

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to surveillance and information concerning the relationship between cervical cancer and the human papillomavirus (HPV), and for other purposes.

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. Under the rule, the bill will be read the second time the following day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2000

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 434, the African Growth and Opportunity Act. I further ask unanimous consent that the scheduled cloture vote occur at 10 a.m. on Thursday, with the time until 10 a.m. equally divided in the usual form.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. until 10 a.m., the Senate will debate the conference report to accompany the African trade/Caribbean trade initiative. At 10 a.m., the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on that legislation. If cloture is invoked, it is hoped a short time agreement can be made so a final passage vote can take place at a reasonable time. On Thursday, the Senate is also expected to begin consideration of the military construction appropriations bill. Therefore, additional votes will occur during tomorrow's session of the Senate.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BROWNBAC. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DASCHLE and Senator EDWARDS.

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

(The remarks of Mr. DASCHLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2541 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

AFRICAN-CARIBBEAN TRADE

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the conference report

on the Trade and Development Act of 2000, the so-called African-Caribbean trade bill.

When we debated this bill last October, I expressed my concerns about it, and what has happened is the fruition of what I was concerned about at that time. A bill that was bad when it left the Senate last October has become worse. This bill creates enormous risks for American textile businesses and American textile workers, with very little in the way of offsetting benefits.

Let me speak for a couple of minutes about what I think is wrong with this bill and what kind of risk I think it creates for American workers. When we negotiate trade agreements, in my judgment, there are certain fundamental principles that should always be adhered to: First, they must be negotiated and multilateral; that is, both sides give up something; second, that they create a fair and enforceable system so the trade agreements don't become an empty shell but in fact there is a real and meaningful mechanism for enforcing the trade agreements; third, they must have adequate labor and environmental protections; and, fourth, they must have real, tangible, and provable benefits for U.S. businesses and U.S. workers.

These bills do not meet those basic principles that ought to be complied with on every single trade agreement.

Senator FEINGOLD spoke very eloquently about the lack of adequate labor and environmental protections in these bills.

There are two other principles that have been violated in these bills. First is the requirement that they be multilateral and negotiated, the simple proposition being that if the American people and we as a country are going to lower our barriers, we ought to get something in return. That "something" is that the other countries that are subject to these trade agreements lower their barriers. That simply has not happened here.

What is happening is we are lowering our trade barriers while these other Caribbean and African nations are keeping their trade barriers completely in place. Their tariffs remain just as they were. There is no set of circumstances under which that kind of arrangement is equitable for American business or equitable for American workers.

Second, there has to be a real and meaningful mechanism for enforcing these provisions. One of the things that happened to this bill when it left the Senate is there was a complex set of enforcement mechanisms and provisions put in place. When the bill left the Senate, we had what was called yarn and fabric forward provisions, which basically said, as a matter of equity, we would allow the trade barriers to be lowered for those African and Caribbean nations that used yarn and fabric from the United States so that our workers and our businesses benefited.

Well, when the bill got to conference with the House bill, those provisions were changed. Now there are many African nations that are not required to use American yarn or American fabric. Secondly, they are allowed to use regional yarn and fabric; that is, yarn and fabric from that area.

So those are two significant changes in the bill since it left the floor of the Senate which have real and meaningful impact on American business and American workers.

Probably the more dangerous situation, though, is that created by the potential for transshipment. We talked about this on the floor of the Senate when this bill was debated the first time, and my colleagues are aware of this problem.

Transshipment, basically, is a situation where a country, such as China, which I think has the greatest potential for taking advantage of transshipment, ships their fabric and their goods through Africa only for the purpose of having a button sewn on or some other minor change in the product, and then the product is shipped to the United States.

The antitransshipment provisions of this bill are simply not adequate for a variety of reasons. One of the two most important is that the enforcement mechanism relies upon African countries for enforcement. The reality is—and all of us know it—that these African nations are not going to be able to enforce the provisions about transshipment. And we are going to have—at least there is real potential for—a massive transshipment by China and Chinese textile businesses through Africa to the United States. Transshipment has a real and devastating effect on American workers and American businesses, and we have seen some of those effects over the last 8 to 10 years.

I have some specific examples of this. In North Carolina, my home State, during 1999, these were the jobs that were lost as a result of cheap textile goods coming into the United States:

At Pluma, Inc., a plant located in Eden, NC, a small community, 500 jobs were lost when the plant was closed. Jasper closed a plant in Whiteville, NC, in September and 191 jobs were lost. Whiteville Apparel in Whiteville, NC, closed a plant in August and 396 jobs were lost. Stonecutter Mills in Rutherford and Polk in western North Carolina closed a plant in June—800 jobs lost. Dyersburg in Hamilton, NC, closed a plant in May—422 jobs lost. Levi Strauss closed a plant in Murphy—382 jobs lost.

Remember that we are only talking about 1999 at this point.

Burlington Industries, in January, closed plants in Cramerton, Forest City, Mooresville, Raeford, Oxford, and Statesville—2,600 jobs lost as a result; all of those occurring in 1999.

In 1999 alone, the South lost 55,000 textile and apparel jobs.

This is not an abstract position for the families and employees whose lives

are devastated as a result of these cheap goods coming into the United States.

A perfect example is Margie Brown. You heard me talk about Whiteville, NC, which was one of the areas in eastern North Carolina hardest hit by this flow of cheap goods into the United States. Margie Brown is 47 years old. She had a good job working at Jasper Textiles in Whiteville, NC. She made just under \$200 a week. She depended on it. Her family depended on the income from that job. It is what she was trained to do; it is what she knew how to do; and she felt good about what she did.

