

These inequalities, Mr. Speaker, begin early in life. Young girls are less likely to be informed about the risks and dangers of HIV/AIDS and also far more likely than boys to be coerced or even raped. Even when they are taught about prevention, they are often unable to avoid unsafe sexual practices because of their lack of social influence.

Mr. Speaker, many of us may ask, what can we in this country do to change the status of women in sub-Saharan Africa? Well, there are many things that we can do. There are many things that we can and must do right now.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, we must focus national and international policies toward the eradication of poverty in order to empower women. Right now, Mr. Speaker, we must affirm the human rights of girls and women to equal access to education, skills training and employment opportunities. Right now, Mr. Speaker, we must intensify efforts to determine the best policies and programs to prevent women and young girls from becoming infected with HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot we can do and we must do it right now.

DEVELOPING A COMMONSENSE, COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, this week there will be a number of different energy policy proposals that will be introduced, a number of events that will attract a lot of attention, attract a lot of press; and we are at the outset of a time when Congress will be asked to take on the very difficult task of trying to develop a commonsense, comprehensive national energy policy.

This is a complicated issue, and we really should not take a simplistic approach. In that context, we should not take a simplistic partisan approach. Energy should not be a partisan issue. We should find a common ground within this body to tackle such a complicated issue.

We are going to hear concerns about this issue, where we talk about some short-term issues and some long-term issues, and it is important to consider both of those time frames in terms of making good public policy decisions.

The short-term is the set of issues that we can all relate to the most, because we are all consumers in this country and we have all felt the pain of the gas pump. We have all seen our electric bills come in at higher prices. We have all seen our gas bills come in at higher prices.

The short-term issue is the more tangible issue. Although it is the more tangible issue, it is also one that is very complicated to solve, because there are not too many options we

have right now. But we should recognize that consumers are feeling the pinch.

We should promote policies that encourage any potential incremental production that we can accelerate quickly to bring to market, and we also need to encourage policies that are going to encourage efficiency and better use of our energy supplies.

That is really the best weapon we have got in terms of short-term solutions to our energy supply problems, because if you really want to take a step back and talk about the problem, as I said, it is very complicated in nature. It comes down to where we have a supply and demand imbalance. And in the short-term, supply is going to be very hard to affect so we really need to take a look at the demand side and see what we can do.

There are a lot of technologies out there right now. This is not something where we have to come up with something new. These technologies exist today, they are proven, and we have to be smart about how we use energy in our country.

But let me shift to the long-term issues, which get to be a broader range of issues we need to talk about. We need to talk about ways to enhance our supplies; there is no question about it. We need to do this in a comprehensive, balanced way. We need to rely on technology to give us the best available options for creating additional energy supplies.

From a public policy perspective here in Congress, we need to try to create a more predictable policy environment. I used to work in the energy business. I know how complicated it can be when you want to site a power plant and you are trying to figure out, what are the rules? I have to play by the rules, but I do not know what they are.

We need to create a situation where we have more transparent rules, a more transparent situation, so people can make informed decision, because we are talking about investments of hundreds of millions of dollars in an individual energy facility. If we are going to make those types of investment decisions, we have to have a predictable future about what the marketplace is going to look like and what the rules of the game are going to.

So I call on Congress to make sure that as we make these policy decisions, we do not make the situation more complicated. We need to pursue something where we are clear and predictable in the policy environment.

Energy should not be characterized as a partisan issue. Our constituents expect more of us. Our constituents recognize how difficult energy policy can be. They are also feeling the pinch today. I think as we sit here at the outset, it is important for us to take a step back and make a commitment to take a good balanced comprehensive approach, looking at both supply and demand, and address this in as comprehensive a manner as possible.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim the time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) in order to present my 5-minute special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REPORT OF CHURCH LEADER DELEGATION TO MEXICO WITH REGARD TO EFFECTS OF NAFTA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for allowing me to precede him here this evening. He is always very gracious and accommodating to other Members.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I begin what will be a series of 5-minute speeches to place in the RECORD information about a very important trip on our continent that was taken by religious leaders of Canada to Mexico in a fact-finding trip subsequent to the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA.

