

WTO dispute panel decisions. Currently when those decisions are made, there are times when our competitors will not abide by the dispute resolution.

We have to support family farms. Preserve the flexibility to assist team farmers through income assistance, crop insurance and other programs that do not distort trade. We have to retain the full complement of nontrade distorting export tools including export credit guarantees, international food assistance, and market development programs. We have to be sure and establish disciplines on State trading enterprises to make them as transparent as the United States' marketing system is.

And nontariff trade barriers, we have to ensure that science and risk assessment principles established by the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Accord during the Uruguay Round are the basis for measures applied to products of new technology and that this process is transparent. We also have to negotiate improved market access for products of new technology including bioengineered products.

Mr. Speaker, we have met with our U.S. Trade Ambassador Charlene Barshevsky and our Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and I am pleased to report that the administration has told us that their highest priority in the upcoming round is agriculture. And, in fact, when they look at their priorities and place them against ours, they almost mirror the importance of the priorities that we have.

So I am pleased that the administration is taking agriculture as an important negotiation during this WTO round that will start in Seattle. We cannot leave this round of the WTO with ag at a competitive disadvantage.

#### NAFTA PRESENTS ITS OWN Y2K PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to continue the litany of charges against NAFTA. As we face the end of the millennium, NAFTA presents its own Y2K problem: January 1, 2000, crossborder trucking provisions of NAFTA are expected to allow Mexican trucks to enter free and clear into the United States. A close look into the situation makes NAFTA's Y2K problem quite upsetting.

At a recent National Transportation Safety Board hearing on this issue, Mexico refused to send a representative. Canadian and American representatives appeared, but Mexico was a no-show.

Well, if they happen to have come to this meeting they would have learned how far they are behind Canada and the United States in oversight and regulations.

Does Mexico have log books? No. Does Mexico have vehicle maintenance

standards? No. Does Mexico have roadside inspections? No. Does Mexico have safety rating systems? No. Does Mexico have medical certification of drivers? No.

Simply put, Mexico does not have any oversight of their trucking industry, yet they want the United States to allow their unregulated, unsafe Mexican trucks which weigh up to 106,000 pounds, well over the U.S. limit of 80,000 pounds, to barrel down our highways and byways. In fact, the reason they did not send a representative is that they are upset that President Clinton dare hint that he will not allow Mexican trucks into the USA as of January 1.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Mexico is upset that we will not let their mammoth 106,000-pound unsafe trucks and unsafe drivers into the USA. I say unsafe because of the less than 1 percent of Mexican trucks and Mexican drivers inspected at the border, over 40 percent have failed inspections and were placed out of service. In addition, according to a new report from the Department of Transportation's Inspector General, over 250 Mexican motor carriers have traveled illegally beyond the NAFTA border zone. Therefore, Mexican trucks and drivers have proved to be unsafe lawbreakers.

The Inspector General concluded in his report that, "Adequate mechanisms are not in place to control access of Mexico-domiciled motor carriers into the United States." To ensure that Mexican motor carriers comply with U.S. statutes, the Inspector General suggested that, among other methods, fines should be increased for illegal activities. Well, Mr. Speaker, under a House-passed bill, we have done just that.

H.R. 2679, the Motor Carrier Safety Act, increases fines up to \$10,000 and a possible disqualification for a first-time offense, and up to \$25,000 with a 6-month disqualification for a second offense.

The previous fine was only \$500 to \$1,000 and even the Inspector General stated as such, motor carriers are likely to consider the fines to be simply a cost of doing business.

Hopefully, the Senate will take up the measure that includes the House-passed provisions so that Mexican trucks cannot regard the now measly penalty as a cost of just doing business.

Of course, Mexico is not happy about the increased fines and they and others claim that this is a violation of NAFTA. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, but since when is a fine of illegal activities a violation of anything? Mexico violates our laws and they say we violate NAFTA?

