

**User Name:** NAOKO MATSUMURA

**Date and Time:** Wednesday, December 19, 2018 7:08:00 PM JST

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**Documents (7)**

1. [*Bush plays free-trade game*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:45RD-T930-010F-K0WT-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

2. [*FDIC reports drop-off in banks' profit*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:59XS-D751-JC8N-K4V7-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

3. [*U.S. job picture isn't drawn in the Oval Office*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:4DHW-SPT0-010F-K08B-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

4. [*Most goals met, GOP now has no sharp focus*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:3S3M-FKF0-00C6-D4FW-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

5. [*Looking ahead;Congress takes up 9/11 recommendations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:4MSJ-PP40-TX31-W334-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

6. [*Looking ahead;Congress takes up 9/11 recommendations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:4MSJ-PP40-TX31-W33N-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

**Narrowed by:**

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

7. [*Anheuser-Busch prepares to toast change in EU law*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?id=urn:contentItem:45BC-6830-010F-K112-00000-00&idtype=PID&context=1000516)

**Client/Matter:** -None-

**Search Terms:** world trade organization litigation

**Search Type:** Natural Language

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
| News | Sources: USA Today; Content Type: News |

[***Bush plays free-trade game***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:45RD-T930-010F-K0WT-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

May 2, 2002, Thursday,, FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** MONEY;; COVER STORY

**Length:** 1823 words

**Byline:** George Hager

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

**Body**

WASHINGTON -- When is a catfish not a catfish?

When it comes from the Mekong Delta instead of the Mississippi Delta, say Congress and the Bush administration.

Late last year, in what ***trade*** experts say was a tiny piece of a broader protectionist trend, U.S. politicians moved to block burgeoning, low-cost Vietnamese catfish imports that were grabbing market share from catfish farms in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and other Southern states.

Five Southern senators slipped a five-line paragraph into the mammoth agriculture appropriations bill to decree that the whiskered fish from Vietnam's Mekong Delta can't be imported under the name "catfish," even though they are very similar to the species raised in farm ponds in the Mississippi Delta. President Bush later signed the bill.

U.S. catfish farmers say it was only fair. Hugh Warren, executive vice president of the Catfish Farmers of America, says the Vietnamese were unjustly marketing a fish that wasn't really a catfish and exploiting cheap labor and low regulatory requirements to undercut U.S. catfish farmers. "The price had a devastating effect," he says.

The Vietnamese, with the ink barely dry on their new bilateral ***trade*** agreement with the USA, protested, saying their fish met health standards and that they were competing fairly -- and wasn't that what free ***trade*** was all about?

"This flies in the face of what they thought they were getting with the U.S. opening up its markets," says Frances Zwenig, an expert on Vietnamese ***trade*** with the U.S.-ASEAN Business Council.

It's a skirmish that in many ways encapsulates the far bigger and more complicated ***trade*** fights over steel, lumber and textiles that U.S. officials have picked around the globe lately. Over the past several months, the nominally free-***trade*** Bush administration has moved to limit open ***trade*** in ways that have enraged allies, provoked threats of retaliation and convinced some free-***trade*** advocates the president has abandoned his free-***trade*** principles.

The dispute is heating up just as the Senate is debating crucial ***trade*** legislation, and U.S. officials and their European Union counterparts are meeting today in their annual summit at the White House.

The administration says it's merely protecting U.S. businesses from unfair ***trade*** competition. Analysts say the administration also is shoring up votes in Congress for passage of "fast-track" ***trade*** legislation: mollifying protectionist lawmakers to get support for a law the administration says it must have to negotiate more free-***trade*** agreements. The law would send ***trade*** agreements to Congress for a yes-or-no vote with no amendments. Negotiators say without it, their attempts to forge ***trade*** deals are hobbled because the slightest change in Congress would force a renegotiation.

It's looking like a high-stakes gamble. Though the current ***trade*** battle is nothing like the brutal international ***trade*** war that deepened the global recession in the 1930s, the backlash against the Bush administration's moves is worse than the low-level sniping that usually characterizes global ***trade***.

