

I want to emphasize that this issue has repercussions that go well beyond poultry. Indeed, agricultural import quotas are very much part of a broad turn toward protectionism in Russian economy policy.

This trend toward protectionism is particularly disturbing when seen in the light of overall United States-Russian Trade and United States foreign assistance programs to Russia. Today, the United States is running a trade deficit with Russia that amounts to over \$2 billion annually. Import quotas against poultry and other agricultural imports will only further restrict access to the Russian market by our most competitive exports and will further widen our trade deficit with Russia.

This is particularly outrageous when one considers that since 1992 the United States has provided some \$2.44 billion in foreign assistance to Russia. Much of this assistance is designed to help Russia develop a fully functioning free market economy. The American people would be well justified in questioning such assistance to countries that close their markets to U.S. exports.

Should Russia actually decide to impose trade quotas against American exports, it is essential that United States Government respond with forceful and immediate measures.

How we respond to protectionist policies by Moscow will be closely watched by other beneficiaries of American foreign assistance, particularly those among the former Republics of the Soviet Union. Thus, Russia's increasing protectionism and our response to it must be viewed through the lens not only of trade, but also the broader dimensions of United States relations with Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and the world.

Mr. President, I am convinced that we must send a strong message to Russia that we will not tolerate such blatant protectionism. Any less of a response will only send the wrong signal to Moscow and other nations that protectionism is a legitimate policy tool that they can use with impunity.

The Russian Government must understand that free trade is a two-way street. If they want to benefit from our foreign assistance, sell their products and services to us, expand their economy, and become a full participant in the global market place, then they are going to have to let us sell our products and services to them. If they insist on erecting protectionist trade barriers, such as the import quotas, then they must fully understand that there will be a heavy price to pay.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1697 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

COMMEMORATING THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire in Turkey subjected the Armenian people to a brutal campaign of genocide that resulted in the deaths of 1½ million people. Those who were not immediately killed died during the forced deportation of the Armenian population. One-third of the Armenian people died during these 8 tragic years.

The crimes committed against the Armenians are among the worst atrocities in human history. Tragically, this cruel and massive slaughter was only the first of a succession of state-sponsored genocides carried out in this century. The recent mass graves uncovered in Bosnia remind us that the world has still not learned the lessons of the history of the Armenian, Jewish, and Cambodian people.

I commend the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee of America for their impressive continuing efforts to educate Americans about Armenian history and culture. The tireless work of these two effective organizations gives renewed hope and assurance that the extraordinary sacrifices of the Armenian people will never be forgotten, and that the remarkable continuing contributions of Armenians to this country and many other lands will always be remembered and honored.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate reported by a unanimous vote of 100 yeas to 0 the Health Insurance Reform Act, S. 1028.

This legislation is designed to help millions of Americans gain access to health insurance coverage as well as keep their coverage when changing or losing their jobs.

Over the past several days, I have received numerous telephone calls and inquiries from across the country regarding the antifraud and abuse provisions which were added to the bill last week. I understand that many of my colleagues in the Senate and House have received similar phone calls.

These individuals have expressed concern over the bill's implications for alternative medicine as well as for services provided by nonmedical health care providers.

As my colleagues know, the Senate approved on Thursday, April 18, 1996, an amendment by Senators DOLE and ROTH that contained a substantive new health care antifraud and abuse program. These provisions, now contained under title V of S. 1028, were essentially developed by my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Maine, Senator COHEN.

The antifraud and abuse provisions are designed to provide for a more coordinated Federal and State approach in addressing health care fraud and abuse, which is currently costing the Federal Government and private payers billions of dollars a year.

This is an issue which has been the subject of numerous congressional hearings in both the Senate Judiciary Committee and in the Special Committee on Aging over the past several years.

It is evident there is a need for a more enhanced program to appropriately address the growing and deliberate menace by perpetrators who deliberately scheme to defraud public and private payers of scarce health care dollars.

The health care antifraud and abuse provisions are not new to the Senate or the House. In large part, they were formulated from the legislation developed by Senator COHEN, S. 1088, and were, in fact, similar to the provisions included in the Balanced Budget Act as passed by the Congress late last year.

Mr. President, I am concerned, however, that the antifraud provisions could have unintended consequences and adversely impact the care provided by health care professionals who utilize alternative therapies, such as herbal treatments, or other nonmedical health care providers.

It is certainly not my desire, and based on my discussions, nor the intent of my colleague Senator COHEN who drafted the original antifraud language, that these provisions in any way impede consumers from access to alternative or nonmedical treatment therapies.

And, I would add that Senator COHEN and I specifically addressed these concerns in our colloquy on the floor of the Senate last Thursday, April 18, 1996, although I know that many people still have concerns.

I want to assure my colleagues in both the Senate and House—and especially those individuals in the alternative and nonmedicine community—that I will continue my efforts to clarify, where necessary, and fine-tune the language as the bill moves to the conference committee.

FOREIGN OIL CONSUMED BY THE UNITED STATES. HERE'S THE WEEKLY BOX SCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports

that for the week ending April 19, the United States imported 7,300,000 barrels of oil each day—712,000 barrels fewer than the 8,012,000 barrels imported during the same period a year ago.

This is one of those rare weeks when less oil was imported in 1996 than in 1995. Nevertheless, as the box scores I regularly insert into the RECORD indicate, the trend is steadily upward.

Americans now rely on foreign oil for more than 50 percent of their needs, and there is no sign that this upward trend will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody interested in restoring domestic production of oil—by U.S. producers using American workers? Politicians had better ponder the calamity that will result if and when foreign producers shut off our supply, or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States.

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today we commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, a horrendous crime against humanity which cannot be denied.

