

Rest assured, I recognize these concerns, and I believe this is a step toward finding a solution and not an easy one to resolve but certainly a major step forward.

In Montana we know the value of preserving our environment while optimizing the use of our natural resources. At the same time, we cannot afford to compete with shoddy worker and environmental rights.

This measure brings that message to the world recognizing that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive: That we should seek to protect and preserve the environment and enhance the international options of doing so, while optimizing the use of the world's resources. And, it promotes respect for worker rights and supports efforts to crack down on the exploitative child labor.

This bill is different from past fast-track legislation because it is the first to ever seek provisions that aim to ensure that parties to the agreements not weaken or reduce the protections afforded in their domestic environmental and labor laws as an encouragement for trade. It is a first, and major development. It also works to establish rules to prevent frivolous investor claims that contravene the public good.

I have a few words about part two of this package, the Trade Adjustment Assistance program or TAA. This is a program with a simple but admirable objective: to assist workers injured by imports to adjust and find new jobs. Many Montana workers are now employed and many firms still in business thanks to TAA.

Take for example the 221 employees who lost their jobs as a result of the suspension of operations at the ASARCO lead bullion facility in East Helena. It was a bitter blow to that community when that announcement was made. Due to the decline in the mining and mineral processing industries in the Western U.S., these workers faced few prospects for re-employment in a similar sector.

Thanks to income support provided by trade adjustment assistance, and NAFTA-TAA, 50 percent of these workers are involved in or did seek training—many at the Helena College of Technology and a few at heavy equipment operating school.

They are learning everything from trucking to computer technology. Now nearly 42 percent have found full-time employment. Workers at Plum Creek Timber in Seeley Lake are similarly taking advantage of this program.

TAA is often seen as the last resort, but it also provides a chance for companies to retool. This is especially true of TAA for firms, a related program that provides assistance to over 10 small companies in Montana to help them readjust and effectively compete with imports.

With TAA for firms, Montola Growers is researching new markets for its safflower oil. Tele-Tech Corporation is designing new products and print ads

for its sophisticated electronic devices, Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool Company is designing new garments for manufacture by contract knitters, and Pyramid Lumber is improving its milling efficiency.

Without TAA for firms, we would see closed signs on many business doors. Unfortunately, more worthy projects exist than funding to support them. For that reason, I support significantly increased funding in order for this program to continue and expand its good work.

Additionally, this trade adjustment assistance bill includes a new provision that will offer up to \$10,000 in cash assistance to Montana farmers and ranchers injured by imports. Let me be clear, this is a real opportunity to retool and reform a family farming operation, to make it competitive and sound, for generations to come. Like trade adjustment assistance for firms, this program is a means to keep an operation in business and keep our Montana families on their land.

One final item tucked neatly away in the TAA title is a provision to protect Montana sugarbeet growers from unfair trade practices. We all recall the black eye that stuffed molasses gave the industry, and we can not afford to suffer from such blatant circumvention again. This provision allows the Secretary of Agriculture to monitor imports of sugar to ensure that they do not circumvent the existing quota.

If they do, the Secretary will report to the President who can then “snap-back” the offending commodity into the appropriate tariff line. This should send a clear message that America will no longer tolerate efforts to manipulate the trading system to the disadvantage of our sugar producers.

The trade package before us today will help Montana move toward a greater role in the global economy. I hope my colleagues will feel the same about their own constituencies and lend their support to this important matter.

Mr. President, I thank you for listening. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

CARTER, MISSION TO CUBA

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, many of us have anticipated the trip of former President Carter to Cuba with a mixed sense of hope and concern. We had hoped that he would use this unique opportunity to help bring ideas of freedom and democracy to the repressed people of Cuba, just 90 miles off our shores.

However, it was amazing and disappointing for many of us to learn of Mr. Carter's visit to a Cuban biotechnology facility and his acceptance, at face value, of the assurances of communist Cuban officials there that the facility is engaged solely in medical and humanitarian pursuits.

More distressing is that former President Jimmy Carter was accorded the same privilege and courtesy extended to former Presidents who have requested top-secret intelligence briefings and situation reports on global areas of interest of the United States.

In the post-9/11 world, it is important that we as a united country protect the safety and security of our people.

Instead, what we have in Mr. Carter's visit to this biotech facility is a former President—who himself was once responsible for our foreign policy and the safety of the American people—dismissing the concerns of his own government, revealing information to which he was privy in top-secret briefings, and buying wholesale the assertions of the dictator Fidel Castro and his minions.

The words and actions of Mr. Carter at this facility are a breach of trust, and it is made even worse, in that the individual involved in that breach is one in whom the American people once placed the ultimate trust and responsibility of the Presidency.

Rather than spending his time with Fidel Castro and his henchman, I would suggest the name of at least one person Mr. Carter would be better advised to get to know.

Just a few short days ago I joined the Congressional Cuba Political Prisoner Initiative. As part of this initiative, I have decided to sponsor or “adopt,” if you will, a Cuban political prisoner named Francisco Chaviano Gonzales, and to advocate on his behalf, and on behalf of the thousands of others being held in Cuba in clear abuses of their basic human rights.

Francisco Chaviano is president of the National Council for Civil Rights, an organization dedicated to promoting democratic practices, racial equality and human rights. He was arrested after government agents broke into his home and confiscated documents revealing human rights abuses in Cuba—specifically, information about the Castro government's sinking of a tugboat that claimed the lives of 41 men, women, and children who were attempting to escape to freedom.

Chaviano was arrested and detained in prison for 1 year, and although a civilian, he was tried by military tribunal and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

He has been confined in isolation and deprived of basic medical care for long periods of time. After being allowed to visit him for the first time in eight years, his wife reported that he is in very poor health. Other members of the civil rights organization have followed in Chaviano's footsteps and continued to press the Cuban government for democratic reforms, at great peril to themselves.

Jimmy Carter is a man who is often praised in the media as a "model ex-President" or a "statesman" for his work with Habitat for Humanity. I do believe there is still time for him to make a more positive contribution to the plight of the Cuban people and to American foreign policy regarding Fidel Castro.

Mr. Carter is scheduled to deliver a speech to the Cuban people tonight. His remarks have the potential to do enormous good or to cause further harm. Rather than legitimizing a tyrant and a man who doesn't care for the well-being of his own people; he could advocate positive change for the beleaguered Cuban people.

If Mr. Carter in his speech tonight is looking for a road map to freedom and prosperity for the Cuban people, he need look no further than the words and principles of freedom written by George Mason in the Virginia Declaration of Rights. This document, adopted on June 12, 1776, helped form the basis of our Declaration of Independence and 15 years later in our Bill of Rights as the first amendments to our Constitution.

I would read a few excerpts from George Mason's historic words from various articles of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which I think are instructive.

Article 1: That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Article 2: That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them.

Article 3: That government is, our ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Article 12: That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

Article 16: That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence;

and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience . . .

Those are the words of freedom, and of the inherent rights to which all people are entitled, even if only temporarily subjugated.

Therefore, I call on former President Carter to embrace these truths and to use this unique opportunity to advance these enduring principles of liberty in Cuba.

I urge him to support the Varela Project, which is a petition drive that has collected the 10,000 signatures needed under Castro's so-called "constitution" to force a referendum on whether his government should be allowed to continue.

I call on Fidel Castro to heed the concepts first enunciated by George Mason 226 years ago in the Western Hemisphere, and I also call upon him to schedule free and fair democratic elections on the island of Cuba within the next year.

Mr. President, I will close with more words from George Mason, who said:

There is a passion to the mind of man, especially a free man, which renders him impatient of a restraint."

Mr. Carter has the power to either to fan the flames of those passions and aspirations of the Cuban people, or to throw cold water on them. The choice he needs to make is clear. Do not flinch. Stand strong for freedom!

Thank you. I yield the floor.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred April 3, 1991 in Boston, MA. A Northeastern University student was arrested for making anti-Semitic and anti-homosexual death threats. The student, Garrett McAdams, was accused of threatening to kill a Jewish Realtor and bomb the offices of a gay student organization.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to explain my absence from yesterday's vote on the nomination of Paul G. Cassell to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Utah. After spending yesterday working with con-

stituents in Connecticut, I was scheduled to fly back to Washington in time to make the vote. Unfortunately, high wind and tornado threats caused flights into Washington to be cancelled. I ultimately returned to Washington by train and too late to cast my vote. Had I been here, I would have cast my vote in the affirmative.

NATIONAL POLICE OFFICERS WEEK

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, each day our Nation's law enforcement officers step onto the street, putting their lives on the line to protect our communities. These honorable men and women risk so much so that others can feel safe.

New Yorkers owe our State and local law enforcement officers an enormous debt of gratitude. The historic drop in crime that we have seen in the last few years is truly a reflection of their fine work and tireless dedication. The low-crime rate that New York City enjoys today would never have been possible without the extraordinary work of the New York City Police Department.

One small step we can take to begin to repay that debt is ensuring that our men and women in blue are equipped with the tools they need to protect themselves from the constant dangers they face; and that police departments around the country have the additional resources they need meet new demands placed on them.

In the past several months, their responsibility have only grown larger. From the first moments our country saw NYPD officers at the base of the World Trade Center towers, the role of police officers around the country was changed forever. The September 11 terrorist attacks put communities around America on the frontlines in our war against terrorism at home, and our local public safety officers must now be prepared for the unimaginable: biological and terrorist attacks.

We pay tribute to the hard work and sacrifice of our police officers not just this week but every day of our lives as we move freely about our communities, largely uninhibited by fear and danger. We should take a moment to recognize the peace of mind that our local law enforcement officers provides us, and life's precious gifts that come with that assurance.

Public service is one of our country's most noble callings and law enforcement captures that spirit of sacrifice and devotion to community. We thank the families of police officers for their ever present courage and selflessness. To the police officers who uphold our laws and protect our communities from crime, we give our appreciation, admiration and immeasurable pride for the jobs you do every day.