Escalating ***trade*** tiffs

In the latest escalation, the Europeans have threatened to bypass the usual, year-plus process under which the ***World Trade Organization*** (WTO) would allow them to slap reciprocal tariffs on U.S. products. In return, U.S. officials have made veiled threats of their own. *The Financial Times* even quoted an unnamed senior ***trade*** official warning that if the Europeans retaliate immediately, "We will have that option, too."

"As in skirmishes of all sorts, if there is enough firing on both sides, sometimes it can get out of control," says Daniel Tarullo, a former Clinton administration economics adviser who now teaches at Georgetown University Law School. "It's not your run-of-the-mill ***trade*** dispute."

Since the beginning of the year, the administration has:

\* Placated textile interests in North and South Carolina and elsewhere by refusing to grant Pakistan -- a key ally in the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan -- all the quota relief it sought for its textile exports to the USA.

\* Angered free-***trade*** partner Canada, which in 1994 joined with Mexico in the North American Free ***Trade*** Agreement with the United States, by announcing intentions to levy 29% in various duties on Canadian softwood exports. U.S. lumber companies complain that Canadian government subsidies make their lumber prices unfairly low. Estimates are that the duties could raise the price of a new home in the USA by as much as $ 1,500. Analysts say the move was crucial to holding the fast-track vote of Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, a Democrat from timber-producing Montana.

\* Touched off bitter protests from Europe, Russia, Japan and South Korea over a plan to levy temporary tariffs of up to 30% on some steel imports, a move that could raise U.S. steel prices an estimated 8% to 10%. The most controversial of the administration's decisions, it was aimed at extending more help to the troubled U.S. steel industry, which has had various forms of protection on and off for decades. It may also have been the most nakedly political of the moves, analysts say, because in addition to shoring up support for fast track, it enhances Bush's re-election prospects in key steel states such as West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Threats and counter-threats

The steel tariffs also have brought the most intense threats of retaliation against U.S. products. Japan has warned that unless it gets compensatory relief from U.S. tariffs on other products, it will slap tariffs on the modest amount of U.S. steel it imports.

And the Europeans have escalated even further. Purposefully emphasizing the political nature of the fight, European ***Trade*** Commissioner Pascal Lamy quickly let it be known that the Europeans were considering retaliatory tariffs against -- among other products -- Harley-Davidson motorcycles from Wisconsin and orange juice from Florida, two politically crucial states.

A quick letter-writing campaign from European Harley riders has reportedly persuaded the EU to back off the motorcycle sanctions, but the Europeans have now threatened even more aggressive retaliation. Instead of waiting for the usual WTO process to authorize their retaliatory tariffs, the Europeans are threatening action as soon as June, citing a WTO rule they say allows them to respond in kind to the U.S. tariffs. U.S. officials say they initiated the steel tariffs under "safeguard" provisions specifically permitted under the WTO rules, which they argue do not permit the sort of retaliation the Europeans are threatening.

Undeterred, the EU released a list of dozens of U.S. products that could face stiff tariffs as soon as June 18, including fruit and fruit juices, rice, clothing, hosiery, blankets, steel, guns, furniture, ballpoint pens, stoves, printing presses, photocopiers, fire engines and yachts. Much of the clothing on the EU list is made in textile-dependent North and South Carolina -- key Republican strongholds.

Though the EU has won headlines with its threats of quick sanctions, its principal thrust has been to work for broader retaliatory tariffs through established WTO procedures. Some analysts suggest that's part of a larger EU strategy to seize the moral high ground and a bigger role in shaping ***world*** ***trade***.

"The European Union hopes that U.S. actions, by contrast, will look like a temper tantrum," says Stephan Richter, president of the Washington-based Globalist Research Center. Richter says this could turn the tables on the United States, long the chief architect of the ***world***'s ***trade*** rules.

The U.S. moves "create a perception of not acting cleanly, of trying to bend the rules and getting caught," Richter says. "In these formative years of the WTO, the United States is more and more the violator, and Europe is intent on seizing the opportunity to become the rulemaker."Meetings here this week could help defuse the immediate confrontation: EU officials and President Bush meet for their annual summit at the White House today, and EU ***Trade*** Commissioner Lamy and U.S. ***Trade*** Representative Robert Zoellick will meet privately Friday to discuss their differences.

