

UNITED STATES LOSES FIRST
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION
CASE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the World Trade Organization has just issued its first decision in a trade case brought under the new dispute settlement system.

The case was brought against the United States by Venezuela and Brazil. The allegation was that a U.S. environmental regulation, issued under the Clean Air Act, discriminated against imported gasoline.

On Monday, the United States lost the case. President Clinton must now decide whether to comply with the WTO decision. If he decides the United States should comply, he must announce a plan for doing so.

I believe the American people deserve an explanation from President Clinton about this case. They deserve an explanation about what this case might mean in the future for other U.S. laws and regulations.

Clearly there will be future WTO cases where the United States will be the losing party. We cannot expect to win every case. Perhaps Monday's case was properly decided.

But it seems to me that our laws should continue to be a matter for Americans, not international judges, to determine. We should decide what our environmental laws will be. We should decide what kinds of regulations are necessary to protect our environment. We should decide that our children deserve cleaner air and purer water, not some bureaucrat in Geneva.

We do not always agree, and that is part of our democratic process. But at least we work out for ourselves what laws and regulations are best for America.

Mr. President, I believe President Clinton has simply failed to tell the American people what his strategy is for defending other American laws in the future from potential wrongful attack in the WTO. As far as I know, President Clinton has been silent on this question, one that is deeply troubling to many Americans.

I have a strategy for defending American laws. I proposed a plan in January 1995 that would ensure that the United States could withdraw from the WTO if our laws, and our rights, were being trampled in Geneva.

Many, many Americans shared my concern—that the WTO might begin to operate out of control, might begin to issue rulings that were outside its mandate, in short, that the WTO might abuse its authority. I was concerned that if this were to happen, the United States would not have any adequate mechanism to deal with it. My proposal creates such a mechanism. It allows us to get all the benefits of the WTO, but protects us against the potential harm should the WTO fail to honor our rights.

Unfortunately, my proposal has not yet become law because of some opposition—not much. There is strong bi-

partisan support for this proposal, but one of my colleagues on the other side has had a hold on this bill several months, and we hope to move on it early this month or next month.

President Clinton supports my proposal. In fact, he endorsed my proposal when I endorsed the GATT at the White House nearly 2 years ago. I certainly would appreciate the President's help in getting this measure passed. I think it would be helpful to the President and to the country. It would answer a lot of concerns American workers have who are frustrated about the loss of American jobs.

So I hope we can have action on my proposal in the very near future with the President's support.

AFSA 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the Air Force Sergeants Association [AFSA] marks the 35th anniversary of its founding today. I commend this association for all of its efforts on behalf of the entire military community but, in particular, the enlisted component.

In 1961, AFSA was founded as a non-profit association to represent the interests of Air Force enlisted members, who, at that time, had no voice to speak for them. Over the years, AFSA's membership has grown to 160,000 with nearly 300 chapters around the world. Today, AFSA represents active and retired enlisted Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard members and their families.

In my view, AFSA's reputation on Capitol Hill is better than ever, a broker of honest information—whether through testimony, visits, or correspondence—working hand-in-hand with elected officials. AFSA has worked hard over the years to keep Members of Congress focused on the quality of the lives of the active and retired enlisted men and women AFSA represents.

AFSA was directly involved in championing improved pay and allowances for active duty members, dental and income insurance programs for reservists, the restoration of military cola equity, the end of source taxation, and the increase in the Social Security earnings limit.

Last fall, AFSA generated massive grassroots support to clearly show where military personnel stood on the "high-one" retirement recalculation proposal.

AFSA also provides awards, grants and scholarships through the Airmen Memorial Foundation, AMF, established in 1983. In addition, the AMF has a post-military employment program that aids Air Force members who are about to retire or separate.

AFSA also believes in preserving the heritage and accomplishments of Air Force enlisted personnel. In 1986, AFSA founded the Airmen Memorial Museum in Suitland, MD, which is a comprehensive reference center for Air Force enlisted history.

On the occasion of their 35th anniversary, I congratulate the Air Force Sergeants Association. I know that AFSA will continue to be an effective, strong, and dedicated voice for Air Force enlisted personnel, active, reserve, guard, retired members, and their families. I thank the association for its successful efforts and look forward to continuing to work with AFSA on matters of mutual concern.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand that the Senator from Massachusetts wishes to speak. I ask unanimous consent, after the Senator from Massachusetts completes his remarks, that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

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

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on tomorrow, I expect the Senate to conclude its action on the illegal immigration bill. During the earlier discussion on the immigration bill, I tried to take advantage of the opportunity to offer an amendment that would have raised the minimum wage 90 cents—45 cents this year, 45 cents the next year—90 cents for working families. We were unable to get sufficient recognition to put that proposal before the U.S. Senate, and the cloture motion was put before us, which effectively restricted our opportunity to take any action on the minimum wage.

A further cloture motion was offered, which further prohibits us from having considered the minimum wage, even if we had extended the time, which under the rules would have permitted debate and discussion for some 30 hours.

So for this phase of the minimum wage debate, we will conclude tomorrow, through the decision of the Senate, action on the illegal immigration bill and any opportunity to have the minimum wage amendment before the Senate.

Then we will move on to other business and, as I have stated at other times, as the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, has stated, and as others have stated—my colleagues Senator KERRY and Senator WELLSTONE—we will look for the first opportunity to offer that amendment.

It is a rather poignant time, Mr. President, as we are having this debate on the minimum wage, because in 1960, during the campaign of President Kennedy, one of the important issues was the issue of the increase in the minimum wage.

In the 1960 campaign against Richard Nixon, John Kennedy ran an ad in which he called for an increase in the minimum wage. And in the ad, he sat in front of the camera and said: