

I want to take a positive approach and make this bill better. Therefore, I have proposed alternative legislation, S. 1636, the HOPE for Africa Act. It was based largely on the efforts of my colleague from the House, Congressman JESSE JACKSON, Jr., and I am grateful to him for his leadership on this issue.

The provisions of the HOPE bill point the way toward a truly comprehensive and a more responsible United States-Africa trade policy. I intend to use elements of HOPE to try to amend and improve AGOA.

Mr. President, I want to amend AGOA to make goods listed under the Lome Convention eligible for duty-free access to the United States, provided those goods are not determined to be import-sensitive by the President. These provisions would mean more trade opportunities for more African people.

At the same time, AGOA must be changed to reflect the importance of labor rights, human rights, and environmental standards. My proposals will clearly spell out the labor rights that our trade partners must enforce in order to receive benefits. They will also contain a monitoring procedure that involves the International Federation of Trade Unions, so that violations will not be glossed over at the expense of African workers.

I will propose stronger human rights language, and incentives for foreign companies operating in Africa to bring their environmental practices there up to the standards that they adhere to at home.

I will propose tough transshipment protections that give American entities a stake in the legality of the products they import. I want to be sure that Africans and Americans really do benefit from our United States-Africa trade policy.

In that same vein, I will propose that trade benefits be contingent upon African content and the employment of African workers.

I will propose that the United States reassert its commitment to responsible, well-monitored development assistance for Africa.

I would be irresponsible if I did not propose changes to AGOA that will address the factors crippling Africa's economic potential today—debt, HIV/AIDS, and corruption.

I will urge this Senate to include anticorruption provisions that I will offer as an amendment to the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

I will propose that we address debt relief in this legislation so that, at the very least, we can put ourselves on the path toward taking well-thoughtout and responsible action.

For all its wealth of natural resources, Africa's people are its most valuable resource. I will support measures to prioritize HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in AGOA. In addition, I want to address the issue of Africa's intellectual property laws, to ensure that United States taxpayer dollars are not

spent to undermine the legal efforts of some African countries to gain and retain access to low-cost pharmaceuticals.

Mr. President, if all of this sounds ambitious, it is. Any plan to seriously engage economically with Africa must be ambitious. My bill and the amendments I will offer to AGOA are the minimum we must do to knock down the obstacles to a healthy, thriving, and just commercial relationship between the countries of Africa and the United States. The bill before us falls short of the minimum meaningful effort. The rhetoric that surrounds the African Growth and Opportunity Act is certainly ambitious. It is the content that is insufficient.

We must demand more of a United States-Africa trade bill than AGOA has to offer. Ambitious plans can lead to rich rewards for both America and Africa. Anything less promises failure, despair, and decades more of lost opportunity.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IN HONOR OF SENATOR JOHN CHAFEE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness I rise to mourn the passing of Senator John Chafee. Senator Chafee was much more than a colleague to me. Senator Chafee was a very close friend as well. The Senate has lost a giant, and I assuredly have lost a friend.

John Chafee will go down in history as one of the best U.S. Senators to ever grace this Chamber. Senator Chafee was one of those rare people who was able to rise above partisanship and work constructively with others on both sides of the aisle to achieve important things for the American people.

John Chafee always had a smile, he always had a feeling of the possible, and even in the darkest times when it seemed as if there was no way to bring people together in this Chamber, John Chafee had the confidence that if we just reached out, if we were rational and reasonable and talked to each other, we could accomplish great things. That was the spirit of John Chafee, and it will be in this Chamber long after he has left us.

I look at his desk now and I see the bouquet of flowers there. What a fitting tribute to John Chafee because he graced any room he entered. That is the way I remember John. When I learned yesterday that he had died, I was thinking of my last encounter with John, which was on the floor last

Thursday. I was exiting the Chamber with a group of Senators. I walked past him and he said: Hey, don't you talk to me anymore? Because I hadn't exchanged our usual greeting.

I came back and I reached out to him. We shook hands, had a brief conversation, and I told him: John, you know I'll always talk to you. We had a little conversation about what was occurring in the Senate and what might be done to improve things. That was John Chafee. That was quintessential John Chafee. How are we going to make things better?

He never spent a lot of time ruminating and worrying. Instead, he spent time figuring out how we were going to make things better. That is what I so admired about John Chafee, that and his basic human decency. You could not find a more decent person to work with in this Senate or in any other forum than John Chafee. I admired him so much because he really gave a life of dedication to public service.

