

Bananas had a trade complaint, the administration did not hesitate to slap a 100-percent tariff on imports from Europe. But when our workers and working families ask for some relief under Section 201, which provides for quotas and is WTO-legal, then all of a sudden there is no relief forthcoming.

Finally, I make a point that this crisis is not the fault of steelworkers. They should not be the ones asked to pay the price. I am in complete agreement that we ought to care fiercely about what happens in Russia, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, and other countries as well, but again I see another double standard. When our financial interests, when a lot of our Wall Street interests, if you will, wanted to be able to invest capital in these countries and take capital out at a second's notice, when they wanted to put hot capital in and take hot capital out without any regulatory framework in place, they were pleased to do so as long as they were making huge profits. Then when they decided to pull their capital out, these countries were left in terrible trouble. When it came to whether or not there would be IMF bailouts and whether or not there would be any kind of public dollars to help these financial interests out, again we had an administration that was all for these Wall Street interests.

I come to the floor of the Senate today to say this administration ought to really put working families—steelworkers of the Iron Range, steelworkers all across the country—as high on its list of priorities as Wall Street investors. And not just those steelworkers but the communities where they work and the communities where they live.

This bill, H.R. 975, is a good place to start. I thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership. I am proud to be out here on the floor speaking on this legislation. I hope we not only get votes for cloture, but we get more than enough votes to override any Presidential veto. This is a critically important vote that is going to take place within the next hour.

I yield the floor.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2000 AND 2001

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before we get into this traffic jam timewise, I want the Chair to state what the situation is with the time agreement so there will be no mistake about it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 11:35 a.m., we have a new time agreement that will begin with 40 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders, or their designees, on the cloture vote on the motion to proceed on H.R. 975.

Mr. HELMS. So there are 5 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 5 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I did not know that was the situation before us. As I understand, at 11:35 a.m., under a previous unanimous consent, there will be 40 minutes of debate equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Preceding the vote at 12:15 p.m.; the Senator is correct.

Mr. BIDEN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. HARKIN. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. BIDEN. I suggest the Senator start, and if no one is here to speak on the steel bill, while he is still speaking, we might be able to ask consent for him to continue. Otherwise, he can pick up afterward.

Mr. HARKIN. That makes sense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and ranking member, the managers of the bill, for including the amendment I had offered in the managers' packet. I thank Senators WELLSTONE, KOHL, LAUTENBERG, KENNEDY, DODD, TORRICELLI, WYDEN, and FEINGOLD for cosponsoring this sense-of-the-Senate resolution regarding the recent adoption in Geneva by the International Labor Organization of the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

June 17, 1999 marked a historic event in the battle to end the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor. By a unanimous vote, the International Labor Organization's member states approved a new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

For the first time in history, the world spoke with one voice in opposition to abusive and exploitative child labor. Countries from across the political, economic, and religious spectrum—from Jewish to Muslim, from Buddhists to Christians—came together to proclaim unequivocally that "abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice which will not be tolerated and must be abolished."

Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is an acceptable practice because of a country's economic circumstance. Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is acceptable because of cultural traditions. And gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is a necessary evil on the road to economic development. The United States and the international community as a whole unanimously for the first time laid those arguments to rest and laid the groundwork to begin the process of ending the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor.

Mr. President, for the better part of a decade, I have been in my own capacity working to do what I can to end abusive and exploitative child labor around the globe, including in the United States. The ILO estimates that there are about 250 million children worldwide, many as young as 6 or 7, who are working, economically active. These are not just part-time jobs. Many of them work in dangerous envi-

ronments which are detrimental to their emotional, physical, and moral well-being.

Just last year, I traveled to Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh where I witnessed the travesty of abusive and exploitative child labor firsthand.

This chart is a picture I took myself. This is in a small plant, a factory, to use the term loosely, hidden away on the outskirts of Katmandu. I was there on a Sunday, and Sunday evening I was accompanied by a young man who is a former child laborer. He took me to this place on the outskirts of the city where, because of friends working there who said the owner was gone and he knew the guard at the gate, we got in surreptitiously. In fact, the sign on the outside of the gate said no one under the age of 14 was permitted to work there. It was a big sign in both English and in Nepalese.

Once we got in, we saw kids as young as 6 and 7. This is just one of the many pictures I took depicting these kids working full time, and this was in the evening. This was probably about 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening on a Sunday.

In India, I met children who were liberated from hand-knotted carpet factories where they were chained—chained, Mr. President—to looms and forced to work as many as 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. These children were nothing more than slaves. They earned no money. They received no education. They had no hope for a future until they were freed by the South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude, headed by Kailash Satyarthi. I can tell you that I myself have only glimpsed into the dark world of exploitative child labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has—

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senator, how much time does he need?

Mr. HARKIN. I need probably 10, 15 minutes. I do not know if my colleagues are here to speak under the previous order. I will have to come back.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I will ask that the Senator be able to proceed after we vote on the cloture motion to proceed to the steel bill during the party caucus recess.

Mr. HARKIN. As I understand, there will be 40 minutes of debate and then we will have a vote?

Mr. BIDEN. Correct.

Mr. HARKIN. Are we going to come back to this bill right after that vote?

