

BARBARA BOXER of California, who wrote the original dolphin protection law in 1990 and who has stood up to those on both sides of the Rio Grande who have sought to weaken that law.

We vigorously opposed an immediate change in the Dolphin-safe label, as was sought by Mexico and by the Administration, because there is a great deal of concern within the scientific community that the kind of fishing sanctioned by this bill will cause serious harm to dolphins. We insisted that an impartial scientific study be conducted to determine whether, as asserted, it is now possible to fish with purse seine nets and not harm dolphins.

I am therefore pleased to see that on this key point, we have been successful by requiring a three-year study on the impacts of chasing and netting on dolphin populations. Neither I nor the scientists I have consulted are comfortable with an automatic change in the meaning of "dolphin safe" after only 1 year of study unless the Secretary determines that chasing and netting dolphins has a significant adverse impact on the animals.

The scientists tell us that these dolphin populations should be growing at 4–6 percent annually, and that anything else should be considered a significant adverse impact. I assume the Secretary will base his decision on objective, independent scientific advice and not succumb to political pressure.

However, this bill now contains new language—not previously reviewed by the House and not subject to any hearings in either House or Senate—which, in my view, sets a dangerous precedent for the future of eco-labeling.

The language of this bill appears to exempt the government-defined "dolphin safe" label from FTC standards on truth in labeling. This language prohibits American citizens from suing the federal government over the accuracy and truthfulness of the label that purports to signify "dolphin safe" tuna.

The bill technically allows the use of labels other than the government label, which I support, but then contains a plethora of provisions and restrictions designed to ensure that competing labels will be all but impossible to use.

This bill requires the Secretary to make a determination on whether the use of other labels is "substantially undermining the conservation goals of the International Dolphin Conservation Program," and to then recommend to the Congress how to "correct such problems". It also contains a provision—added to the last minute at the insistence of tuna companies—making it a violation of the Federal Trade Commission Act to "use a label in a campaign or effort to mislead or deceive consumers about the level of protection afforded to dolphins under the International Dolphin Conservation Program Act."

To my knowledge, no other provision of law contains such extensive limitations on the right of the American consumer to know the impacts of their purchases on the environment or anything else, and I am extremely uncomfortable about setting this precedent at a time when eco-labeling or other labeling efforts are under tremendous fire from global big business, without hearings or time to determine the exact extent of these limitations.

I intend to remain very engaged over the next 18 months as we undertake the study to determine the safety of purse seine nets on

dolphins, and I know there are many outside Congress who will be watching this study, too. I expect that those who will engage in the study will utilize scrupulous scientific standards, and that the recommendations that result from the study will be scientifically sound rather than motivated by political or trade considerations.

Lastly, let me say that those of us who will be called upon to cast votes in the near future on fast track trade authority or on the expansion of NAFTA and other trade agreements would do well to study the history of this legislation. If there ever was a question that environmental and labor standards should be included as integral components of such agreements, not as side agreement afterthoughts, this legislation provides a clear example of why such provisions should be incorporated.

This legislation is the result of foreign governments telling American consumers and the U.S. Congress that we—and only we—must weaken our domestic product labeling laws because of this international agreement—an agreement, I might add, that not one person in this Congress had any role in drafting or approving. Trade and foreign demands are the engines of this legislation; sound science, mammal protection, consumer information all are being sacrificed on the almighty altar of free trade.

This goes far beyond the issue of tuna and dolphins. It goes to the issue of who makes the laws and the rules that govern this country and our constituents. Do we make decisions based on fact and science, or on the demands of foreign economic competitors?

The best reason to vote for this legislation is that, should this shaky compromise fail, a far worse version is waiting in the wings and undoubtedly will pass. In fact, there is some indication that the Mexican Government is already looking to weaken even this compromise.

So, I thank Senator BOXER and Senators BIDEN and SMITH for their efforts to make this bill less onerous, and I pledge to work with them in the coming year and a half to monitor the study that will determine how the label is to be written in the future.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY SHABAZZ

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H.Res. 183) honoring the life of Betty Shabazz, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

□ 1730

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will

not object, I would like to say to my friend from New York, sometimes at 700 knots you have to make a split second decision, and in this case, I think it has worked out for the best.

As I was standing before, I learned of a problem that existed and made a decision. As a matter of fact, I had rose at the other time with the reservation to allow the gentleman and the gentlewoman from New York to make their talk in support of the issue. The issue at hand had nothing to do with Betty Shabazz, and I rise in full and strong support of the gentleman from New York and the gentlewoman from New York and for what they are trying to do in this.

Mr. Speaker, under my reservation, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. RANGEL].