They traveled there in late March and early April, and in fact have produced probably one of the finest documents I have had the opportunity to read regarding what has happened in the last 7 years post-NAFTA. The delegation included representatives of the Presbyterian Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the United Church of Canada, the Canadian Religious Conference, and the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America. They traveled throughout Mexico to all different regions, and this evening I will only talk about a few of the areas that they visited.

The compelling report that they have produced tells all of us who are going to be faced very shortly with a vote on fast-track extension, to move NAFTA to expand its concepts to all of Latin America, to think twice about what we are doing and to go back and redress some of the horrendous conditions that the original NAFTA agreement has created in our own country and in the other two major nations on this continent, Canada and Mexico.

The group first visited the Sierra Tarahumara, which is in the central part of the country in the region of Chihuahua, and I will only read parts of their written report. They begin saying, "In the once densely forested mountains of the Tarahumara Sierra, we met with the indigenous communities of San Alonso, who gave us a letter for our government, signed with their thumbprints that pleads for 'an end to the impoverishment of our people.'"

They said, "People here once lived from agriculture and from selling small amounts of timber, but changes to forestry controls under free trade have brought multinational corporations and clear-cutting. Soils for food crops are eroding," and it is important to say the soil layer in Mexico is very thin. For them, it is survival.

They said, "Laws have been imposed that favor companies from other countries. The local Catholic Church referred to legislation that had preceded NAFTA's passage, and said these laws have enabled much wealth to be taken from the Sierra, leaving behind growing poverty."

They said, "We saw the impact of this in the ulcerated sightless corneas of a child, whose mother had nothing to feed him now, but a soup of ground corn. We sat with an indigenous woman who had brought her dying baby to a dispensary run by nuns, and heard that 48 percent of infants in the Sierra die before the age of 5 because of chronic malnutrition. Other than suicide, a new phenomenon in these indigenous communities, the nuns told us, many see only two alternatives: To cultivate marijuana or poppies for drug traffickers or to migrate north in search of work, abandoning ancestral land, breaking up families and splintering communities."

They said, "In the community of Baborigame, we heard how 48 percent of children die before the age of 5 from poverty-induced chronic malnutrition. We personally witnessed the desperation of mothers of children who had died. The Carmelite Sisters told us that the situation is worsening. Indigenous people who once were able to eat corn and beans now often can only afford to eat a soup of ground corn, and lately they also have witnessed a new cause of death previously unheard of in these historic indigenous communities, suicides due to sheer hopelessness."

The report goes on to talk about policies associated with NAFTA have effectively privatized what were once community lands, or ejido lands, that provided rural and indigenous communities with guaranteed land in perpetuity. Unable to get a just price for their products and saddled with overwhelming and unpayable debts, Mexican farmers are increasingly being forced to sell those lands, leading to a growing concentration of land in few hands.

They say those buying up the land and who are renting from farmers unable to make a go of it, including multinationals like PepsiCo, have basically used the land now to produce potatoes for the fast food market in our three countries.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue in the future. I will enter this particular report in the RECORD.

REPORT OF THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH LEADERS
DELEGATION TO MEXICO—MARCH 28—APRIL 6,
2001

INTRODUCTION

From March 28 to April 6, 2001, five Canadian church leaders travelled to Mexico as

part of an ecumenical fact-finding delegation organized by the Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America (ICCHRLA). The delegation was made up of: Rev. Glen Davis, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada; Mgr. Jean Gagnon, Auxiliary Bishop of Quebec City; Archbishop Thomas Morgan, Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon; the Very Rev. Robert Smith, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada; Sr. Priscilla Solomon, Canadian Religious Conference; Suzanne Rumsey and Kathy Price, Inter-Church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America.

The delegation's mission was to explore the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement—along with free trade policies and legislative changes that were implemented prior to 1994 in order to make Mexico "NAFTA-ready"—on human rights. The delegation's time in Mexico focused on three areas: visits with indigenous and non-indigenous communities in the Sierra Tarahumara; visits with communities of small farmers in Central Chihuahua; visits with workers and migrants in the Special Border Zone of Ciudad Juarez.

THE SIERRA TARAHUMARA

In the southern mountain region of the state of Chihuahua, known as the Sierra Tarahumara, our delegation visited indigenous communities where we heard how privatization of state Forestry Services and the lifting of controls over logging—policies implemented in the lead up to the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement—have coincided with the arrival of transnational forestry companies and intensive, largely unregulated logging. This has resulted in the denuding of forests that once provided edible plants, medicinal herbs and a livelihood to the Tephahuane, Raramuri and Huichol indigenous peoples, along with growing desertification, depletion of soils and shrinking of agricultural harvests. Meanwhile, we were told that NAFTA has enabled cheap wood imports to enter Mexico from countries such as the United States, Chile, Brazil and even Russia (via the U.S.), driving down the price that indigenous communities can obtain for the timber resources on their land, contributing to growing poverty as well as pressure to cut down more and more trees in order to make a living.

"We want the impoverishment of our people to end," states a simple yet eloquent letter we were given, signed by 73 members of the indigenous community of San Alonso, who asked us to pass it on to you. We have attached their letter to ours and ask you to read its urgent plea for controls to stop the degradation of their environment by the rapacious operations of multinational corporations. Efforts by communities to halt these practices have been largely ignored, or worse still, met with threats and violence.

The Catholic Diocese of the Tarahumara told us in unequivocal terms that NAFTA is to blame for the increased clearcutting by multinational companies that are destroying the region's forests. Indeed, the Diocese told us they have brought a complaint to the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in Montreal citing violations of Articles 14 and 15 of the NAFTA side agreement but to no avail. In "Our Word About the Destruction of the Forest" the Diocese states: "Laws have been imposed that favour companies from other countries . . . These laws have enabled much wealth to leave the Sierra, leaving behind growing poverty . . . Exploitation of the forest has brought no benefits to the majority of the inhabitants of the Sierra . . . If we do not halt the destruction, we are heading for death."

In the community of Baborigame, we heard how 48 percent of children die before the age

of five from preventable diseases that result from poverty-induced chronic malnutrition. We personally witnessed the desperation of a mother whose baby would have died, had the Carmelite sisters, who run a small dispensary, not taken him to the nearest hospital, three hours away. The Carmelite sisters also told us that the situation is worsening; indigenous people who once ate corn and beans, now often can only afford to eat a soup of ground corn and lately they have witnessed a new cause of death, previously unheard of in indigenous communities; suicides due to sheer hopelessness.

In such a context, many indigenous inhabitants feel they have little option but to choose between two terrible alternatives: abandon their land and migrate north in search of work (a process that is causing family, community and cultural disintegration) or turn to cultivating drugs like marijuana and poppies, illicit crops which unlike others, fetch a price that enables them to feed their families. Drug trafficking is present throughout the Sierra because there is no work, we were told by the Diocese of Tarahumara. "The people need to survive in this impoverished mountain region." We were outraged at the price these people are paying for their survival.

We also heard from the respected, church-based Commission for Solidarity and the Defence of Human Rights (COSYDDHAC) how instead of providing solutions to the hard economic realities and growing poverty that have forced some into drug cultivation, the Mexican government has militarized the region. COSYDDHAC has documented arbitrary detentions, torture, disappearances and assassinations committed by the police and military, who justify their actions in the name of the "war on drugs". In a joint letter to the Mexican government that was shared with us, Bishop Jose Luis Dibildox and 28 priests, religious and lay workers stated: "The methods used by the army create a doubt in the minds of the public as to what is the real aim of their actions, which in some instances seem to be responding to other interests, such as the militarization of Mexico, especially in indigenous regions."

In Baborigame, we witnessed the trauma and terror that repression by state security forces is causing amongst inhabitants of the community. We witnessed the pain of people whose relatives were shot down in cold blood, victims who included a local indigenous leader. We share the grave concern of the Tarahumara Diocese that "instead of seeking ways to ease tensions, and bring about well-being and peace, we see actions that will bring war and death."

THE FARMING REGION OF CENTRAL CHIHUAHUA

In rural communities in the state of Chihuahua, we witnessed the terrible human impact on small farmers of policies that have consciously neglected and excluded them. Since the implementation of policies that were entrenched in NAFTA, communities where families once made a living from farming basic grains for local markets and their own consumption have found it increasingly difficult to survive. As a result, men of working age are forced to abandon their farms and migrate north in search of temporary jobs. Many of them work illegally in the United States, having been unable to obtain a work visa. As a result, they are paid exploitative wages and denied the rights and benefits accorded to others.

The suffering caused by these realities was evident in our conversations with inhabitants of the communities we visited. "We have become half men because we are no longer able to provide for our families. We can no longer be husbands to our wives, or fathers to our children," we were told by

small farmers who must leave their communities in search of work for 4 to 5 months at a time. This means the women, as they told us, "are left to assume the roles of both women and men", taking on a triple work load of caring for their homes and families, looking after their farms, and often seeking paid work in order to feed their children.

The exodus from the countryside, as we were told by the respected Democratic Campesino Organization, as well as many of the farming families we met with, is a direct result of economic policies that were enacted to make Mexico NAFTA-ready. Unlike in the United States—and to a lesser extent in Canada—where basic grains producers continue to be subsidized for the costs of production, subsidies to corn producers in Mexico were completely phased out in 1997, 12 years ahead of schedule, thus creating an unlevel playing field. Moreover, since NAFTA came into effect in 1994, tariffs have been lifted and cheap corn and beans from the U.S. have flooded the Mexican market, making it impossible for Mexico producers to compete. In addition, free market policies that began prior to 1994 but which have been made permanent in NAFTA, have resulted in the elimination of credit for small farmers, leaving them at the mercy of local loan sharks who charge usurious interest rates.

All of these policies have had a predictable effect, one which was impossible to ignore in the faces of those we met with: increasing poverty and increasing desperation as families worry how they will get by from one day to the next. As in the Sierra Tarahumara, we heard of families reduced to a diet of cornmeal soup, and of the existence of preventable diseases due to chronic malnutrition. It is this situation, in which vast numbers are robbed of their very dignity, that is forcing people to leave in search of other means to survive, provoking family and community disintegration in the process.

Policies associated with NAFTA have also effectively privatized what were once communal or ejido lands, that provided rural and indigenous communities with a guaranteed land base in perpetuity. Unable to get a just price for their products and saddled with overwhelming and unpayable debts, Mexican farmers are increasingly being forced to sell those lands, leading to growing concentration of land in few hands. Those buying up the land or renting from farmers unable to make a go of it,—including multinationals like PepsiCo—have used vast extensions to produce potatoes for the fast food markets of the three NAFTA countries. In an arid state where we were told that "water is gold," PepsiCo was able to obtain access to wells, which small farmers had been denied, and its large scale irrigation has reduced the already alarmingly low water table. This, together with extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has meant that arable land is being destroyed, and with it, the means for rural Mexicans to be guaranteed the basic human right to adequate nutrition and food security.

It is clear to us that one of the factors that is fueling this crisis in the countryside is that a significant proportion of Mexico's gross domestic product is being used to service its foreign debt. We wish to share with you what we were told by the Democratic Campesino Organization, a position which we support: "Developing countries like Mexico need to have food security and policies that guarantee that security, because if they don't, the 40 million people who live in poverty and the 20 million people who live in extreme poverty in Mexico will continue to migrate north."

CIUDAD JUAREZ

In the border city of Ciudad Juarez—home to 397 maquila factories employing 281,000

workers that assemble electronics products and car parts for export to the United States and Canada—we saw where many whose means of survival has been eliminated under free trade in the Tarahumara Sierra, or the failed farms of the plains of Chihuahua, end up. It is a reality we would not wish on anyone. The political leaders of this hemisphere have, on numerous occasions, told their citizens it will take time for the benefits of free trade to be realized and equitably shared. In Ciudad Juarez we came face to face with what 30 years of free trade has wrought on countless human lives. That is because the city has operated as a free trade zone since the 1970s, when the first maquila assembly factories were established under rules that provide generous incentives for foreign investors, while workers are paid what can only be called exploitative wages and denied rights which Canadian workers take for granted. What we saw in Ciudad Juarez is nothing less than economic slavery.

