

production controls which create, at best, an economic structure which emulates what used to be the East European countries and at worst an economic structure which basically tracks the philosophy of social economics as designed by Karl Marx, because essentially what it does is say that the Government will set the price, the Government will set the production levels, not necessarily for the purposes of benefiting the consumer but for the purposes of benefiting the producer.

We set up a structure here where the fact that sugar on the open market can be bought for 10 cents a pound has no impact on the price of sugar in the United States. Can you imagine that? The United States, the center of capitalism in the world, a market that all of the rest of the world looked to when other nations were trying to design their economies, has put in place in our Sugar Program a structure which is essentially a carbon copy of what they did in Eastern Europe, what they now do in Cuba, or still do in Cuba, in what we basically call a Socialist form of economics.

Why do we do this? Why do we have a system which penalizes our consumers to the tune of \$1.4 billion, which does not allow any competition for the price of sugar in the marketplace, which arbitrarily sets the cost of sugar, and which rewards a few growers of sugarcane specifically? Seventeen growers get 42 percent of the benefit in the sugarcane industry—17 growers get 42 percent of the benefit. In fact, one grower gets a benefit that is estimated to be almost \$68 million a year. Why do we structure a system like this? Well, at the risk of using a pun, it is raw power, raw political power.

The fact that the sugarcane, sugar producers lobby is so strong in the Congress of the United States, it has been able to maintain this totally unjustifiable system. How ironic it is that when the Republican Party, after 40 years, finally gets control over the Congress of the United States, we continue to allow this sort of antimarket system to flourish, to grow, and to abuse the consumers of this country.

How ironic it is that this President—and I cannot fault him individually because the fault lies on both sides of the aisle on this one—but this President who has made such a large issue of protecting consumers in many other areas of his administration and has made this his cause celebre, allows a program which every year takes \$1.4 billion out of the pockets of consumers and artificially transfers it to a non-productive sector of our economy—I am not sure it is unproductive—but a sector of our economy that does not want to compete. Why should not we have a sugar program which is willing to compete?

There are some other side effects that also we ought to be concerned about besides the fact that we are basically taking the consumers of this country for a ride for the benefit of a

few individual growers. There are some other issues we ought to be concerned about.

There is the issue of environmental protection, the fact that as a result of having this artificially high-priced sugar, we have seen a huge amount of land in southern Florida converted to cane growing which land was the original watershed of the Everglades. It is not clear really what would be a better use of this land. I have to admit that the jury may still be out on that.

But before the facts are known, the Everglades are under a tremendous effect, and the fact, first, that the water is not flowing in its original form—and there is the belief that the sugarcane activity is part of it—and, second, sugarcane activity is expanded artificially as a result of this.

Another concern we should have is the effect it is having on our neighbors in the Caribbean. We just invaded Haiti because we felt that it was in economic and political chaos. One of the reasons that our neighbors in the Caribbean are in economic chaos is because we do not allow them to participate in competition with us. We have closed our markets to one of their primary goods—sugar. We live in fear, I guess, as a nation, that we cannot compete with Haiti.

My goodness, how absurd. Obviously, with the technologies we have and the ability we have of growing products in this country, we can compete with our Caribbean neighbors. We would find, I suspect, that if we were to open our markets that sugar beets in many parts of this country would remain very viable and very competitive, sugarcane in parts of this country would remain very viable and very competitive, and we would have also the added benefit of allowing some of our Caribbean neighbors to maybe increase their standard of living a little bit by being able to sell us a little bit of their primary product.

Maybe we would not have to go around invading them. We could save the dollars we spend on national defense in places like Haiti, and the dollars we spend on economic and political development in other regions of the Caribbean because we would have to help them out through what is known as the old-fashioned way, by letting them compete in the marketplace with us.

So tomorrow we take up these farm bills, and there will be an attempt to shut off debate. One of the outcomes of shutting off debate and passage of these farm bills, or at least down the line in the farm bill would be a 7-year extension of the outrage called the Sugar Program. That would be a rather bitter pill for the American consumers. That is not a sweet deal for American consumers. It may be a sweet deal to get a 7-year extension of this program for some of the growers, but it certainly would mean that under the present calculations that would be about another \$10 billion of tax, be-

cause that is essentially what it is to American consumers.

