

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 703 and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 703. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Akaka	Edwards	Levin
Baucus	Feingold	Lieberman
Bayh	Feinstein	Lincoln
Biden	Graham	Mikulski
Bingaman	Harkin	Moynihan
Boxer	Hollings	Murray
Breaux	Inouye	Reed
Bryan	Johnson	Reid
Byrd	Kennedy	Robb
Cleland	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Conrad	Kerry	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kohl	Schumer
Dodd	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Durbin	Leahy	Wyden

NAYS—55

Abraham	Frist	Murkowski
Allard	Gorton	Nickles
Ashcroft	Gramm	Roberts
Bennett	Grams	Roth
Bond	Grassley	Santorum
Brownback	Gregg	Sessions
Bunning	Hagel	Shelby
Burns	Hatch	Smith (NH)
Campbell	Helms	Smith (OR)
Chafee	Hutchinson	Snowe
Cochran	Hutchison	Specter
Collins	Inhofe	Stevens
Coverdell	Jeffords	Thomas
Craig	Kyl	Thompson
Crapo	Lott	Thurmond
DeWine	Lugar	Voinovich
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Enzi	McCain	
Fitzgerald	McConnell	

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I notify Senators that this will be the last vote tonight. Tomorrow at 9:30, we will resume consideration of the agriculture appropriations bill which will be clean of the Patients' Bill of Rights. I urge Members to offer amendments to the agriculture appropriations bill as soon as possible. I yield the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 702

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 702, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 702. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Abraham	Frist	McConnell
Allard	Gorton	Murkowski
Ashcroft	Gramm	Nickles
Bennett	Grams	Roberts
Bond	Grassley	Roth
Brownback	Gregg	Santorum
Bunning	Hagel	Sessions
Burns	Hatch	Shelby
Campbell	Helms	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Cochran	Hutchison	Snowe
Collins	Inhofe	Stevens
Coverdell	Jeffords	Thomas
Craig	Kyl	Thompson
Crapo	Lott	Thurmond
DeWine	Lugar	Voinovich
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Enzi	McCain	

NAYS—47

Akaka	Feingold	Lieberman
Baucus	Feinstein	Lincoln
Bayh	Fitzgerald	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Boxer	Hollings
Breaux	Breaux	Inouye
Bryan	Bryan	Johnson
Byrd	Byrd	Kennedy
Cleland	Cleland	Kerry
Conrad	Conrad	Kerry
Daschle	Daschle	Schumer
Dodd	Dodd	Kohl
Dorgan	Dorgan	Landrieu
Durbin	Durbin	Lautenberg
Durbin	Edwards	Leahy
		Levin

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

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

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

STEEL IMPORT LIMITATION ACT

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, unfortunately I was unable to vote on the cloture petition on the motion to proceed to H.R. 975, the Steel Import Limitation Act. If I was able, I would have voted against cloture. This legislation will not achieve its desired purpose and will only hurt American workers and consumers.

Some supporters of this legislation have asserted that this bill is necessary to support the steel industry. I am willing to do my part to ensure that America continues to have the most efficient and competitive steel industry in the world. The domestic steel industry plays an important role in protecting our national security by ensuring that we will have enough steel to build ships, tanks, planes, and missiles to protect the United States. Additionally, steel remains an important input in large sectors of our economy, including transportation equipment, fabricated metal products, industrial machinery and construction.

However, this legislation is not written to save domestic steel jobs, but instead will jeopardize American jobs. For every 1 job that produces steel, 40 jobs in the downstream industries use steel. If Congress passes this quota legislation, it will cause a shortage and drastic increase in the price of steel that will threaten the jobs of the 8 million employees in steel-using industries. For example, Caterpillar, Inc. uses a heavy special-section steel for bulldozer track-shoes. This steel is not produced in the United States, so Caterpillar imports it from overseas to its American plants. If we pass this quota legislation, Caterpillar will not be able to import the steel it requires, which will threaten the jobs of Caterpillar's 40,261 workers in the U.S.