Beginning on April 24, 1915—81 years ago today—the declining Ottoman Empire undertook a systematic effort to kill or drive out the Armenian people. By 1923, more than 1 million Armenians perished as a result of execution, starvation, disease, the harsh environment, and physical abuse. Others were driven from their homeland.

The terrible tragedy that befell the Armenian people was the first systematic genocide in this century. Unfortunately, it was not the last. The Nazi Holocaust, Stalin's purges, and the killings of Cambodians by the Khmer Rouge are all further examples of brutality and death carried out in the name of the state. In Bosnia, American leadership and united international diplomacy and intervention has finally brought an end to the genocidal ethnic cleansing, though ethnic divisions there will be long in healing.

We mark this date in history because it is so important that we remember. We must remember the Armenian genocide and other abuses of state authority against ethnic minorities. We must remember all of the victims of crimes against humanity. Our memory, our vigilance, is essential to ensuring that these acts do not happen again, to Armenians or any other group.

The Armenian people and their culture have survived. The Armenian-American community is thriving in a land where cultural and ethnic diversity are increasingly valued. And the collapse of the Soviet Union gave rise to an independent, democratic Armenian state.

So let us remember the Armenian genocide, let us be vigilant to prevent such crimes in the future, and let us celebrate the Armenian people, who have overcome this tragedy to thrive in independent Armenia and in America.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I am pleased today to announce the Senate's Golden Gavel Awards for the 104th Congress.

Each Congress, one important tradition we have is to honor colleagues who preside over the Senate for more than 100 hours. As all Senators know, presiding is frequently a difficult, thankless, and tiring task.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Golden Gavel recipients today for their tireless efforts. I know that all Senators join me in congratulating our colleagues.

The recipients are as follows: Senator MIKE DEWINE, Senator ROD GRAMS, Senator BILL FRIST, Senator JOHN ASHCROFT, Senator RICK SANTORUM, Senator FRED THOMPSON, Senator SPENCE ABRAHAM, Senator CRAIG THOMAS, Senator JON KYL, and Senator JIM INHOFE.

CHILD LABOR—NOT WITH THE RUGMARK LABEL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, a year ago this month, a young child labor activist, Iqbal Masih, was killed in his village in Pakistan. In 1994, when Iqbal traveled to the United States to receive the Reebok Human Rights Award, he also met with the students at Broad Meadows Middle School in Quincy, MA. After Iqbal's death, the students at Broad Meadows decided to honor his memory by building a school in Iqbal's village.

Earlier this month, the students announced that they have raised \$100,000 for a school which will be built by Sudhaar, a nongovernmental organization in Pakistan. Their dedication and commitment to Iqbal's dream assure that he will live on in the hearts and minds of all those who will have a better chance in life because of the school they are building. Armed with the advantages of education, these children in Pakistan will be able to improve their own lives and the lives of their families, their communities, their country, and even our common planet.

Last November, one of the recipients of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award was Kailash Satyarthi, head of the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude, an independent nongovernmental organization dedicated to the eradication of child labor and bonded labor in the carpet industry.

Mr. Satyarthi and his colleagues have established what is known as the Rugmark label, to identify carpets which have not been made with child labor. They are urging consumers to

purchase only carpets which carry the label.

Mr. President, on the anniversary of Iqbal's death, Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, has urged all Americans to honor the Rugmark label. I ask unanimous consent that Mr. Shanker's appeal be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 14, 1996]

KNOTTED RUGS

(By Alert Shanker)

The murder of Iqbal Masih, a year ago this week, forced many Americans to look at a problem they would have preferred to avoid: child labor in developing countries. Iqbal was a world-famous human rights activist. He was also a young Pakistani boy whose mother had sold him to a rug maker when he was four. Iqbal eventually freed himself, and by the time he was murdered, at the age of twelve, he had helped free 3,000 other bonded child laborers. That is probably why he was murdered. But many millions of children in Pakistan, India, and other developing nations continue to work as gem stone polishers, glass blowers, and makers of matches, fireworks, clothing and hand-knotted rugs, often conditions that are unspeakable.

Children who knot rugs are crowded into filthy, poorly lit shops that have minimal ventilation for as many as 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are often chained to their looms, and they risk being beaten or even killed if they try to escape. Many die anyway because of horrible conditions under which they work. Manufacturers consider young children to be desirable "employees" because they work hard and put up with pay and conditions that adults would not tolerate. The children receive no more than a couple of cents a day for their work; many get nothing.

A number of developing nations—India and Nepal, for example—have laws on the books banning child labor. Nevertheless, you hear some people using hard-nosed economic arguments to justify exploitation of children. They say that if child labor is what it takes to bolster the economy in a developing country, that's the price the country has to pay. And it's really nobody else's business anyway. But many of these countries also have very high unemployment among adults. Why shouldn't companies hire adults so that parents can support their children instead of having to sell them into bondage?

However, we don't have to wait for the companies making hand-knotted rugs to get religion (or for countries that are dragging their feet to start enforcing their child labor laws). These rugs are an important export item, and people who buy them can have a big say about the conditions under which they are made. The traditional weapon used by people who want to protest economic injustice is the boycott: Don't buy the product. But a boycott only punishes, and it often punishes those who act responsibly as well as those who don't.

An Indian child advocate named Kailash Satyarthi had a better idea. He established a nonprofit foundation that allows consumers to identify and buy hand-knotted rugs that are not made with child labor. Rugmark, as the foundation is called, inspects companies that apply for certification and vouches for the fact that they are not using child labor to make their hand-knotted rugs. Inspectors also pay surprise visits to Rugmark-certified companies to make sure they continue to abide by their commitment to use adult