In the meantime, though, U.S. officials are showing little sign of yielding, especially while the Senate is considering fast track -- and when a compromise House-Senate version will have to go back to each chamber for another vote later this year, presuming the Senate passes its version of the bill sometime in the next few weeks.

The administration squeaked the so-called ***trade*** promotion authority measure through the House by one vote last year, aided by promises of protectionist deals. That suggests that every ***trade***-limiting action, from catfish to lumber to steel, is critical.

Zoellick frames it a little differently, insisting the ***trade*** actions merely demonstrate to voters that the United States won't be taken advantage of, even as it pushes for more open ***trade***. "On the home front, the only way that we can continue to get support (from) the American people for open markets in ***trade*** is to use our domestic laws and our international laws to the fullest," Zoellick told a press conference after announcing the administration's decision on steel tariffs in early March.

Critics don't like it, but they concede it's the way business has long been done. "The path toward freer and freer ***trade*** has been littered along the way with squalid little protectionist deals to make progress possible," says Brink Lindsey, director of the Center for ***Trade*** Policy Studies at the Cato Institute.

For now, the fallout seems to be contained short of a serious ***trade*** war. "We're more in sort of a ***trade***-***litigation*** war," says Ed Gresser, director of the ***trade*** and global markets project for the Progressive Policy Institute, a Democratic think tank. "We've imposed a bunch of barriers, and other countries are taking us to court." Says Carl Weinberg of High Frequency Economics: "The odds of retaliation are high. The odds of it having a significant impact are low -- nobody wants a ***trade*** war."

***Trade*** facts

U.S. foreign ***trade*** in 2001

Total exports $ 1.0 trillion

Total imports $ 1.4 trillion

***Trade*** deficit --$ 348 billion

Top 10 exports of goods in 2001 (in millions of dollars):

Automotive vehicles, parts and engines $ 74.6

Semiconductors $ 45.1

Computer accessories $ 36.9

Telecommunications equipment $ 27.9

Civilian aircraft $ 25.9

Electric apparatus $ 23.3

Industrial machines or other $ 22.2

Pharmaceutical preparations $ 16.7

Medicinal equipment $ 14.8

Chemicals-organic $ 14.5

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, International ***Trade*** Administration

**Graphic**

GRAPHIC, Color, Web Bryant, USA TODAY (ILLUSTRATION); PHOTO, B/W, Stephen Jaffe, AFP; Save U.S. steel: Judy Misiukiewicz, left, and Philip Parrish cheer for a tariff to protect the steel industry.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2002

**End of Document**

[***FDIC reports drop-off in banks' profit***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:59XS-D751-JC8N-K4V7-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

November 27, 2013 Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** MONEY; Pg. 1B

**Length:** 234 words

**Body**

U.S. banks' profits fell in the third quarter, the first year-over-year decline since spring 2009. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said the industry earned $36 billion in the third quarter, down $1.5 billion or 3.9% from the third quarter of 2012. The decline came primarily from one unnamed institution with a $4 billion increase in ***litigation*** expenses. JPMorgan Chase has had a series of multi-billion dollar settlements recently involving securities sold before the financial crisis.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE

DROPS TO 7-MONTH LOW

U.S. consumers' confidence in the economy fell in November to the lowest level in seven months, depressed by increased concerns about hiring and pay in the coming months. The Conference Board said Tuesday that its index of consumer confidence dropped to 70.4 from 72.4 in October. The October reading was higher than initially reported but still well below the 80.2 reading in September.

HOPED-FOR ***TRADE*** DEAL

ELUDES WTO NEGOTIATORS

Negotiators came close but failed Tuesday to clinch a free-***trade*** deal that could have helped boost the ***world*** economy by $1 trillion a year and cleared the way for a broader global agreement. Diplomats from the ***World Trade Organization***'s 159 members had sought to forge a pact before a ***trade*** ministers' meeting next week in Bali, Indonesia. Reaching a deal in Bali is seen as a last effort to revive a broader 12-year effort to ease ***trade*** rules.

