen, it is an insult to

Continued on Page 2



In This Issue

Fast-Tracking Federal Trade Agreements Hurts American Workers 1

March 4 Primary— You Can Make A Difference!..... 3

Cliff Notes..... 4

Progress Through Preservation of Traditional Values

Fast-Tracking Federal Trade Agreements Hurts American Workers

Continued from Page 1

American workers and taxpayers to negotiate new trade agreements. Such devastating policies make one wonder if Obama is kowtowing to the United Nations' plan laid out in its 1995 Commission on Global Governance report called "Our Global Neighborhood" that calls for regional economic and political blocs to be stitched together into a "balanced system of global governance" under the UN. Whatever his reason, it is heartless to push for new job-destroying, deficit-increasing FTAs when 92 million Americans are out of work.

Making things worse, in January, bi-partisan bills, granting Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) to Obama to fast track the new treaties, were filed in both chambers. The bills would severely limit Congress' debate, prohibit amendments and allow only an up or down vote.

The President is acting outside the U.S. Constitution even without TPA. The Constitution grants Congress the authority to negotiate treaties with foreign nations, but Obama has instead directed his U.S. Trade Representative to secretly negotiate with other nation's trade representatives. During negotiations, the USTR relies on 17 "Industry Sector Advisory Committees" for advice, which gives corporations greater access to information, including documents, than is given to Congress.

Only from WikiLeaks have we learned that the FTAs plan to exempt corporations, including foreign corporations, from American laws governing trade disputes, while U.S. businesses remain shackled by the rules of the EPA, the FDA, the ADA, OSHA, etc.

FTAs began in earnest in 1994 when Congress renegotiated the General Agreement on Trade & Tariffs, a 22,000-page document, and surreptitiously included the 14-page World Trade Organization, a proposal opposed by Congress twice previously.

Nonetheless, during a Lame Duck Session with more than 80 defeated Congressmen, led by Speaker Newt Gingrich, Congress voted to replace GATT with the WTO. The idea for a WTO originated with American economist and Soviet spy Harry White during a 1944 conference at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, along with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to effectively control international trade.

Today, U.S. trade is ruled by the dictates of the WTO originating in Geneva, Switzerland. Its Article XVI even obligates the U.S. to change our laws, regulations and administrative procedures to conform to the WTO.

WTO dispute resolution panels, with more authority than the U.S. Supreme Court, deliberate and vote in secret, yet its decisions cannot be vetoed by any nation. America has one vote out of 159 members.

Considering 92 million Americans are out of work according to January jobless figures, and the federal debt over \$17 trillion, almost \$55,000 per citizen, it is an insult to American workers and taxpayers to negotiate new trade agreements.

Its rulings have not been favorable to the U.S. Our laws requiring Country Of Origin Labeling, for example, were ruled to violate free trade as were child labor laws, which enables Mexican labor costs to be cheaper than China's. Maquiladoras in Mexico, affiliated with American-owned companies that assemble goods for export, hire children to manufacture products imported by the U.S.

Grassroots Americans cannot sit idly by as our jobs are destroyed, deficits with foreign countries skyrocket and our lifestyles are equalized with those in Third World countries.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Ask your Congressman to vote against TPA for any President because it transfers trade negotiating powers from Congress to the President. It imposes mandatory deadlines, severely limits debate, allows no amendments and gives Congress only an aye or nay vote.

Remind your Congressman that treaties with foreign governments, according to the U.S. Constitution, must be negotiated by Congress, not trade representatives. And that they require a 2/3's vote by the U.S. Senate, rather than only a simple majority vote of both Houses.

Ask your Congressman to vote against both new FTA treaties, the TPP and the TTIP.

Cathie is available to speak to groups on the free trade issue. Contact her at cathieadams@me.com or call 972-523-8551.



March 4 Primary—You Can Make A Difference!

The Primary election is Tuesday, March 4, and YOU play an important role! First, be sure to vote in the Primary. Why vote? Because it is your fundamental right as an American, and the most basic means by which you have a voice in how your government works.

ONE vote can change the course of history. Did you know that several states, including California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington, became a state by just ONE vote? That in 1948, Lyndon Baines Johnson, our 36th president, became a U.S. senator by ONE vote? Traditionally voter turnout is low for primary elections, so your vote will make a difference!

After voting (early voting is February 18-28), attend your precinct convention when the polls close on March 4th. The precinct convention is the first step in the Party process. If the convention is not held at the polling place, notice of where the convention will be held must be posted at the polling place.

Anyone voting in the Primary in that precinct may attend and will be considered a delegate to the precinct convention. If you want to attend your precinct convention, make sure the election clerk stamps your voter registration card with the Party name when you vote. If you do not have your voter registration card at the time, ask for a Certificate of Party Affiliation showing that you voted in the Party's primary. This will make it easier to get into the precinct convention.