John Chafee, we all know, was very fortunate. He grew up in a family of means. He did not have to spend his life in public service. He could have been on "easy street." But that is not the way John Chafee chose to lead his life. Instead, John determined he would take on one public challenge after another, whether it was serving in the Marine Corps, of which he was very proud, or whether it was serving his State as Governor, or serving as Secretary of the Navy, or serving here in the Senate. John Chafee had a life dedicated to public service. His State of Rhode Island and our country are the richer for it.

I served on the Finance Committee with John. It was the only committee assignment we shared. But I soon became a partner and ally of John Chafee's on the Senate Finance Committee because we thought about issues in much the same way. John Chafee was somebody who believed deeply in fiscal responsibility. He felt very strongly that was something we should pursue. But at the same time, he had a progressive agenda. He was really the leading advocate for the mentally ill, the disabled, and the retarded. As the Finance Committee considered changes to Medicare and Medicaid, I was honored to work closely with John to make sure that changes did not negatively impact those groups.

Together, I remember well, we sponsored an amendment to ensure that disabled children would not be removed from the Supplemental Security Income Program. As a result of John's leadership, more than 100,000 disabled children were able to maintain critical benefits to help their families afford the costs associated with their disability. That was John Chafee. He cared about other people—and really cared, not that superficial "just talk the talk." John Chafee cared enough to take risks and to make a difference in people's lives.

We all know John was also a strong advocate of health care. In many ways, he became the leader on the Finance Committee on issues of health care and especially health care as it related to low-income Americans. He wanted to make certain people had a chance, an opportunity. Oh, yes, John believed in personal responsibility; there was no question of that with John Chafee. But he also believed there were people who were less fortunate in life who also deserved a hand up—not a handout but a hand up. That, too, was John Chafee.

I especially remember back in the early 1990s when we had a series of very thorny health care issues to work out. A group was formed on the Senate Finance Committee, the Centrist Coalition. That group worked under the leadership of John Chafee and JOHN BREAUX on a series of budget questions. That group was preceded by what we called the Mainstream Coalition, a group of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, who worked together to try to rescue health care reform when it looked as if it was going down the tubes.

In fact, the Senate Finance Committee recessed and gave the Mainstream Coalition a chance to try to bring together the diverse interests in this Chamber so we could have a chance for health care reform to work. I remember spending hundreds of hours with John Chafee and that group down in John's hideaway working on health care reform—hour after hour after hour. John did not want to give up. Even when it seemed as if there was absolutely no hope, John Chafee urged us to continue to work together, to talk together, and to try to come up with a plan that would make a difference in the lives of the American people. That was John Chafee.

Later, with the Centrist Coalition, we focused on the budget. I remember the day we brought a budget resolution to the floor that the Centrist Coalition had put together. It was a very close vote. There were 20 of us in the Centrist Coalition: 10 Democrats, 10 Republicans. We met during the Government shutdown. We met throughout the spring. Even those of us on the Budget Committee separately debated the budget resolution. But when we entered S-201 of the Capitol, Senator Chafee's hideaway, we left all partisanship at the door. That was the rule. We debated numbers and entitlements and discretionary spending. We considered alternatives and options. We voted and we made decisions. We put together a budget package that received 46 bipartisan votes in the Senate despite the opposition of the leaders on both sides. We had the leader of the Democrats and the leader of the Republicans both in opposition to our plan, but we got 46 votes.

I think it shocked many people—24 Democrats and 22 Republicans. I remember John's reaction. He was proud. He was proud we had come forward with a plan that commanded that kind

of support on the floor of the Senate, even in the face of leadership opposition.

Do you know what. I believe that plan helped form the basis for what came later. I believe that plan helped demonstrate to the leaders there really was support for balancing this budget, for getting our fiscal house in order and for making a difference. John Chafee was a leader in that effort, and he was proud of it. He deserved to be proud of it because he was making a difference.

The vote on the Centrist Coalition budget and the effort that went into putting it together was public policy at its best. It could not have happened and would not have happened had it not been for Senator Chafee. He demonstrated extraordinary patience, always moving forward, always keeping the debate focused until consensus could be reached.

I remember so well, John, your admonition to us: Steady as she goes. That was one of John's favorite sayings: Steady as she goes. His strong, steady leadership allowed the centrist coalition to be successful.

That is how I will remember Senator Chafee, and that is just one of the reasons we will miss him so terribly in the Senate.