Until the recent recession in the United States, unemployment in Ciudad Juarez stood at an astonishing 0 percent. Yet 58 percent of those fully employed workers and their families live below the poverty line. Of that total 18 percent live in poverty and 40 percent live in extreme poverty. In 1976, a maquila worker earned a salary in pesos that was the equivalent of US\$11 a day, yet the value of that salary is now as little as just US\$4.50 a day, due to currency devaluations under free trade. As one maquila worker put it, "You have the choice to clothe yourself or to feed yourself."

What does a maquila salary buy? We visited several colonias where maquila workers have no choice but to live and this was how one member of our delegation described his reaction: "I stood in the dust and saw houses pulled together, framed with packing pallets from the maquila, and covered with cardboard. I saw the barrels that once carried chemicals to the maquilas with their dwindling supply of tepid, unpotable water. And you know what I discovered? I discovered that these people are employed 10 to 16 hours a day producing cheap microwaves, cheap TVs, cheap computers for Canada. And our government says, "NAFTA is a good deal for Canada!" Mr. Prime Minister, you have not been to this shantytown. A day's work for a salary equivalent to the cost of a jug of milk is not a good deal for anyone! If my car is cheaper because of what I saw here, that is unacceptable."

In Juarez, we saw with our own eyes what a local priest had told us, you can work for a Fortune 500 company and live in a cardboard house. Indeed, we were appalled at the living conditions of thousands upon thousands of people who exist without decent housing, and without access to essential social services like water, sanitation, health care, and education.

Time and again, we heard from young workers about the dehumanizing impact of the highly controlled environment of the maquilas. Assembly lines are often sped up by supervisors in order to meet high production quotas, approval must be obtained for bathroom breaks, which are carefully timed and future breaks denied if the time is exceeded. Workers told us they are treated "like a machine, a cog in the wheel." Exhausted young women workers, demoralized by salaries that do not afford the means for anything more than basic survival, added: "The maquilas have robbed us of our dreams for a better future."

Workers also told us they are fearful about the long term effects of being exposed to chemical solvents without adequate protection, in denial of their right to a healthy work environment. As we heard repeatedly: "The only right people have here is the right

of a job. But in reality that's nothing more than the right to be exploited."

None of the maquila workers we spoke to in Juarez had the right to unionize freely to defend their rights. The experience of workers who have tried to challenge such a situation was brought home painfully to us by the testimony we received from maquila worker, Pedro Lopez, from the state of Tamaulipas. Mr. Lopez told us about his experience trying to help organize an independence union at the Duro Bag Company, a maquila where labour rights were routinely violated. The first such initiative to occur under the new administration of President Vicente Fox, the vote took place on March 2, in what can only be described as conditions of fear, intimidation and violence. Workers were locked inside the factory and had to declare their vote verbally (rather than a secret ballot) in the presence of heavily armed men (who the day before had entered the plant with machine guns), hired by the "official" union affiliated with Mexico's former ruling PRI party. International and Mexican observers were not allowed to enter. Needless to say, the independent union lost the vote. The following day, Mr. Lopez had to be hospitalized when his vehicle was forced off the road by two others, the "accident" leaving a scar still visible on his face.

The 3 metre high fence that runs along the border with the United States—a sign that desperate people from other parts of Mexico can come to Juarez to be a source of cheap labour in the maquila factories but are not welcome any further north—was always visible during our stay. Visible too was the militarized U.S. border patrol, posted along the fence at regular intervals. Borders between Canada, the United States and Mexico under NAFTA have been opened to the free passage of goods and capital but not to people.