The convention generally begins at 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., and is usually called to order by the precinct chairman. Delegates to the precinct convention first elect permanent convention officers, usually a convention chairman and secretary. They then elect delegates and alternates to their county or state senatorial district convention. Finally, they consider and vote on any resolutions offered by the delegates.

A resolution is a formal statement or expression of an opinion voted on at a political convention. Resolutions are first presented at the local precinct meeting and handed to the precinct chairman in TRIPLICATE by delegates for discussion and may address any topic. Be sure to know the reasoning behind your resolution as the group may have questions. Resolutions may be revised by adding or deleting and then voted on. Resolutions passed by delegates at the precinct convention are sent to the county/state convention level for consideration and may eventually become part of the Party Platform.

Sample resolution:

PROTECT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion to every American; and WHEREAS, religious liberty is under severe attack in our churches, schools, the military and the public arena by anti-religious organizations and the federal government. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Texans should be free to express their religious beliefs, including prayer, in public places. We reject the “politically correct” efforts by the Obama administration and anti-religious groups to intimidate, bully, and silence people of faith in the U.S. and call on elected officials to uphold the First Amendment.

Please go to TEF's website at texaseagle.org for more Resolutions to present at your precinct meeting.

SOURCES: texasgop.org/about-the-party and insuredemocracy.com.



Eagle Cliff Notes

Texas' Oil & Gas Boom

Thanks to the rapidly increasing production from the Eagle Ford Shale and the Permian Basin, Texas reached another milestone in September, 2013: As a separate nation, Texas would now rank as the 9th largest oil producing country. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in the year preceding last September, Texas oil production surpassed that of oil-producing giants like Brazil, Venezuela, Nigeria, Mexico and Kuwait to move into the hypothetical Top Ten oil producing nations on earth. During September, Texas' oil output was measured by IEA at 2.7 million barrels per day. This represents a doubling of the state's daily oil output in just 29 months. Not since the early years of the 20th century has the state seen such a rapid rise in its oil output, and that steep incline shows no signs of slowing anytime soon.

SOURCE: *Forbes*, "Oil & Gas Boom 2014: A Great Time To Be A Texan," 1/9/14

Abortion Is Moneymaker For Democrat Politicians

Wendy Davis, Democratic candidate for governor in Texas, is expected to report close to \$10 million for the second half of 2013, Texas media is reporting. This is a bit surprising if you think of her as a state senator, but it's not surprising when you consider that her candidacy started with a furious defense of late-term abortion and special regulatory laxness for abortionists. The abortion lobby lies at the heart of the Democratic fundraising machine. President Obama's biggest fundraisers in Texas include Cecile Richards and Naomi Aberly, both of whom are at the upper echelons of Planned Parenthood, which leads the nation in abortions.

SOURCE: Washington Examiner, 1/13/14

EPA Overrides Congress—Hands Town To Indian Tribes

Have you heard the story of the residents of Riverton, WY? One day they were Wyomingans, the next they were members of the Wind River tribes — after the Environmental Protection Agency declared the town part of the Wind River Indian Reservation, undoing a 1905 law passed by Congress and angering state officials. The surprise decision was made by officials of the EPA, the Department of Interior, and Department of Justice early last month, and has invoked the ire of Gov. Matt Mead, who has vowed not to honor the agency's decision and is preparing to fight in court. "My deep concern is about an administrative agency of the federal government altering a state's boundary and going against over 100 years of history and law," Mead said in a statement. "This should be a concern to all citizens because, if the EPA can unilaterally take land away from a state, where will it stop?"

SOURCE: Minutemennews.com, 1/12/14

"Global Warming" Labels Proposed On Gas Pumps

There's a group in California that's proposing putting warning labels on gas pumps, reminding users that the burning of fossil fuels contributes to "climate change." The labels are similar to the Surgeon General's warning on the side of a pack of cigarettes: "Smoking causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, and May Complicate Pregnancy." It's worked so well in convincing people to stop using tobacco products; maybe those warning labels at the pumps will help wean people off putting gas in their vehicles.

SOURCE: Last Resistance, 1/9/14

Quote of the Month

"The takeover of Fallujah by al-Qaida wipes out our costly 2004 victory in which we captured the Iraqi city at the cost of 100 Marines and soldiers killed in action, and hundreds more wounded. Fallujah isn't just an Obama mistake; it's the exemplar of Obama's disastrous foreign and military policies designed to reduce the power and prestige of America on the world stage."

Eagle Forum President Phyllis Schlafly, "Obama Betrays U.S. Military Superiority," 1/14/14

Great American Quotes

"...the first amendment was not written to protect the American people from religion; the first amendment was written to protect the American people from government tyranny."

President Ronald Reagan, 1984

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM
President
Cathie Adams
Vice-President
MerryLynn Gerstenschlager
Editor
Marilyn Statler

For a subscription to the TORCH please send \$20 to:

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM
P.O. Box 795354
Dallas, TX 75379

E-mail: torch@texaseagle.org
Web: www.texaseagle.org