**Graphic**

photo Ron Antonelli, Bloomberg News

**Load-Date:** November 27, 2013

**End of Document**

[***U.S. job picture isn't drawn in the Oval Office***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4DHW-SPT0-010F-K08B-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

October 12, 2004, Tuesday,, FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 1558 words

**Byline:** Peronet Despeignes

**Body**

ISSUES 2004

Does is matter who is president when it comes to...creating jobs?

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One of a series

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If President Bush is asked at Wednesday's presidential debate on domestic policy how he would create more and better-paying jobs, he is likely to talk about reducing the cost of doing business -- cutting taxes, rolling back regulations and limiting lawsuits -- as well as expanding the global market for American products.

If John Kerry is asked the same question, he's likely to focus on reducing businesses' health care costs, trimming the federal budget deficit, offering tax cuts to companies that hire in the USA and ending tax breaks that make it more profitable to hire overseas. He also proposes more direct aid to states and spending on infrastructure, education and job training.

Job creation is one of the biggest domestic-policy issues in this year's presidential campaign. But if elected, either candidate will find it hard to set the course of job growth in the $11 trillion-a-year U.S. economy. Its direction is set by more than 130 million workers, long-running technological and demographic trends, and massive flows of ***trade***, investment and spending not easily swayed by any one person -- even if that person is the president.

On the campaign trail, Bush and Kerry sound very different. But their claims of what their policies would achieve -- and what damage their opponent's policies would do -- are overblown, many Wall Street analysts say.

"The differences in policy are much more modest than the rhetoric," says William Dudley, chief economist at Goldman Sachs.

Kerry's goal is to create 10 million jobs in four years. Bush has avoided making any explicit job-growth predictions, but White House economists earlier this year projected at least 3.6 million new jobs in 2004.

Hiring has picked up this year -- 1.5 million jobs have been added in 2004, including 96,000 last month -- but the jobs recovery remains one of the weakest and protracted on record. The nation's economy remains 585,000 jobs short of where it was when Bush took office in January 2001. That makes it likely that Bush's will be the first presidential term to post a decline in jobs since Herbert Hoover's in 1929-33.

The percentage of adults who are employed, 62.3%, is just above a 10-year low. Many workers complain about having to take jobs offering less pay and fewer benefits than the ones they lost during the slump.

Bush says that if business costs are reduced further, more jobs and pay raises will follow. "What does it take to make sure this recovery is sustained, so that the economy is a hopeful place?" he said at an "Ask President Bush" event in Derry, N.H., last month. "We need to make sure we have reliable energy supplies. . . . We've got to open up markets to U.S. products . . . do something about excessive regulation and all the lawsuits . . . and we've got to keep your taxes low."

"We need to be the best place in the ***world*** to do business," Bush policy adviser Tim Adams says. "There's an old adage that says capital is a coward: It goes where it's treated well and flees where it's treated poorly. We ought to treat it well by keeping taxes, regulation and health-care costs low."

Kerry says his job-creation plan would reduce burdens on U.S. companies, but he relies more heavily on spending and targeted tax breaks than across-the-board reductions in tax rates. He proposes tax credits for factories that add jobs over the next two years. He wants to eliminate taxes on capital gains from investments in start-up companies and small businesses. He would cut the corporate tax rate for small businesses and manufacturers. He wants government to pay for much of the most expensive health care costs facing businesses. And he argues for an end to tax breaks that make it more profitable for companies to expand foreign operations and hire overseas.

"When I'm president, we'll stop rewarding companies that ship jobs overseas -- and we'll start rewarding companies that create jobs here at home," he said at a rally in Austintown, Ohio, this month.

The Bush campaign says Kerry's plans would undermine confidence and raise the specter of higher taxes. Kerry "offers a record and an agenda of more taxes and more spending and more ***litigation*** and more government control over your life," Bush said in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., last Wednesday.

Jason Furman, Kerry's top economic adviser, says Bush's policies "offer nothing but more of the same. . . . The results are abysmal."

As president, Kerry would probably face a Congress at least partly controlled by Republicans. Lawmakers could block his boldest spending, tax and regulatory initiatives -- one reason many economists believe the deficit would better controlled under Kerry.

Specific groups and industries may stand to win or lose big from a Bush or Kerry victory, but "the economic policy differences today are not the sort of things that make a huge difference in the direction of the entire economy, in the larger scheme of things," says Harvard professor Claudia Goldin, an expert on economic history. Matters of war and peace have the potential to make a much bigger impact, she says.