Clearly, Mexican trucks should not be allowed into the U.S. and President Clinton was right in telling the teamsters that he will not open the borders to Mexican trucks come January 1. Well, that might be the first right move President Clinton has made regarding NAFTA. He can make another

right move by starting the process of withdrawing from NAFTA altogether. Until then, the horrors of Mexican trucks will just be another in the long litany of NAFTA injustices to the United States of America and to its citizens.

#### PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT GRANT CLEMENCY FOR LEONARD PELTIER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the month of November has been designated Native American Heritage Month, a time in which to honor the positive contributions of our Nation's earlier inhabitants. I was disturbed to learn then that November has already been designated Leonard Peltier Freedom Month by a group pressing for his release from Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary.

Because of the publicity surrounding this case, we should all be familiar with its details: Leonard Peltier is serving two consecutive life sentences for the cold-blooded murder of two FBI agents on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975. But it is important that we review the facts of the case separating them from the myths that have arisen over the years, especially as Peltier's supporters are petitioning the White House for clemency for this convicted killer.

On June 26, 1975, FBI Special Agents Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler entered the Jumping Bull Compound of the Pine Ridge Reservation pursuing a man in connection with an assault on two young ranchers in nearby Manderson, South Dakota.

One of the three people in the vehicle the agents were pursuing was Leonard Peltier, a fugitive from justice wanted for the attempted murder of a police officer in Milwaukee. Peltier and his associates stopped their vehicle abruptly and opened fire on the two agents. Surprised, outmanned, and outgunned, Agents Williams and Coler were severely wounded in this barrage of gunfire. Agent Coler was hit in the right arm, the force of the bullet nearly tearing it off. He fell unconscious within moments. Agent Williams, although hit in the left shoulder and right foot, tore off his own shirt in the midst of this chaos and fashioned a tourniquet around his partner's arm.

Ambushed, the two agents lay helpless, completely at the mercy of their assailants. Peltier and the other two gunmen, though, would not be showing any mercy to these law enforcement officers that day. They walked down to where the two agents lay dying after this horrendous assault. Agent Williams, kneeling on the ground with his hand out as if to surrender was shot directly in the face. He died instantly. Peltier's group turned on the still unconscious Agent Coler. They shot them

twice in the head with a shotgun at close range and both men died instantly.

An examination of the crime scene revealed that Agents Williams and Coler were only able to fire five shots in defense. Peltier and his men by contrast left more than 125 bullet holes in the agent's vehicles.

After these vicious murders, Peltier fled the reservation and was put on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted List. Five months later, he was spotted hiding in an RV by a state trooper in Oregon. Peltier fired at the officer and fled once again. Investigators found Peltier's fingerprints on a bag underneath the RV's front seat. Inside the bag was Agent Coler's revolver, stolen from him in the bloodbath 5 months earlier.

Peltier escaped into Canada, where he was ultimately arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Confirming beyond a doubt his cold-blooded mentality, he said that if he had known that the officers were about to arrest him, he would have "blown them out of their shoes."

Mr. Speaker, those are not the words of a candidate for clemency. Leonard Peltier's heinous crimes are not the actions of a candidate for clemency. Yet Peltier's supporters are confident that the President will pardon this murderer, pointing to his pardon of the FALN terrorists earlier this year.

These supporters would have us believe that Peltier is being held unjustly, that he was framed because he is Native American. They have politicized the case, bringing in liberal Hollywood actors who glorify Peltier and refer to the slain agents, Williams and Coler, as "faceless soldiers" sent by the government. They have elevated this thug, calling him a leader of his people, further dishonoring the law enforcement officers he killed and dishonoring Native American heritage as well.

Our legal system has ruled again and again that Leonard Peltier is a killer. The Supreme Court refused to review his case, and a parole board ruled in 1993 that Peltier be denied parole for the next 15 years. FBI Director Louis Freeh is on record saying that "[t]here should be no commutation of his two life terms in prison."