I say to our dear friend, John Chafee, this afternoon as he said so many times to us: Steady as she goes, John, steady as she goes. We will miss you very, very much.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FEINGOLD. 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. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I come to this Chamber concerning the tragic news we received yesterday morning that our friend and colleague, John Chafee, passed away on Sunday.

John Chafee was a leader who moved the Senate to do great things. He embraced the bipartisanship we are so quick to reject in this Chamber, and he did so with a dignity and integrity that made us proud to serve with him in this body and to call him a colleague and to call him a friend.

John constantly worked to bring his colleagues together and to bring his keen intellect and spirit of fairness to bear in an effort to move legislation forward. Whether he was working on health care, the environment, constitutional issues, or Government reform, he approached every issue on its merits and found ways to overcome partisanship to work together.

In an atmosphere which asks us to take sides and defend our ground, John Chafee instead sought common ground, and he sought it with an uncommon commitment to what was best for our

Nation. And always, as he worked to foster bipartisanship and civility, he held fast to the principles that guided him: a deep commitment to fiscal responsibility and a dedication to protecting our children, preserving our environment, and striving for better health care for every American.

I had the honor and pleasure of working with Senator Chafee on a number of issues that affected my State of Wisconsin and the entire Nation. As a distinguished veteran and one of the Senate's greatest patriots, Senator Chafee had the courage and the commitment to constitutional freedom to be a vocal opponent of a constitutional amendment on flag desecration.

When he spoke against the amendment before the Judiciary Committee in April, he criticized the measure as the first amendment to the Constitution that would limit, not expand, our freedoms in that great document. But most of all, this great patriot was deeply troubled by state-mandated patriotism. John Chafee said:

We cannot mandate respect and pride in the flag. In fact, in my view, taking steps to require citizens to respect the flag sullies its significance and symbolism.

With this issue and so many others, it was Senator Chafee's thoughtful and fair-minded approach that commanded my utmost respect and admiration.

His work in the area of conservation was legendary. He won huge gains in the fight to protect the environment, including perhaps his greatest achievement, his vital improvements to the Clean Air Act during its reauthorization in 1990.

Senator Chafee also was a dedicated advocate for the reauthorization of the Superfund Program and the Endangered Species Act, and though his attempts at reauthorizing these programs were unsuccessful in recent Congresses, in characteristic fashion he managed to carve out significant common ground between the parties on both issues.

John's efforts on these issues were a great service to the Nation, as was his support for another issue recently before this body—campaign finance reform. While John and I did not always see eye to eye about each aspect of campaign finance reform, he characteristically found common ground on which we could agree and lent his invaluable credibility to our efforts.

I was also fortunate enough to work with Senator Chafee in the area of health care reform where he displayed an unparalleled commitment to improving access and quality of health care for those most in need. His ability to rise above partisanship enabled him to do the real work of the people, working in bipartisan coalitions to address problems in the managed care system and doing the vitally important work of examining health promotion, disease prevention, and improving health care quality.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of working with Senator Chafee to draft

legislation to refine portions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 that have adversely affected home health care agencies.

In everything he did, John Chafee brought a quiet dignity to his work and to the work of this body. We all benefited from the spirit of civility and bipartisanship he fostered during his 23 years in the Senate. I hope we can cherish and nurture that spirit in the years to come.

I extend my deepest condolences to John's family, his wife Ginny, his 5 children, and 12 grandchildren. John Chafee was a hero in battle, a distinguished Secretary of the Navy, a great leader as Governor of Rhode Island, and a towering figure in the Senate for more than two decades. His life was an inspiration to all those who believed public service can, indeed, be an honorable profession. All of us who had the opportunity to work with him will cherish his memory and do our best to honor his legacy to the Nation.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I join with my colleagues, many who are honoring John Chafee today. He was a proud New Englander and a person, in my opinion, who embodied the spirit of service which characterizes so many of his contemporaries and those who came before him, not only from his State but across the Nation, especially from New England.

He came out of a culture which always put public service first. To him, public service was the purpose of being an elected official. He had no other cause or commitment other than doing well by the people he represented and by his Nation.

There is a lot of identity I have shared with John Chafee, more in the sense of a father figure than as a comrade or a contemporary, during my years growing up. He went to Yale at about the same time my father went to Yale. Then he went to Harvard Law School about the same time my father went to Harvard Law School. He was elected Governor not too long after my father was elected Governor. So there was a parallel career path.