There's no consensus on what's holding back the job market, but most of the big factors often cited by business economists -- high oil prices, technological changes, rapidly rising health care costs, debt-laden and overspent consumers, and a new cost-consciousness and aversion to risk among businesses -- are not under any president's immediate or direct control.

At best, Adams says, "there is a significant lag between the implementation of economic policies and the impact they have on growth and jobs."

The candidates and the economy

A look at where President Bush and Sen. John Kerry stand on economic issues:

Jobs: More than 1.5 million jobs have been created in 2004, but the percentage of Americans employed remains near a 10-year low. The economy is still 585,000 jobs short of when Bush took office in January 2001.

Bush: Proposes scaling back taxes, regulation, barriers to ***trade*** and other obstacles to commerce to make businesses more profitable and willing to hire. Wants to reduce medical costs by making the health care industry more consumer-driven and cost-conscious, and less exposed to big lawsuits.

Kerry: Proposes to create 10 million jobs over four years by emphasizing deficit reduction, targeted tax breaks and having government assume a bigger share of companies' largest health care expenses.

Taxes: Washington's tax bite is 16.5% of the U.S. economy, a 45-year low.

Bush: Has cut taxes or extended tax cuts in each of the past four years. Wants to permanently reduce income taxes for all taxpayers and eliminate the estate tax. Pledges to simplify the tax code, which grew more complex under his watch.

Kerry: Wants to make most Bush tax cuts permanent but roll back cuts for higher-income households. Supports targeted tax breaks for investors, small businesses and factories. Didn't vote for the Bush tax cuts in 2001 and 2003. Has voted for several tax increases, including deficit-reduction plans in 1990 and 1993.

Deficit: The federal government is an estimated $422 billion short this year -- and a projected $44 trillion short in meeting future Social Security, Medicare and other obligations.

Bush: Says he would hold the line on spending and halve the deficit in four years while pushing for tax cuts worth at least another $1 trillion over 10 years. Bush's four tax-cut packages over the past four years cost nearly $2 trillion in lost government revenue. Government spending surged 20% to $2.16 trillion on his watch. He is relying on spending control and a rebound in both economic growth and tax revenue to close the gap.

Kerry: Says he would halve the deficit in four years, but he campaigns on at least $1 trillion in promises -- new spending on health, education and job creation, and targeted tax breaks. Wants to offset those costs by ending Bush's tax cuts for higher-income households and slashing "corporate welfare" and government waste, but the size of the savings is uncertain. Supports deficit-control laws that would force any new spending or tax cuts to be offset with spending cuts or tax increases. Has repeatedly voted to reduce the deficit, mostly through tax increases.

***Trade***: Exports have lagged far behind imports over the past few years, widening a record $600 billion ***trade*** deficit.

Bush: Regularly promotes free ***trade*** as good for the U.S. economy and the ***world***. Strongly supported free-***trade*** agreement for the entire Western Hemisphere early in his term but is less vocal about it now. In 2002, slapped tariffs and quotas on U.S. lumber and steel, to the dismay of free-traders.

Kerry: Supported free ***trade*** in the past. Voted for the North American Free ***Trade*** Agreement with Mexico and Canada, creation of the ***World Trade Organization***, normalized ***trade*** relations with China and enhanced authority for the president to sign ***trade*** deals. Now says he'd rewrite NAFTA to improve job-protection measures and set new conditions on ***trading*** partners to raise environmental and labor laws and regulations to U.S. standards.

Source: USA TODAY research by Peronet Despeignes

**Graphic**

PHOTO, B/W, Rebecca Cook, Reuters; GRAPHIC, B/W, Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY, Source: Labor Department (LINE GRAPH); Robots do the work on assembly line: Technological innovation is just one of the major influences on employment in the USA that are mostly beyond any president's control.

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2004

**End of Document**

[***Most goals met, GOP now has no sharp focus***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:3S3M-FKF0-00C6-D4FW-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

August 6, 1997, Wednesday,, FINAL EDITION

Copyright 1997 Gannett Company, Inc.