In a recent letter to his supporters, Peltier makes reference to the "many years" of his life that have been "stolen." To this day, he remains oblivious to the fact that he stole many years of life from the two agents he killed. Jack Coler was 28, Ron Williams was 27 and a father of a 4-year-old son. They were at the beginning of what promised to be long and successful careers in law enforcement. They were cut down at the prime of their lives by a coward who has shown no remorse.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, I was also a FBI special agent and I am appalled that Leonard Peltier has chosen to exploit Native Americans for his own selfish purposes. This is not about ethnicity, it is about murder. It is

about respect for the law and law enforcement officers.

I call on the President to see through the myth that has built up around Leonard Peltier and recognize that Peltier is trying to manipulate emotions and use political issues to gain an undeserved release. The President owes at least that much to the families of these slaughtered heroes.

#### ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF AMERICAN FAMILY FARMERS IN WTO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening as cochair of the WTO Trade Caucus for Farmers and Ranchers to discuss the importance of the upcoming ministerial talks in Seattle and the next round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joined by my cochair, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) who presented earlier on this very topic. We also have across our membership in the task force a bipartisan, bicameral group of more than 50 members who are committed to advancing the interests of family farmers in trade negotiations.

The agriculture economy is in dire straits. American farmers are reeling from the twin evils of production loss caused by natural disasters and price collapse caused by depressed export sales and strong global production.

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The crisis in agriculture demands a multifaceted response from Congress, ranging from emergency assistance, crop insurance reform, safety net reform, and expanding international trade. It is this last issue of expanding trade that I will discuss this evening.

Perhaps no sector of the American economy is any more dependent on trade than agriculture. The United States is the single largest exporter of ag products in the world. On average, the crops on one out of three acres in the United States are exported. Many commodities are even more dependent on foreign sales, such as wheat, 1 out of 2 acres is exported; sunflower oil, 3 out of 4 acres of which is exported. Given the share of farm income that depends on foreign markets, American farmers cannot succeed and prosper without robust export sales.

Now, unfortunately, the export market for agriculture has been anything but robust. In fact, the value of U.S. agriculture exports has fallen from \$60 billion in 1996 to a projected \$49 billion this year, a decline of nearly 20 percent.

Look at this chart. It tells a very sad tale. It is a small wonder we have had that incredible depression in our ag economy with the export record like that.

There are several reasons for the decline in export sales. They include the financial crisis in Asia. Despite signs of recovery, we continue to see sales lagging in this region, not rehabilitated to what they were prior to the crisis. Strong worldwide production has further depressed exports and, in turn, depressed the prices for our ag commodities.

In addition to these market forces, however, American farmers are on the losing end of export sales because of an unlevel playing field in the international market. Around the world, our American farmers are not just competing with farmers of other countries in other parts of the world relative to their own exports. We are competing against their governments as well as they subsidize unfairly their export market.

The crops grown by American farmers face, on average, a tariff rate of 50 percent in foreign markets compared to just 10 percent on what ag products face entering our market. With respect to export subsidies, the European Union accounts for 85 percent of world export subsidies.

Just take a look at my second chart this evening. The blue reflects European exports. Our slender 2 percent compared to their 85 percent of world export subsidies reveals just why our exports are not performing and why our ag exports are on the losing end of the present trading situation.

In addition to export subsidies, we know that state trading enterprises like the Canadian Wheat Board use their monopoly status to engage in discriminatory and secretive pricing practices to undercut U.S. producers.

Now, to build the momentum necessary to tackle these unfair trade practices, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) and I formed the WTO Trade Caucus for Farmers and Ranchers. The 50-plus members of our group, House Members, Senators, Republicans and Democrats, developed a list for agriculture trade objectives for the upcoming round including the elimination of export subsidies, cutting and, when possible, eliminating tariffs, and imposing transparency and market discipline on State trading enterprises.

Our list of objectives was derived from concerns we have heard from the farmers we represent as well as the commodity groups themselves. This list serves three important purposes. Going into the Seattle round, it signals what the United States Congress believes it must have out of this round.

Now, our views are important because, unlike other systems where the Government may cut the deal and that is the end of it, whatever comes out of this round will be brought back to Congress for approval, and we intend to make sure that these objectives are met.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLETCHER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana