

the carbon monoxide and twice the hydrocarbon emissions per mile as engines running hot. These cold engine trips could most easily be replaced by bike rides.

Americans would experience additional advantages from increased bike usage. The decreased number of cars on our nation's highways would help reduce traffic and parking congestion. Congestion costs have reached as high as \$100 billion annually according to the Federal Highway Administration. A reduction in cars on the roads will decrease the high costs associated with congestion.

The "Conserve by Bike" amendment will also improve public health. The exercise from more frequent bike trips would help improve our physical well-being. Biking has proven to be effective in the prevention of heart disease, our nation's number one killer. And, biking has also shown to help individuals in the correction of health-impairing behaviors like smoking and alcohol abuse.

The "Conserve by Bike" amendment will help America take a simple but meaningful step in energy conservation. It will help fund 10 pilot projects that will use education and marketing to facilitate the conversion of car trips to bike trips, and document the energy savings from these trips. These projects will facilitate partnerships among those in the transportation, energy, environment, public health, education, and law enforcement sectors. There is a requirement for a local match in funding, so that these projects can continue after the federal resources are exhausted.

In addition, this amendment will fund a research initiative with the National Academy of Sciences. The study will examine such factors as weather, land use and traffic patterns, bicycle facility infrastructure, to identify what trips Americans could reasonably take by bike. It will also illustrate the benefits of converting bike trips to car trips, and explore ways that we can encourage Americans to pedal rather than gas guzzle.

It is imperative that Americans are fully informed of the entire range of benefits from biking in terms of energy conservation, air quality, and public health. We also need to provide the best resources in bike safety and convenience.

We have been spending a modest amount of federal, state and local funds on bicycle facilities since 1991. This amendment will leverage those investments and help people take advantage of the energy conservation choices they have in getting around their communities. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I see the distinguished Senator from Iowa in the Chamber. Does he wish to have the floor?

Mr. GRASSLEY. For about 6 minutes. Would that be possible?

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my patience is becoming greatly strained, but I will yield to the Senator.

I ask unanimous consent that I may yield to the Senator from Iowa for not to exceed 10 minutes, without my losing my right to the floor.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from West Virginia for his gracious attitude.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCES ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Earlier today, unanimous consent was requested on the part of Senator LOTT that the Andean pact come before the Senate. That request was not granted. So I rise to express my regret of that happening and to express my support for the fact that the Andean Trade Preferences Act legislation should be on the floor and should have been considered by now. I am concerned if the Senate doesn't act early on the Andean trade bill, that America's continued leadership in the international arena of trade will be severely impaired.

Specifically, I fear our failure to approve this legislation in a timely manner will undermine our ability to constructively engage with our Latin American neighbors at a time when many of them face enormous economic and political challenges.

Today, President Bush leaves on an important mission to Latin America. Just on Saturday, he will visit Peru, one of the Andean nations, where he will meet with four Andean leaders. President Bush's trip builds on a long tradition of promoting vigorous United States engagement with Latin America that started as far back as President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress in the 1960s.

As did President Kennedy, President Bush has a vision for Latin America. The President wants to tell our Andean neighbors—Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, and Ecuador—that the United States wants to be their hemispheric partner in peace. He wants to tell them that trade and prosperity go hand in hand.

President Bush wants to make the case that the benefits of trade are not just for rich countries like the United States; they are also for countries that aspire to become rich countries; for countries that want better, more secure lives for their citizens; for countries that want better health care, better education, and better futures for their children.

President Bush wants to encourage our Andean neighbors to use trade to promote economic development through a diversified export base as an alternative to the allure of the drug trade.

When President Kennedy unveiled his Alliance for Progress in 1961, he said if we were bold and determined enough,

our efforts to reach out to Latin America could mark the beginning of a new era in the American experience. This is just as true today as it was way back in 1961.

Through the Andean pact, and complimentary trade initiatives such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas, we can achieve a new era of hemispheric economic cooperation that benefits everybody—not just these four countries, not just the United States, but it has a benefit way beyond that.

The Andean nations know trade, not aid, is the best way to overcome the fragmentation of Latin American economies, and to build the self-sustaining growth that nourishes democratic institutions.

But because the Andean trade bill still languishes in the Senate—along with another important bill, trade promotion authority, another vitally important trade bill as well—the President's trip will not be as effective as it could have been if the Senate had acted. Obviously, we should expect our President to be successful and want him to be successful.

For a long time, we had a tradition in this country that politics stops at the water's edge. Unfortunately, that is not as true now as it once was. A lot of trade and foreign policy issues get entangled with our domestic partisan politics. I very much regret this development because it is very harmful to the U.S. leadership in any subject but particularly in the area of trade. It is harmful to the enhanced prospects for prosperity and peace that we are trying to promote around the world, and commercialization is a very useful tool in promoting world trade.

Mr. President, the other day, the lead editorial of the Washington Post addressed the issue of the Senate majority leader's failure to bring up the Andean trade pact. I would like to read a portion of that editorial, which appeared March 19 in the Washington Post:

The Senate's failure to help the four Andean states—Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia—is particularly egregious. A package of trade concessions has passed through committee and commands an overwhelming majority of the full chamber. . . . Only a handful of Senators opposes the package. But the Senate leadership has failed to bring it to the floor, making it likely that Mr. Bush will arrive in Peru empty-handed . . . at a time when American leadership in Latin America is being questioned, the least the Senate could do is to pass a trade measure that almost nobody opposes.

As is clear from my point of view, the time to act was months ago. But it is never too late to do the right thing. We had that opportunity today and it failed. So I urge my colleagues to, just as soon as we get back from the Easter recess, put not only the Andean pact but other trade issues very high on the agenda and get them passed and help us to help these Andean nations, which

are so poor and need our help. Trade is one way to get them the necessary help and develop a good economy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

SPRINGTIME JOYS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, after a mild and dry winter full of false starts, of periods of almost summery weather followed by cold and blustery winds, spring is truly here—here in all of its glory. In that subtle change, the gradual brightening of days and warming of the earth, most of us can sense our mood shifting. Our hearts are gladdened, our spirits are raised, our optimism is buoyed up by more than the improving economic forecasts. As we cast off the last days of winter and welcome in the spring, we shed our weary spirits along with our heavy coats. Spring is here. Here it is. How sweet it is—spring. Our hearts echo the deep joy of Samuel Pepys' song, the poet Robert Browning's ode to spring:

The year's at the spring
And the day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his Heaven—
All's right with the world!

The pansies that bloomed all winter on sheltered porches in bright defiance of the calendar are in their glory, joined by crocuses and nodding daffodils bursting through the cold earth. Lilac bushes are budding, promising sweet scents to come, and the gray and gnarled branches of old pear and apple trees are bursting forth in showy, snowy blossoms. Gregarious robins have returned, massed on warming lawns listening intently for industrious earthworms engaged in their subterranean tilling. Bluebirds flit and swoop among the still bare branches and the goldfinches, busy at the backyard feeders, are brightening their coloring in preparation for springtime courtship.

Color is washing over the land. Redbud trees add rosy tints to gray woodlands while cheerful daffodils and forsythia bushes sparkle amid drab lawns and gardens. If winter brings to mind the talents of artists in charcoal sketches or the great etchers with their mastery of pattern and shading in the bold geometry of bare branches carved against a snowy ground, spring calls for watercolorists and sketchers in pastels with bright translucent colors that capture the fragile clearness of the springtime sunshine. Summer and fall may belong to the oil painters with their deep saturated colors and massing of light and shade, but it takes a swift hand and brush to pin down the quicksilver moods of springtime.

Under foot, the cold ground yields to springtime loam begging for the gardener's spade. Dry stalks blush with the green glow of new growth that springtime's new calves tentatively nibble. The cattle are happy for the

fresh grass after a long autumn and winter eating hay. I know that farmers in West Virginia are hoping for good spring rains to replenish the water supplies and encourage a good growth of hay after last year's dry spells. Pastures have been cropped close and hay supplies are dwindling since the autumn drought sent pasture grass into an early dormancy. We need rain—soft rain.

Rain in the springtime is a lovely thing, gentle and welcome, unlike rain in other seasons. In summer, thunderstorms are violent, dramatic events, noisy and flooding, leaving streets steaming. In autumn, the rain can become monotonous, day after dreary day of steady sodden downpour filling the gutters with matted, decaying leaves. And in winter, cold, stinging sleet makes travel on dark roads and slick sidewalks treacherous. But in the spring, the rain is misty and companionable as my little dog Billy and I conduct our inspection tours of flower beds, the turf soft beneath our feet. Flower petals gain an added brightness from their raindrop ornaments. Spiderwebs become tiny crystal chandeliers draped with tiny drops in a soft and misty rain. And after the rain, there are rainbows shimmering like dreams overhead.

I asked the robin, as he sprang,
What made his breast so round and red;
Twas looking at the sun, he said.
I asked the violets, sweet and blue,
Sparkling in the morning dew,
Whence came their colors, then so shy;
They answered, "looking to the sky";
I saw the roses, one by one,
Unfold their petals to the sun,
I asked them what made their tints so bright,
And they answered, "looking to the sky";
I asked the thrush, whose silvery note
Came like a song from angel's throat,
Why he sang in the twilight dim;
He answered, "looking up at Him."

In springtime, at Eastertide, as we celebrate the great awakening of life reborn, one only has to look outside to appreciate the Creator's handiwork. The earth is His page, the seasons His poetry writ fresh for us each morning.

Welcome, yellow buttercups!
Welcome, daisies white!
Ye are in my spirit
Visioned, a delight!
Coming ere the spring-time,
Of sunny hours to tell,
Speaking to our hearts of Him
Who doeth all things well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Senate now proceed to a period of

morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

LITTLE BIG MAN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 46 years ago the South Dakota Democratic Party was hardly more than George McGovern, George Cunningham, and a beat up old station wagon. I was eight. Little did I know I would one day owe a career to those two men and that car.

One of those men is now world-famous, his name a synonym for political courage and common decency. The other, George Cunningham, is unknown to most.

But George Cunningham is known to me.

I know him as the man who flew quietly to South Dakota to rescue a political newborn from a life-threatening recount in 1978. I know him for his wise counsel during a testing challenge from Congressman Clint Roberts, and through the other muddles of my political adolescence. I know George as the man from whom my own George Cunningham, Pete Stavrianos, says he learned both his trade and his passion for that trade. And I know George Cunningham as the diabolical practical joker whose powers to disarm and confuse with his wit remain to this day the most powerful antidote to self-importance I have ever witnessed.

"GVC," as he was known to those familiar with his smoking IBM Selectric, is a man who has never taken himself too seriously, but has always fiercely insisted his lifetime profession be taken seriously.

I will never forget hearing about George Cunningham telling a reporter who asked about his polls during his campaign against Larry Pressler that his numbers were, "in the toilet." The stunned newsman had expected a deer in the headlights lie from a scared politician facing defeat. What he got was an honest admission from a strong man who was still teaching, even through his hurt, how to laugh honestly in the face of adversity, and in so doing, respect what one was about.

What George Vinton Cunningham was about, and what he is still about, is service to the public.

From his first campaign with George McGovern while still a law student at USD, through his service to Governor Herseeth in 1959, his 20 years beside George McGovern in Washington, his return to his hometown of Watertown, SD, as a candidate for U.S. Senate, and his tenure as lawyer and party activist, George Cunningham has taught us all what it means to serve.

Cunningham is a short, non-descript man who, while chief of staff to a candidate for President of the United States, used to send friends unflattering pictures of himself in safari garb holding a rifle in one hand and his