**Section:** NEWS;

**Length:** 709 words

**Byline:** Jessica Lee

**Dateline:** WASHINGTON

**Body**

WASHINGTON -- The Capitol already has become a ghost town. Exhausted

lawmakers have left. Tourists queue up to peek inside the now-darkened

House and Senate chambers.

And three years after winning control of Congress, Republicans

have flown home with the wind of a landmark balanced-budget deal

at their backs. They claim bragging rights to an agreement they

say will erase the federal deficit by 2002 and cut taxes by $ 95

billion over five years.

Few ideas have united Republicans like reducing government spending,

cutting taxes and balancing the budget. With all that apparently

accomplished, a question arises: What is the agenda now?

House Speaker Newt Gingrich says there will be no new program,

just progress on the same course.

"Our hope is, as long as there's a Republican Congress, we'll

have a tax cut every year," he says. "We believe we can have

dramatic tax simplification, have a lot less regulation, have

***litigation*** reform."

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott echoes Gingrich's pledge. "We

should eventually, hopefully by the year 2000, completely scrap

the present tax system and move to a new system," he says.

With tax reform defined as a long-term goal and without a coherent

game plan like their 1994 campaign manifesto, the Contract with

America, signs are emerging that Congress's Republican leaders

will move issue by issue.

"They are becoming more like a traditional governing party .

. . with legislation coming out of bargains negotiated among leaders

of factions and people in power in committees and the White House,"

says of University of California-San Diego political scientist

Gary Jacobson.

When lawmakers return, they face debates and votes on three issues

that fit Jacobson's scenario. Congress must decide:

-- Whether to give Clinton "fast-track" authority to negotiate

important ***trade*** treaties. That authority means Congress must move

quickly on questions such as whether the United States will support

China's application for entry into the ***World Trade Organization***.

It also means Congress must give such treaties a "yea or nay"

vote -- and not drape it with amendments.

-- How to divide $ 157 billion in spending on transportation programs.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, known as

ISTEA, expires Sept. 30.

-- Whether to approve the administration's recommendation that

NATO be expanded to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Since all three issues defy partisan orthodoxy, Republicans will

be freer to vote according to their own politics. The ***trade*** and

NATO votes will be seen, for example, as indicators of where a

lawmaker stands on globalism vs. nationalism.

Also on Congress' agenda when it returns in September will be

action on the 13 spending bills that keep the government running.

There could be some political fireworks. But no one expects the

government to shut down as it did in in 1995 and into 1996.

"The broad atmosphere is one of agreement and compromise," says

congressional expert Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution,

predicting a relatively calm autumn.

A low-conflict atmosphere bodes well for incumbents. But it creates

a problem for leaders such as Gingrich, who has set a goal of

winning 20-30 additional GOP House seats in 1998.

"They're in a fix," Mann says. "Clinton has taken away every

wedge issue they've used over the last couple of decades to win

elections, including crime, welfare and tax and spend."

Republicans see Gingrich as their sharpest strategist because

he led them to win control of the House for the first time in

40 years. But he's been weakened by ethics problems and repeated

assaults from hard-line conservatives who insist he compromises

too easily with the administration.

Polls show Gingrich is even more unpopular than President Nixon

was at the height of Watergate.

So the challenges may continue despite the fact that no alternative

leader has emerged.

Rank-and-file Republicans hope not. "I think we probably ought

to finish the year with a love-in," says New York Rep. Sherwood

Boehlert. "Fairly or unfairly, the public's confidence in Congress

has eroded. We've got to restore that confidence."

**Graphic**

PHOTO, b/w, AP

**Load-Date:** August 6, 1997

**End of Document**

[***Looking ahead; Congress takes up 9/11 recommendations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4MSJ-PP40-TX31-W334-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

January 9, 2007 Tuesday, FIRST EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3A

**Length:** 823 words

**Byline:** John Bacon

**Body**

The U.S. House considers a bill today that would require Congress and the federal government to enact all of the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, such as making sure all cargo containers are inspected. The legislation is one of six bills House Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised to pass in the first 100 legislative hours of the 110th Congress.