Mr. BIDEN. Yes. What we do not want to do is hold up the Holbrooke hearing. We will ask unanimous consent that Senator DODD have 15 minutes and that the Senator from Iowa have possibly another 10, 15 minutes during the period of the party caucuses in order to meet the deadline of the Holbrooke hearing at 2:30 p.m., which we have been fighting to get for a year and a half. That is the objective.

Obviously, the regular order is to move to steel. Unless my steel colleagues are willing to yield the Senator

from Iowa 15 minutes now, which he can request, I know of no other alternative. The Senator might ask.

Mr. HARKIN. If my colleagues are not going to speak on the steel bill, then I will add the time to continue my remarks.

REDUCTION IN VOLUME STEEL IMPORTS—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 11:35 a.m. having arrived, there will now be 40 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders, or their designees, prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 975, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, H.R. 975, the steel import limitation bill:

Trent Lott, Rick Santorum, Mike DeWine, Jesse Helms, Ted Stevens, Harry Reid, Byron Dorgan, Orrin Hatch, Jay Rockefeller, Robert C. Byrd, Robert Torricelli, Fritz Hollings, Pat Roberts, Arlen Specter, Richard Shelby, and Craig Thomas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. SANTORUM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time to the Senator from Pennsylvania?

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I control the time in favor of the cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 886

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I have a unanimous consent request from the leader.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XII, immediately following the 12:15 p.m. vote, Senator DODD be recognized to speak relative to the State Department authorization bill for up to 15 minutes. I further ask unanimous consent that following his remarks, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. for the policy conferences. I also ask that at 2:15 p.m. today, there be 5 minutes equally divided for debate on the Feingold amendment, and following that debate, the Senate proceed to a vote on the Feingold amendment No. 692. I ask unanimous consent that following the vote, Senator HELMS be recognized to offer the managers' amendment and it be considered agreed to. Finally, I ask there be 5 minutes equally divided between the chairman and ranking member for closing remarks, that the bill then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BIDEN. Reserving the right to object, I ask the Senator to withhold that request. I know he was doing it as a favor. I appreciate it very much, but two things intervened in the last 5 minutes. I ask him to withhold that unanimous consent request for now.

Mr. SANTORUM. I withhold the request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Holly Vineyard, a Finance Committee detailee from the Department of Commerce, be granted floor privileges during the pendency of H.R. 975.

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

Mr. SANTORUM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. I yield myself 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the issue of steel quotas.

Senator ROCKEFELLER, who is my counterpart on the Democratic side leading this debate, and I are not people who have come to the floor of the Senate in favor of quotas. In fact, we think we are driven to this point as people who believe in free and fair trade, to ask the Senate to consider imposing quotas on the dumping of steel in this country by foreign nations.

It is remarkable what has occurred. It is unprecedented what has occurred in the steel industry over the past 2½ years. We have seen the level of steel rise, as far as imports into this country, two, three, four, five times the amount from some countries in the past 2½ years—and it continues.

One of the mantras I hear from the administration, which is lobbying against this bill, is that the crisis is over. I can say that in the case of China, for example, the world's largest producer, just in the first 4 months of this year their dumping was up 80 percent—their imports were up 80 percent.

So if the crisis is over, why then was the largest steel manufacturer dumping more steel into our market in the first 4 months of this year?

We have a continuing problem. What Senator ROCKEFELLER and I, and others who have joined us in this cause, are suggesting is something, frankly, that is very modest. We are suggesting a quota for 3 years to stop this outrageous and, I might add, illegal dumping.

We have won or are winning every single dumping case in the international arena. Every single case we are winning because of the illegality of what is being done by our foreign competitors in the steel industry.

What we are asking is not to go to a low rate of imports; what we are ask-

ing is to go to a rate of import into this country, a share of imports in the domestic market equal to a level that has only been reached four times in the past 30 years. So arguably we are setting the bar very high.

We are not going in to protect an industry that is inefficient or that is uncompetitive. The steel industry today is the most productive, competitive, and efficient steel industry in the world. Yet they are being wiped out by subsidized, illegally dumped steel, costing us thousands of good-paying jobs and thousands of families not going home with paychecks to support their children.

I am very hopeful that we can get a bipartisan vote today to at least move to proceed to the bill. That is all this vote does. It says let's put this issue front and center in the Senate, let's point out to our competitors around the globe that the Senate is not going to step aside and allow this illegal dumping to continue, that we are going to debate it, that we take this issue very seriously, and that we are not going to allow this kind of illegal action to continue.

I know my 3 minutes are up. I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. I yield myself 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 975 and to urge my colleagues, in the strongest terms possible, to vote no on cloture. Let me explain why.

Our steel industry faces a serious challenge as a result of foreign competition. That challenge stems from the persistent overcapacity in the global steel industry that is the legacy of decades of foreign government interventionism.

The quota bill, however, does nothing to eliminate this overcapacity. What the quota bill does do is simply lock in a certain share of our market—the quota amount—for foreign imports at a vastly inflated price.

According to a study by the Institute for International Economics, this bill would raise steel import prices by about \$29 a ton. This represents a windfall of \$800 million to the lucky foreign producers who get their goods into the United States under the quota, with the price tag being paid by the American people.

While the bill does enrich certain foreign producers, it also poses a grave threat to our economy. For every 1 job in the steel industry, there are 40 jobs in the steel-using industries. These 40 workers manufacture autos, industrial machinery, kitchen appliances, and other products. All these jobs will be at risk as a result of the quota bill, because this legislation seeks arbitrary limits on the amount of steel coming