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California [Mr. CUNNINGHAM] for allowing his name to be included among the Members of Congress that take this time before we adjourn to pay great tribute to a great American. I recognize that the gentleman's objections had nothing to do with the life of this great woman, and I appreciate the fact that the gentleman is removing that objection.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 183

Whereas the Nation honors Betty Shabazz as a wife, mother, educator, and advocate for civil and human rights, women, and the poor;

Whereas Betty Shabazz, through her life and deeds, has been an inspiration to people around the world;

Whereas Betty Shabazz was a woman of strength, resilience, perseverance, and grace who overcame the greatest of challenges;

Whereas Betty Shabazz was born Betty Sanders in Detroit, Michigan, on May 28, 1936;

Whereas Betty Shabazz met and married the controversial activist and leader El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) in New York in 1958;

Whereas on February 21, 1965, while pregnant with twins, Betty Shabazz and their four daughters witnessed Malcolm X's assassination;

Whereas Betty Shabazz exhibited her resiliency and determination as a single mother, raising and educating her six daughters, Attallah, Qubilah, Ilyasah, Gamilah, and twins Malika and Malaak;

Whereas Betty Shabazz found the time to become certified as a registered nurse, and to later earn bachelor's and master's degrees and, finally, a doctorate in education administration from the University of Massachusetts;

Whereas Betty Shabazz joined the administrative staff of Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, New York, rising to high positions;

Whereas, while preserving the public memory of her late husband, Betty Shabazz earned a reputation of her own, as an educator, public speaker, and advocate for women, education, and civil and human rights;

Whereas on June 23, 1997, Betty Shabazz succumbed to injuries suffered in a tragic fire;

Whereas Betty Shabazz personified the roles of wife, mother, and professional woman; and

Whereas Betty Shabazz will be forever remembered for her love of family, her commitment to humankind, and for the joy and laughter she brought to all those who knew her: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life of Betty Shabazz.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Small Business:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, July 30, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: As of today's date, I will be taking a leave of absence from the Small Business Committee so that I can continue serving on the Budget Committee.

Sincerely,

BOB WEYGAND,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 30, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I would like to inform you that I am resigning from my assignment on the House Committee of Banking and Financial Services.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

CYNTHIA MCKINNEY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.
There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 208), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 208

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and that they are hereby, elected to

the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Robert Weygand of Rhode Island.

To the Committee on National Security: Cynthia McKinney of Georgia.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but I was here on the floor before and wanted to add just a couple of words to the tribute to Betty Shabazz.

Betty Shabazz was my constituent for many years in Mount Vernon, NY, and was truly a friend and a great lady, and I stood up before, but I was not seen, and so I wanted to just very briefly say a few words on her behalf and ask that my words be put into the RECORD behind Mr. RANGEL's remarks.

I last saw Betty Shabazz in my district at a church in a celebration, a ceremony, dealing with United States and African relations and investment in Africa. I have known Betty for many years, am familiar with her work and education and caring about young people and caring about the future of this country.

I want to say that Betty Shabazz was truly a woman of valor, truly a woman who was color-blind and cared about all Americans, regardless of race, creed, color, or religious origin. Her life personified, I think, what makes this country great, how someone can take adversity in their own personal lives and just move themselves forward, going to school and getting her doctorate and sharing what she knew with the community.

I remember sitting next to her last year at the Democratic National Convention, and we chatted about all the things that she cared about, and I just wanted to add my voice to say that we truly miss her already. She was a great woman, but her legacy will live on. She cared not only about the people in my district again, but about all people, and I represent the communities of Mount Vernon, NY and Yonkers, NY in which she lived, and she really made us all proud.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if I might just ask the indulgence of the Speaker on behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, we admire the fact that New York claimed Dr. Betty Shabazz, but she is truly a national treasure, and for those of us in Texas, we acknowledge that Betty Shabazz was a symbol of motherhood in the fact that she rose as a single mother to raise six daughters and steadfastly continued her work on behalf of all children in this Nation. So those of us in

Texas benefitted from her love of education and children as well as her great work at the Medgar Evers College and her great work with Coretta Scott King and Merlie Evers, of course widows who lost their husbands to tragedy, but as well to the cause of civil rights, like her husband, Malcolm X.

So I just wanted to join my colleague from New York [Mr. ENGEL], and on behalf of my constituents. We acknowledge her as a national treasure, and I am very proud to be able to stand here and salute the Honorable Dr. Betty Shabazz through her death. She has helped to consolidate those of us who would support children and be able to continue her fight for equality and justice.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ENGEL. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] and the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] for their work on behalf of Betty Shabazz, who has become a mother figure for our entire land, the tragedies she suffered in the loss of her husband, the tragedy in her own life, and yet was able to go through so many wonderful things in her life. She will long be missed, and she has left her mark on our society.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LIMITING AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2159, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2159) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, pursuant to the order of the House of July 24, 1997, no other amendment shall be in order (except for forma amendments offered for the purpose of debate) unless printed before August 1, 1997 in the portion of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD designated for that purpose in clause 6 of rule XXIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.