Also today:

\*Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs speaks at the Macworld Conference and Expo in San Francisco. Story, 2B

Across the nation

Another scare rattles port of Miami

The Port of Miami was hit by its second terrorism scare in two days when a package that was bound for a cruise ship tested positive for military-grade plastic explosives on Monday. The package was destroyed, and a Miami-Dade County police bomb squad determined it held sprinkler parts that contained a substance that "closely resembles" plastic explosives, said police spokesman Bobby Williams. He said the instruments used to test the package sometimes give false positives. The developments came a day after miscommunication with three Middle Eastern men resulted in a bomb squad search of their truck. Authorities concluded that the truck held auto parts.

Report: Deal possible in Katrina suits

State Farm is negotiating a settlement in Mississippi on thousands of lawsuits and disputed policyholder claims stemming from Hurricane Katrina, the Associate Press reported, citing people it said had direct knowledge of the talks. A settlement would resolve a suit filed by Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood against the insurer for refusing to cover damage from Katrina's storm surge almost 16 months ago. A mass settlement would be the first of its kind to follow the wave of ***litigation*** spawned by Katrina, the wire service said. State Farm, Mississippi's largest home insurer, says it already has paid about $1.1billion for about 84,000 property claims in the state.

Immigrant gets 30 years for subway plot

A Pakistani immigrant was sentenced to 30 years in prison for a failed plot to blow up one of Manhattan's busiest subway stations as revenge for wartime abuses of Iraqis. Shahawar Matin Siraj, 24, was arrested Aug. 27, 2004, on the eve of the Republican National Convention. Though there was no proof he obtained explosives or was linked to any terror ***organizations***, prosecutors said he wanted to blow up the Herald Square subway station. Defense attorneys had sought to convince Judge Nina Gershon that Siraj's sentence should not exceed 10 years, arguing that he was "not a dangerous psychopath but more of a confused and misguided youngster."

Professor charged in wife's death

An Ivy League professor was charged with bludgeoning his estranged wife to death a few days before Christmas. Rafael Robb, 56, a tenured economics professor at the University of Pennsylvania, is being held without bail on murder charges. Robb told investigators he was in Philadelphia when his wife, Ellen Robb, was killed Dec. 22 in their Upper Merion Township home. But a police affidavit said Robb lied about an "obvious motive" -- his wife's plans to divorce him and get a large portion of his wealth. Police also question Robb's self-described actions after finding the body. According to the affidavit, he brought his briefcase and laptop upstairs, checked on the dog and stopped in the bathroom and laundry room before calling for help.

Also ...

\*MALIBU, Calif. -- A fire burned at least 10 structures in an oceanside neighborhood as it spread over two acres in this celebrity enclave, authorities said. More than 300 firefighters were battling the blaze, said Los Angeles County fire Inspector Ron Haralson.

\*SAN FERNANDO, Calif. -- Joey Buttafuoco, 50, began a one-year jail term for illegally possessing ammunition. Buttafuoco made headlines in New York in 1992 when his 17-year-old lover, Amy Fisher, shot his wife. Fisher served seven years. Buttafuoco served four months for statutory rape. His wife, Mary Jo, recovered. The couple divorced after moving to California.

On deadline: What others are reporting

Seattle bracing for WTO protest bill

The biggest fallout from Seattle's ***World Trade Organization*** protests of 1999 may hit soon, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (seattlepi.com) reported. In a federal trial set for this week, the city is accused of constitutional rights violations "that could put taxpayers on the hook for millions," the newspaper said.

The class-action case involves the mass arrest of about 200 demonstrators. In pretrial proceedings, the city admitted that the police didn't order the demonstrators to disperse and that police used a boilerplate, photocopied arrest record for everyone. "It is undisputed that these photocopied arrest records are false," federal Judge Marsha Pechman wrote. There have been numerous smaller claims filed against the city, with settlements this summer topping $800,000, the newspaper said. Some who settled are watching the case. "I felt violated," said activist Doug Skove.

**Graphic**

PHOTO, B/W, Reuters

PHOTO, B/W, Richard M. Hackett, Longmont Daily Times-Call, via AP

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2007

**End of Document**

[***Looking ahead; Congress takes up 9/11 recommendations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:4MSJ-PP40-TX31-W33N-00000-00&context=)

USA TODAY

January 9, 2007 Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3A

**Length:** 808 words

**Byline:** John Bacon

**Body**

The U.S. House considers a bill today that would require Congress and the federal government to enact all of the recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, such as making sure all cargo containers are inspected.