It is deeply troubling to us that a wall has been erected on the border between the United States and Mexico under NAFTA, in contrast to the experience of Europe, where the Berlin Wall has been dismantled and the European Union has opened up its borders to increased movement of workers between member countries. As we heard from social organizations in Juarez, militarizing the border does not stop those desperate for the means to adequately provide for their families from trying to get across. It only makes the crossing more dangerous, as those attempting to get into the US take greater risks, such as picking routes that require days walking in the desert or other hazards. A study by the University of Houston recorded over 300 deaths during border crossings in 2000.

A VISIT TO NORTHERN MEXICO SHOWS JUST HOW BADLY ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY IS NEEDED—BUT WILL THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS ADDRESS THAT CHALLENGE?—APRIL 2001

Mexican President Vicente Fox's arrival in Canada is sure to occasion, on the part of apologists eager to have the Summit of the Americas extend free market policies, rhetoric that would be more suitable for the Second Coming. For they regard it as gospel that it was the North American Free Trade Agreement that brought democracy—and President Fox—to Mexico.

Fox is, by all accounts, a gifted and concerned leader, but I'd like to ask him and his NAFTA partners how they square the supposed arrival of democracy with the fence—steel, chain-linked, three metres high and guarded by armed Border Patrols at regular intervals—that I saw along Mexico's border with the United States.

It's a strange, capricious fence. Trucks roar through its gates night and day, loaded

with goods. Money floods over it; investments heading south, profits heading north. Canadians and Americans pass through, with only a cursory glance from officials. For Mexicans—at least, for the now 58 percent of Mexicans who live in grinding poverty despite their country's "rapid economic growth"—it's a different story. The fence is there to keep them out.

Earlier this month, I travelled to northern Mexico with other Canadian church leaders to see what has happened to those the fence was built to detain.

In the once densely-forested mountains of the Tarahumara Sierra, we met with the indigenous community of San Alonso who gave us a letter for our government, signed with their thumbprints, that pleads for "an end to the impoverishment of our people". People here once lived from agriculture and from selling small amounts of timber. But changes to forestry controls under free trade have brought multinational companies and clear cutting. Soils for food crops are eroding. "Laws have been imposed that favour companies from other countries," says the local Catholic Church, referring to legislation that paved the way for NAFTA. "These laws have enabled much wealth to be taken from the Sierra, leaving behind growing poverty."

We saw the impact in the ulcerated, sightless corneas of a child whose mother had nothing to feed him but a soup of ground corn. We sat with an indigenous woman who had brought her dying baby to a dispensary run by nuns, and heard that 48 percent of infants in the Sierra die before the age of five because of chronic malnutrition. Other than suicide—a new phenomenon in indigenous communities, the nuns told us—many see only two alternatives: cultivate marijuana or poppies for drug traffickers or migrate north in search of work, abandoning ancestral land, breaking up families, and splintering communities.

In the farmland of Chihuahua, families who used to make a living growing corn and beans have also seen their livelihood destroyed by so-called free trade. Promised that NAFTA would greatly improve their lot, Mexican corn producers saw subsidies eliminated by 1997—12 years ahead of schedule—along with credit for small farmers. Meanwhile, the lifting of tariffs has allowed a flood of cheap corn and beans from the U.S., where farmers can access 5 percent loans and subsidies at 46 percent of the cost of production. Unable to compete, Mexican farming families are struggling to survive. Once again, we heard how people are reduced to eating little other than corn and we witnessed the agony of families torn asunder, communities dispersed, as former farmers are forced north to the squalor of the border or the perils of crossing illegally into the United States, in search of the means to sustain their children.

Our last stop was Juarez, on the border with Texas, a city rapidly expanding with newcomers from the Sierra, from abandoned farms, and other parts of Mexico that have only got poorer under NAFTA. Many have been lured by the promise of a job in one of some 400 maquila factories that assemble car parts or electronics for Fortune 500 companies selling to North American consumers. "The maquila has stolen our dreams of a better future", exhausted women barely out of their teens, told us, explaining the pressures of the assembly line, impossibly high production quotas, repetitive motion injuries and salaries of just US \$4.50 a day.