I also do not think that this quota legislation will help the steel industry. According to the Wall Street Journal, American steelmakers buy up to 25% of the steel coming into the United States. The steel companies need to buy this steel to reach their highest capacity of steel production. Weirton imports close to 400,000 tons of slab a year. Bethlehem Steel imported at least 416,000 tons of steel last year. If we shut off the necessary imports of foreign steel to these companies, how can they keep American steel product workers employed?

While I know that the steel industry has been affected by the dumping of foreign steel in the U.S. market, I believe that the proper steps have been taken to deal with this crisis. Since January, 1999, 42 antidumping and countervailing duty steel investigations have been initiated or completed. As a result of just one of these anti-dumping cases, duties of between 67.14% and 17.86% will be imposed on select Japanese firms. These duties will ensure that U.S. companies will have a better chance to compete.

That the existing process for handling anti-dumping cases is working is proven by the recent statistics on steel imports. Total steel imports dropped 42% from August, 1998, to April, 1999. In fact, April, 1999, imports are actually 6% below steel imports in April, 1997. Imports of hot-rolled steel, which account for 25 percent of all steel imports, fell 72% since the peak levels of November, 1998. Hot-rolled steel imports from Japan, Russia, and Brazil fell almost 100% from November to April. It is no wonder that Secretary Daley said in the Friday, June 18, Washington Post that "the steel crisis of '98, in my opinion, is over." Given the decline in recent imports, there seems to be no need for this legislation. These results, under existing law, were attained in a manner fully consistent with our obligations under the World Trade Organization.

This leads me to a more important point. We should not look at this legislation in only the narrow view of what it will do for the steel industry. Instead, we should see what it will do to the world economy.

The past two years have been devastating for many of our trading partners. Most of Asia is slowly turning the corner back from the disaster of the Asian economic crisis. Just recently, Japan announced a positive growth rate of 1.9% after six successive quarters of contraction. Both Brazil and Argentina have suffered from economic turmoil. In Europe, the Russian economy remains a basket case. Germany, the former European economic powerhouse, grew a mere 0.4% in real terms, and is on the verge of recession.

The United States must be careful not to do anything that will plunge the world into recession. If we were to pass this non-WTO compliant legislation, the likely result is that other countries will respond by limiting our products from their markets. The resulting trade wars could affect millions of workers and lead to economic and political turmoil. While some view such a result as extreme, we all should remember that the Smoot-Hawley tariff legislation started a similar series of trade wars in the early 1930s that directly corresponded to the rise of Hitler and the origins of World War II.

Some would urge us to pass this legislation with the hopes that it will emasculate the WTO. I can only tell you how much I regret this short-sighted view. The United States, more than any other country, created today's trading system based on the principles of free trade. It was developed after witnessing how the trade wars of the 1930s led to the worldwide calamity of World War II. The United States has pursued a trade policy based on open markets for more than 50 years under both Republican and Democratic leadership. We should not allow misguided politics to destroy all of the gains that we fought so hard to achieve, precisely when we are reaping the benefits of these policies.

Instead, the United States, which has the strongest economy in the world, should try to use its leverage to continue to open markets. We should open the November WTO Ministerial as the champions of competition and open markets, not hiding behind a wall of quotas and tariffs. We in Congress should do our part to ensure that the United States remains in its position of world leadership. Instead of debating this ill-advised quota bill, we should be passing fast track authority for the President. The President needs this authority to continue to make agreements to knock down foreign barriers to American goods. Additionally, we should pass legislation to grant NAFTA parity to our Caribbean allies and to give trade incentives to help Africa grow and prosper. My hope is that after we reject this current legislation, we can start debating real progress in trade policy and how we can eliminate barriers to foreign goods to ensure that our citizens continue to prosper into the 21st Century.

In conclusion, I congratulate my colleagues who voted against cloture on

the motion to proceed to this legislation. We will now begin the next global century not hiding behind barriers, but continuing the fight for open markets and prosperity.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few brief moments to comment on the cloture vote that just occurred regarding H.R. 975, the Steel Import Limitation bill.