In my household in New Hampshire, the name John Chafee, although it came from the distant State of Rhode Island, echoed with great respect. It was a name that had attached to it an understanding that there was a leader who was committed to his Nation and who understood that to be a good leader, you had to be concerned for others first. He was a person who set a standard for all of us.

When I arrived at the Senate and I met Senator Chafee as a contemporary, so to speak, I had great anticipation because he was literally a very large figure for me as I grew up and a large figure within the New England community. I would not have been surprised had he been a person who just sort of smiled at a new Senator and said: Nice

to have you here; we'll see you in a couple years when you get your feet on the ground.

No, that wasn't John Chafee's style. He reached out to me, as he reached out to so many Senators who had served with him, both new and those who served with him for a considerable period of time. He said: Join me; I have some ideas. Sit down with me and listen to them. I would like to hear your ideas.

He brought me into this council he had begun, the centrist group, and treated me as someone whose thoughts and concerns were equal to his and were of legitimate importance and significance. I greatly appreciated that, coming from someone with his senior status and great knowledge on issues such as health care. It was really an experience in how one builds consensus to deal with John Chafee at any time but especially during the first few years I served in this body. My respect for him only grew as I had the opportunity to serve with him over the years.

There was no issue he undertook that he did not undertake as a person committed to identifying and obtaining a thoughtful and substantive response to that issue. I never experienced at any time his addressing an issue in a partisan way or in a political way in the negative sense but always in a constructive way and in a manner in which he was looking towards resolution. He would take the most complex issues that this body had to address, issues such as Medicare, the general health care system, environmental laws, issues which created great fervor and intensity on both sides of the aisle. He would sit down and, through the force of his personality, which was one of generosity and intelligence, of sincerity and of commitment, sift through the issue and work with the parties and, more often than not, be able to reach a consensus position—an extraordinarily impressive individual.

His greatest strength, I think, was that he was just plain Yankee. He had a way about him that is personified by the Yankee mystique. It can be defined as being honest and committed, patriotic—of course, a lot of other people fall in that category, too—but there was also that willingness to be precise, curt, some may say, the willingness to cut through the large ferocity of this body to the essence of an issue quickly, and the understanding always that our purpose is to serve. His purpose above all was to serve the people of Rhode Island and the people of this Nation.

As with everyone else in this body, my heart goes out to Ginny and his family. We wish them, during this time of difficulty, Godspeed, and we are thankful for the time which we had with John as he showed us how to be a good citizen, a good legislator and, most importantly, a good American.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, twice I have spoken about John Chafee. He was one of the very special people. We just can't stop thinking about him or talking about him. I will not take a great length of time except to say that as I was listening to my colleague from New Hampshire and other colleagues, it really struck me that he was the quintessential, almost perfect public servant.

I believe service is the most noble human profession—service to family, service to church, service to community, service to friends, public service. There is no more noble pursuit than service. John Chafee epitomized public service.

I wish Americans could have known John Chafee and could have watched him and been with him during the day. If American schoolchildren were to have been with John Chafee, watched John Chafee, I know one thing, most everybody would have wanted to be a Senator. Most everybody would have wanted to emulate John Chafee; he was so good. He taught by example. Somewhat by words, somewhat by telling students what to do, but much more by example.

We are all almost in awe of John Chafee because of his example, what he did. He didn't make a big thing about it. He didn't brag about himself. He didn't try to take credit for anything. He just acted according to what he thought was in the country's best interest and in Rhode Island's best interest. It was just by accident that I learned only a couple years ago that he was a highly decorated Korean war hero. There are Senators on this floor sometimes who like to brag about their exploits in the armed services or at least allude to them and hope that somebody asks them more questions about it, pursue it a little more. Not John Chafee.

If John Chafee's staff would write a statement or a speech on his behalf and allude to his service in Korea or Guadalcanal as a veteran, he would strike it. He didn't want to brag about anything. He didn't want to brag about all the awards he had been given. He was that kind of guy. To me, they don't get any better. There aren't many cut from that bolt of cloth these days.

I wish more people could have seen and watched John as a person, as he was, and a Senator. I know this country would have a much higher regard for public service if they just knew who John Chafee was.

This is really John Chafee's day. I hope we all will savor the good thoughts and the wonderful memories of John, this day and in future days.

OPENING JAPANESE MARKETS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, when we go to H.R. 434, I am going to introduce a sense-of-the-Senate resolution encouraging the U.S. Government to pursue its bilateral measures with Japan and urge the United States to urge