Others told us about employment conditions that beggar description: forced to work unprotected in the presence of dangerous chemicals, their right to organize unions thwarted by managers who bring in thugs

armed with automatic weapons. Earning in a day the equivalent of a two-litre jug of milk, workers are condemned to slums, without potable water or sanitation, where many live in hovels made of discarded pallets, covered with cardboard.

"Good fences make good neighbors." That's what the poet Robert Frost's neighbour told him one spring day when they were out surveying the winter-ravaged stone wall that ran between their properties. Frost wasn't so sure. He wrote, "Before I built a wall I'd ask to know what I was walling in or walling out, and to whom I was like to give offense."

The work that Messrs. Fox, Bush, Chretien and their colleagues do this weekend will be an offense if it does not address the unconscionable disparity between rich nations, like Canada and the United States, and poor nations, like Mexico. Policies such as those enshrined in NAFTA, which guarantee the free play of market forces, are an offense because they deny that which is the first democratic right—the right not to starve to death. Then they compound the offence by building barriers—steel, chain-linked, three metres high—to wall the hungry out.

The day the fence is no longer necessary will be the day to celebrate the arrival of democracy—true democracy—in the hemisphere.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN H.P. "HAPPY JACK" CHANDLER

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

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great citizen, State Senator, and a former Congressional candidate, Jack Chandler of Warner, New Hampshire.

On May 3, 2001, Jack's family and friends joined together to remember this remarkable man who touched the lives of everyone he met in the 89 years he was blessed to walk this Earth. He was unique and at times even controversial, but all that met Jack Chandler agreed he loved his State and he loved his country, a patriot to the end.

Jack grew up in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and led a storybook life. He was a descendent of Nathan Hale, and his own convictions were rooted in the principles of our Nation's founders. In the tradition of Revolutionaries like Hamilton, he owned and operated his own newspaper, the Kearsarge Independent; and I am certain his editorials still blaze in the minds of many former readers.

Jack was a pioneer in New Hampshire's ski industry with the great idea to fill trains in Boston with skiers and welcome them to the slopes of the Granite State. A half century later, this tradition continues every winter weekend when the roads north are filled with skiers on the move.

As a politician, Jack Chandler was a genuine article. He stood firm in his beliefs and never hesitated to speak his mind. Perhaps he was one of the last in an age of politicians that never needed a poll to see where to stand on an issue. He constantly traveled his district, campaigning town-to-town and person-

to-person, always willing to lend an ear or a helping hand to a constituent. Although Jack did not believe in big government, he had a generous heart that even his critics grew to admire.

It is difficult to say good-bye to "Happy Jack," but I am grateful I had a chance to know him during his wonderful journey throughout New Hampshire. He made a huge difference in the lives of his constituents, his friends, but mostly his family. Godspeed, Jack Chandler.

CONCERN OVER ENERGY POLICY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the very patient gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight because people all over this Nation are concerned because they see their utility bills going way up with gas prices possibly heading to \$3 a gallon, according to many articles. All of this is happening at a time that other prices are going up. Our economy has been slowing for almost a year now, the dot.coms have taken a dive, and many major corporations have laid off thousands of people.

□ 1930

These things are happening. Utility bills are going up; gas prices are going up because of years of environmental extremism and actions by the administration of former President Clinton all coming home to roost.

For years now, we have had groups of environmental extremists all over this country protesting and stopping or delaying for years anytime anyone tried to drill for any oil, dig for any coal, cut any trees, or produce any natural gas. This has helped extremely big business, which has financed many of these groups, because it has driven thousands of small and now even medium-sized businesses out of existence or forced them to merge. In the late 1970s, I am told we had 157 small-coal companies in east Tennessee. Now there are none. Federal mining regulators opened an office in Knoxville, and the regulators and the environmentalists drove all of the coal companies out of business. The same thing has happened to small logging companies all over this country. I have read and heard that many small communities have been devastated.

Today, in the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, we heard testimony about a proposal for 400 pages of new regulations by the EPA on the runoff from animal feeding operations. All of the witnesses told us that this would drive many more small farmers out of business and lead to much more concentration by the big giants in the agriculture industry. Those on the left are always telling us they are for the little guy; but when they create this big government that