So I strongly oppose the attempt to do this. And along with the Senator from Nevada, who has joined me on this, Senator REID, we will do all we can, I believe, to try to avoid allowing the consumers of this country to be once again pilfered by this program. As a result, I will attempt to oppose cloture. I hope that others who are concerned about the consumers of this country, about the environment of this country, and about our neighbors in Central and Latin America, would also join me in opposing cloture.

Because it is not right. It is not right that a few folks because of their political influence and strength should be able to keep in place a program which should have died when the Berlin Wall fell. The fact is, it is very ironic and unfortunate that as a nation we continue to promote this concept that competition should not be allowed in the production of sugar.

It is antithetical to all the Republican Party stands for. It is time to put an end to it.

Madam President, I thank the Chair for the time to speak. I yield back such time as I may not have used, and I make the 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. CRAIG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I assume that we are in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

#### UNPRECEDENTED FLOOD OF SUBSIDIZED CANADIAN LUMBER

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, in morning business today, let me make several comments on an issue that is very important to this country. It is kind of a quiet issue that has not been prominent in the headlines of the Washington Post or the Washington Times; but certainly in my State and every timber-producing State of the Nation, it has made a good many headlines over the course of the last year or 16 months. And that is the unprecedented flood of subsidized Canadian lumber flowing into the continental United States and into the markets of the 48 lower States.

Normally, Canada is a supplier to our market, and we need their timber to round out the needs of the housing industry of our country and the home building industry. But to meet that need and still keep America's work force in the forest products industry employed, Canada's percentage participation in our market normally is somewhere in the high 20's or low 30's.

In January, this month that is now today concluding, they reached an all-

time high of about 37 percent of total market share. As a result of that, we now see in this country about 29,000 men and women who are unemployed as a direct result of a major dumping effort—let me repeat, as a direct result of a major dumping effort—on the part of the Canadian forest products industry into our market.

In my State of Idaho, just in the last few days, we have had announcements of another 200 men and women laid off simply because the price of lumber, as a result of this huge volume of subsidized lumber pouring in from Canada, is so low that mills cannot operate.

Ceda-Pine Veneer north of Sandpoint, ID; Crown Pacific in Bonners Ferry, ID; and two Louisiana Pacific plants in Chilco and Sandpoint have just announced layoffs or have shut down, and the story goes on and on, as is true across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and the Southeast, as a result of what has happened with Canadian lumber imports.

This administration, to their credit a good many months ago became aggressively engaged with the forest products industry in negotiating with Canada in an effort to resolve this issue.

When I say that, it is about the only good thing I am going to say, because as we entered into those negotiations the forest products industry was told by our United States Trade Representative nearly 10 months ago that within 6 months, if the Canadians did not negotiate in good faith successfully, this administration would take action, and that action would be a temporary duty imposed until such time as a countervailing duty suit would be charged or the Canadians would come to the table with some form of a legitimate agreement to negotiate the differences between the two countries.

That did not occur from the Canadians, and, as a result, finally this administration did say, "We will have to bring a countervailing duty suit, and move toward a temporary duty."

In late November of this year, the Canadians finally did bring some proposed agreements for us—the industry and our United States Trade Representative—to look at to see whether they would meet the criteria that we were trying to advance, which was a level playing field, recognizing the legitimate share of the market that the Canadians could have without destroying our industry.

From that point, myself, Senator BAUCUS, and a good many others have asked the United States Trade Representative to become much more aggressive in insisting that this problem be solved now. It was in December, just before we recessed for Christmas, that Mickey Kantor did come to the Hill and sat down with myself, Senator BAUCUS, five or six other Senators from timber-producing States, and a good many Representatives from the House to talk about where we were in this negotiation.

At that time, Mickey Kantor said to us, and it was conveyed to the Canadi-

ans, that if no agreements were reached through the current negotiation, that on January 31, 1996, he would impose a temporary duty against the Canadians, and we would then move to do a variety of other things, including reform NAFTA's chapter 19, to consider what is called suspension of liquidation on Canadian imports into this country, and do a variety of other things that would bring about some permanency and stability to this problem.

Madam President, today is January 31. Canadians are now still negotiating with our trade ambassador, and I do not want to say nothing will be resolved, but I do want to say to our trade ambassador: If nothing is resolved by the end of the day, it is absolutely imperative for this country's credibility and for this administration's credibility with Canada and with the industries and the work forces involved that we move. And that tomorrow I would expect to hear from our United States Trade Representative an announcement of an imposed temporary duty against the subsidized lumber coming out of Canada while these other measures are forthcoming; that the United States lumber industry would probably move to file a countervailing duty case, and that case would go forward, but would literally take months and potentially a year.

But what is important here and what this administration must face is that it is now time to make a decision, and they must make that decision. If they fail to, if they bend in any form to the Canadians, they will send the kind of message that I believe has been sent for the last 6 months: We just keep on talking.

As we keep on talking, mills are closing down in my State. As I mentioned, 29,000 jobs in this country are now in suspension, and men and women are not working as a direct result of this phenomenal flood of Canadian lumber coming into the market.

It is important that this administration recognizes the high level of importance of the decision that they are about to make today, which is if the Canadians still are only talking—and, oh, are they good at talking—that the talking is over; that it is time for the temporary duty to level this playing field to send a very clear message to the Canadians that we mean business; that while they have a right based on need and supply, on the Canadian Free-Trade Agreement, and on the North American Free-Trade Agreement to have access to our market, they absolutely do not have the right to intentionally dump, and we know that is what they are doing at this time. They have reached out to grab a very large share of the U.S. market, as much as 10 percent more than they have ever held.

Stocks of Canadian lumber are sitting in lumberyards across this country, and they are even financing it to sit there and saying, "You keep it until you sell it and then you pay us."

I call that an aggressive antitrade effort. It is a dumping process and the Canadians know it. It is time they stop it, and the only way they will is when we speak directly and act decisively to solve this problem.

Back in the early eighties, they played this game on us, and it was at that time in the Reagan administration that a duty was imposed and thousands of people went back to work in my State almost overnight as the markets rapidly improved. Of course, that also happened in other timber-producing States across the Nation.

(Mr. ASHCROFT assumed the chair.)

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, the same thing can happen in the next month if this administration will act. If it does not act, I say to our trade ambassador today, "What are you going to say to the nearly 30,000 men and women that are without a job today in the timber industry simply because of the aggressive dumping action on the part of the Canadians?" "What are you going to say, Mr. Ambassador, and, more important, what are you going to say, Mr. President, about the fairness and equity you talk about, about the jobs you talk about creating, while you, by your failure to act, may well be destroying jobs?"

In the end, when you destroy the jobs, you destroy the mills and the infrastructure that has been an extremely important part of the forest products industry of our country. As those people stand in unemployment lines, many of the mills are near bankruptcy today because most of them have operated in the red for well over a year now. It is time that stopped and that we bring fairness back to the marketplace. That can be done by a single act by a trade ambassador and a President. They know they can do it. We asked them to do it, and we hope it will be done tomorrow if the Canadians fail to come to an agreement today.

Mrs. HUTCHISON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO RALPH YARBOROUGH

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my predecessors, Ralph W. Yarborough of Austin, who died last weekend.

Ralph Yarborough was reared in Chandler, TX, attended West Point and what we know as Sam Houston State University. He worked as a teacher, a trade emissary, a National Guardsman, a lawyer, an Assistant Attorney General, a judge, an Army officer in World War II, a writer, and a U.S. Senator. In the Army, he served on the staff of Gen. George Patton. He was among only three southern Senators to support the 1965 Voting Rights Act and was a key supporter of the National Cancer Act.

Senator Yarborough and I share a common background. We have deep