As has been noted by several of my colleagues this afternoon, this was a difficult vote. There exist compelling interests on both sides of the steel quota issue that were only touched upon earlier. Without question, this legislation is critically important to those men and women involved in the steel industry who have suffered financially due to alleged steel dumping practices. At the same time, this bill could also have a profound effect on this country's trade policy and countless other American industries' relationships with our foreign trading partners.

Understanding that these are cursory assessments of the deeper substance of this bill, I present them simply to underscore the need to discuss the bill at greater length, to emphasize the importance of allowing Senators the opportunity to articulate their specific concerns and positions on this legislation. This was not a vote on final passage or a vote to support this bill in its current form. Rather, it was a vote to move forward and fully consider this legislation and amendments to it. Regardless of one's opinion on the impact of this legislation, it deserved the chance to be considered and debated completely and fairly.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA'S COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. As the Senate moves toward consideration of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000, I want to note the significant efforts being made by the Government of Bolivia in its counternarcotics program. Since taking office in August, 1997, the government of Hugo Banzer has reduced Bolivia's cocaine production potential by a remarkable 40 percent. This is historic progress, which I hope will be emulated by other nations in the region. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter I received from the Vice President of Bolivia, Mr. Jorge Quiroga Ramirez, which discusses the Bolivian Government's plans and seeks continued American assistance in its counternarcotics efforts.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRESIDENCIA DEL CONGRESO NACIONAL, VICEPRESIDENCIA-DE LA REPUBLICA,

La Paz, May 24, 1999.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to ask your help in addressing Bolivia's counter-narcotics needs

in the coming Fiscal Year. As you are aware the government of President Banzer has embarked on an ambitious program (the Dignity Plan) to end our country's involvement in the illegal drug trade by the time we leave office in 2002. To date, the Dignity Plan has produced impressive results. In just twenty-one months we have successfully eradicated close to 40% of coca crops that go into making cocaine, and we are on target to meet our goal of a drug-free Bolivia by 2002. Our success thus far has been achieved through a combination of national political will and assistance from the international donor community.

We are at a critical juncture in the development of the Dignity Plan. Having gained broad based domestic support for our policies, we now have to show our people that we can provide more legitimate commercial ventures as alternatives to coca in order to keep them from returning to coca planting in the future. It would be a profound tragedy for Bolivia and for the consumer nations if, after such successful eradication, we were unable to hold the progress gained. The Bolivian people are willing to leave the illegal narcotics circuit if we can show them that feasible commercial alternatives exist. Where we have accomplished this, re-planting rates are at historical lows and our system of community-based compensation (as opposed to individual compensation) provides the best incentives for keeping our farmers in legitimate agricultural enterprises.

Proud as we are of our record, we know that the most difficult work lies ahead. We must maintain historic levels of eradication while dramatically enhancing our Alternative Development efforts to ensure that this eradication holds. For these reasons we are turning to the international donor community, and especially to the United States. I must be candid in stating, however, that the levels of counter-narcotics and alternative development funding which have recently been proposed for Bolivia, will fall well short of our needs.

In February of this year I visited Washington to present a comprehensive budget for the last years of our Dignity Plan. This figure of \$384 million from the United States (coupled with our own contributions and those from Europe) across four years represents our best estimates of what will be required to move our country out of the international narcotics circuit. As a former Finance Minister I understand and respect the need for fiscal discipline and I know that the United States Congress is struggling with its own budget priorities for the coming years. I would point out, however, that we have a once-in-a generation opportunity to completely win a battle, in Bolivia, in the worldwide war against drugs. If we fail to meet this challenge it may take us decades to arrive at this point again as the credibility of counter narcotics programs will suffer.

I would like to again ask your help and support in locating the resources needed for complete funding of the Dignity Plan request. With the proper levels of assistance we can soon celebrate with the United States the day when my country is out of the drug circuit entirely and Bolivian based cocaine no longer plagues the streets of our countries. The war on drugs needs its first victory. With your help Bolivia can be that victory.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

JORGE F. QUIROGA R.,
Vicepresident of the Republic of Bolivia,
President of the National Congress.