The legislation is one of six bills House Speaker Nancy Pelosi promised to pass in the first 100 legislative hours of the 110th Congress.

Also today:

\*Apple Computer CEO Steve Jobs speaks at the Macworld Conference and Expo in San Francisco. Story, 2B

\*Colombian rebel Nayibe Rojas goes on trial in Washington. She's accused of running a multimillion-dollar drug-smuggling business to finance the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a guerrilla group.

Across the nation

Another scare rattles port of Miami

The Port of Miami was hit by its second terrorism scare in two days when a package that was bound for a cruise ship tested positive for military-grade plastic explosives on Monday. The package was destroyed, and a Miami-Dade County police bomb squad determined it held sprinkler parts that contained a substance that "closely resembles" plastic explosives, said police spokesman Bobby Williams. He said the instruments used to test the package sometimes give false positives. The developments came a day after miscommunication with three Middle Eastern men resulted in a bomb squad search of their truck. Authorities concluded that the truck held auto parts.

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**End of Document**

[***Anheuser-Busch prepares to toast change in EU law***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:45BC-6830-010F-K112-00000-00&context=)

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**Section:** MONEY;

**Length:** 489 words

**Byline:** Duncan Lumsden; Special for USA TODAY

**Dateline:** BRUSSELS

**Body**

BRUSSELS -- U.S. brewer Anheuser-Busch is poised to win a key battle in its century-long war with Czech brewer Budejovicky Budvar over rights to the Budweiser name.

The win could protect A-B's trademark rights to the Budweiser name in Europe.

The European Commission this week is expected to soften laws that protect homegrown food and drink specialties from foreign imitations. That would allow A-B to challenge any bid by Budvar to register the name Budweiser in the European Union's catalog of protected regional names.

The protection is why only sparkling wine from France's Champagne region can be called champagne and only ham from Italy's Parma area can be called Parma ham.

The Czech firm claims that its hometown of Budejovice -- translated as Budweis -- should give it rights to the Budweiser name.

The Czech Republic is expected to join the European Union in 2004, giving Czech companies access to the protection system. If Budvar were to get the protection, it could have the right to sell a beer called Budweiser all over the European Union. That would effectively override the trademark rights A-B has already registered in most EU countries, forcing the U.S. brewer to share the name.

Current law prohibits a producer outside the EU from protesting the designation. The European Commission, the EU's executive branch, will say only that the system will be updated, allowing non-EU countries to object to any application for name protection.

Stephen Burrows, CEO of Anheuser-Busch International, says his company didn't know what the plan would involve, but "we hope it takes steps to fully resolve the issue."

"The fact that Anheuser-Busch is bent on making life difficult for us on this issue is no surprise," says Martin Dolezal, a Budvar spokesman. "However, the Budejovicky Budweiser Bier mark of origin is genuine."

The U.S. ***Trade*** Representative's office and the EU have been negotiating the Budweiser question through the ***World Trade Organization*** since 1999.

Neither Europe nor Washington wants another trans-Atlantic row in the WTO, particularly as tensions increase over U.S. steel tariffs and tax breaks to offshore exporters and the EU's de facto ban on gene-altered crops.

Budejovice has been home to a brewing industry since the 13th century.

A U.S.-made Budweiser has been on the market since 1876. A-B first registered it as a trademark in 1907, sparking a legal battle that remains unresolved.

In Europe, Budvar has rights to the Budweiser name in non-EU countries Switzerland, Lithuania and Latvia. In the EU, it has trademark protection in Austria and Great Britain, although 16 years of ***litigation*** in Britain ended with a ruling allowing both beers in stores.

In the rest of the 15-member EU, A-B has trademark protection in 10 countries and recently fended off legal challenges from Budvar in Italian and Danish courts.

**Graphic**

PHOTO, B/W; The other Bud: Czech brewer Budejovicky Budvar makes a beer called Budweiser, too.

**Load-Date:** March 12, 2002

**End of Document**