As a result of that plant being closed down, the reality exists all over North Carolina. In many cases there is no work for these folks; they have no comparable employment. There is nothing they can do with the education and the job training they have.

So she had nowhere to go. Today, instead of having a job she is proud of, being able to support her family, feeling good about going to work every day and doing the things that made her productive as an American citizen, she is on unemployment and she gets \$51 a week.

My point is that these are real people. These are real families, and the impact on them is devastating. We can't turn our heads on this. This is not hypothetical. This is not some theoretical thing we are talking about. It is all well and good for us to talk abstractly on the floor of the Senate about trade being good, about, in this case, this having some diffuse benefit to our country as a whole, but there are real people whose lives are being devastated by these trade agreements, real people who have nowhere to go to work tomorrow, who have no way of taking care of their families and who have lost all semblance of self-esteem.

These people, who oftentimes worked in textile mills for 20, 30, or 40 years—I do have to say at this point my dad worked in a cotton mill basically his whole life. During the summers, in high school and college, and then in law school, I saw firsthand the people who spent their whole lives in these textile mills and these cotton mills. They do not know anything else.

We can talk about the technological world we now live in and how these people have to make a transition because the world is changing. The reality is, many of them are 50 or 60 years old and have spent their whole life working in the mill. They have nowhere to go. They have no idea what to do about their families. They are put on the street after working every day for the last 30 or 40 years. What do they say to their kids? What do they say to their spouses about what they are going to do?

My point is that these trade agreements have a real impact on real people's lives, and we all have to recognize it. In fact, this particular agreement is going to do nothing but accelerate the

problem. The Margie Browns I just described will be all over North Carolina and the southern United States.

The reason is very simple: The average apparel wage in the United States is \$8 an hour.

Of some of the countries that are covered by this agreement: In Mexico the average wage is 85 cents an hour; the Dominican Republic, 69 cents an hour; El Salvador, 59 cents an hour; Guatemala, 65 cents an hour; and, Honduras, 43 cents an hour.

You don't have to be a mathematical wizard to figure out that there is no way for American workers under these circumstances to compete, and there is no way they are going to keep their jobs.

What will happen is China is going to ship goods through Africa. In all likelihood, there will be massive transshipping with no way to stop it, no way to detect it, and no way to enforce the antitransshipment provisions of this bill. As a result, people all over North Carolina and the United States are going to lose their jobs.

We are playing with fire. I said this when we debated the bill last fall. I say it again. The only thing that has changed is the fire has gotten hotter. It has gotten more dangerous.

There are more American workers whose jobs are going to be lost, and this conference report it does not meet the fundamental principles of equity, the principles that ought to apply to every trade agreement, the principles that are needed to protect our businesses and our textile workers in the United States.

They are perfectly willing to compete. They just want the chance to compete on a level playing field. The other countries aren't lowering their barriers. We are. We know there are going to be goods transshipped through Africa from China and other places. And there is no way to prepare for that. The net result is this is not an abstract thing. Real people, real families, lives and jobs are about to be changed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, thank you very much. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

Mr. GRAMS. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

PARK SERVICE SNOWMOBILE BAN

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes today to talk about the Department of Interior's recent decision to ban snowmobiling in most units of the National Park System.

While the Interior Department's recent decision will not ban snowmobiling in Minnesota's Voyageurs National Park, it will impact snowmobiling in at least two units of the Park System in my home state—Grand Portage National Monument and

the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. In addition, this decision will greatly impact Minnesotans who enjoy snowmobiling, not only in Minnesota, but in many of our National Parks, particularly in the western part of our country.

When I think of snowmobiling in Minnesota, I think of families and friends. I think of people who come together on their free time to enjoy the wonders of Minnesota in a way no other form of transportation allows them. I also think of the fact that in many instances snowmobiles in Minnesota are used for much more than just recreation. For some, they're a mode of transportation when snow blankets our state. For others, snowmobiles provide a mode of search and rescue activity. Whatever the reason, snowmobiles are an extremely important aspect of commerce, travel, recreation, and safety in my home state.

Minnesota, right now, is home to over 280,000 registered snowmobiles and 20,000 miles of snowmobile trails. According to the Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association, an association with over 51,000 individual members, Minnesota's 311 snowmobile riding clubs raised \$264,000 for charity in 1998 alone. Snowmobiling creates over 6,600 jobs and \$645 million of economic activity in Minnesota. Minnesota is home to two major snowmobile manufacturers—Arctic Cat and Polaris. And yes, I enjoy my own snowmobiles.

People who enjoy snowmobiling come from all walks of life. They're farmers, lawyers, nurses, construction workers, loggers, and miners. They're men, women, and young adults. They're people who enjoy the outdoors, time with their families, and the recreational opportunities our diverse climate offers. These are people who not only enjoy the natural resources through which they ride, but understand the important balance between enjoying and conserving our natural resources.

Just three years ago, I took part in a snowmobile ride through a number of cities and trails in northern Minnesota. While our ride didn't take us through a unit of the National Park Service, it did take us through parks, forests, and trails that sustain a diverse amount of plant and animal species. I talked with my fellow riders and I learned a great deal about the work their snowmobile clubs undertake to conserve natural resources, respect the integrity of the land upon which they ride, and educate their members about the need to ride responsibly.

The time I spent with these individuals and the time I've spent on my own snowmobiles have given me a great respect for both the quality and enjoyment of the recreational experience and the need to ride responsibly and safely. They've also given me reason to strongly disagree with the approach the Park Service has chosen in banning snowmobiles from our National Parks.