

Eagle Award to Natural Cotton Colors, a small manufacturer of naturally colored cottons located in Wickenburg, AZ. Sally Fox, the founder of Natural Cotton Colors and inventor of environmentally safe colored cotton suitable for organic farming, is quite an American.

As Sally herself has stated, the success of her company is a real Jack and the Beanstalk Story. In 1982, Sally came across brown cotton seeds in a bag and thought that she could grow and sell the brown cotton to hobbyists who hand spin yarn. A small American business was thus born. Since those humble beginnings, Natural Cotton Colors now sells environmentally safe colored cotton around the world. The company's sales over the past few years have averaged around \$5 million.

What makes Natural Cotton Colors unique is its commitment to the environment. Sally developed her own trademark, Fox Fibre, for the purpose of promoting environmentally sustainable production of cotton—while remaining profitable. In order for a textile manufacturer to be licensed to use the Fox Fibre trademark, the manufacturer must agree to abide by numerous environmental standards. Manufacturers using Fox Fibre are not allowed to use dye, bleach, or formaldehyde finish in their production. With so many multinational corporations and countries engaged in a race to lower environmental standards around the world, Natural Cotton Colors is to be strongly commended for one small company's efforts to promote a safer and cleaner environment for our children.

The story of Sally Fox and Natural Cotton Colors is truly an American story. By resisting the temptation to outsource production, Sally Fox and her company provide good jobs for American workers and farmers. When Sally receives an order for her product, Natural Cotton Colors consistently contracts out to American farmers scattered around the Midwest. Although she is able to cut costs dramatically by contracting out the company's work to cheap labor in Mexico and China, Sally Fox has remained strong in her commitment to America.

Natural Cotton Colors is only one of thousands of small businesses in America that do so much to strengthen our communities and our lives. American small businesses provided virtually all of the net new jobs created over the past 10 years. Small businesses account for 50 percent of total sales in the United States.

Many small businesses never are recognized for their achievements and their commitment to America. Today, we present the Golden Eagle Award, which includes this certificate and an American flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, to Natural Cotton Colors and Sally Fox for their commitment to the environment, and their commitment to America. Natural Cotton Colors is a small company with a big vision which we as a nation can benefit from.

In marked contrast to Natural Cotton color's efforts and commitment to remain in the United States, this month's Corporate Vulture Award is presented to the Green Giant division of Pillsbury and its parent company, Grand Metropolitan PLC. Green Giant/Pillsbury is one of many U.S. corporations that have packed their bags and set up shop in the sweatshops and killing fields of the developing world, leaving a wake of wrecked families and communities here at home in America.

In Green Giant's case, the company has shipped their contracts for fresh produce and their frozen food facilities south of the border to Mexico. A close look at virtually any supermarket's frozen food shelves will reveal packages with tiny, obscured, and ambiguous Green Giant labels indicating the food was grown or processed in Mexico or other foreign countries. Green Giant even has the audacity of naming one of their brands "American Mixtures"—a product that contains mostly vegetables grown in and imported from Mexico but packaged in America. More than 60 percent of Green Giant's broccoli and cauliflower is actually grown in Mexico.

As much as Green Giant/Pillsbury and Grand Metropolitan have tried to hide the facts, the truth is that these companies have actively downsized their American work force and sent their production abroad.

Watsonville, CA, was once referred to as the frozen food capital of the world. In the mid-1980's, the frozen food packaging industry, including Green Giant, employed 3,500 workers at its peak. Today, there are less than 1,500 workers in Watsonville employed in frozen food packaging.

Where did the jobs go? In 1993, Green Giant stated during the NAFTA debate that, and I quote, "Not a single job in Watsonville is going to Mexico." Alas, production in Green Giant's Watsonville plant, where American workers once earned from \$7.15 to \$11.50 an hour with benefits, has since been moved to Irapuato, Mexico, where workers earn 50 cents an hour without benefits. Not surprisingly, Irapuato, Mexico is the city that many now consider to be the new capital of the frozen food industry.

What do American workers and consumers receive in return? Certainly not lower prices. At my local grocery store in Toledo, OH, a 16 ounce bag of Green Giant cut leaf spinach costs \$1.66 and Green Giant cream spinach costs \$1.69. The price is the same whether the spinach was grown and processed in the United States or Mexico. There is no price differential for imported goods.

What is different though is the profit that Green Giant and Grand Metropolitan are making off moving their production to Mexico. Grand Metropolitan, which again owns Green Giant, enjoyed record sales in 50 countries last year totaling \$12.6 billion. In 1993, the year that Green Giant was not going to move any American jobs to Mexico, the

CEO of Grand Metropolitan, Sir Allen Sheppard, earned over \$1.25 million in salary alone.

Lost U.S. jobs, downward pressure on U.S. wages, high prices, and huge profits are the characteristics of a corporate vulture. And today we recognize that there are no better examples of being a corporate vulture than Green Giant and Grand Metropolitan. What a shame.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. JOHNSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WELFARE REFORM "NOT THIS WELFARE REFORM"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California [Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the welfare system in this country is in desperate need of reform. The current system has created a cycle of dependency that has had a detrimental effect on our society.

For the first time in my lifetime, we are looking at third generation citizens that have never known the value of hard work and the satisfaction of bringing home a paycheck earned as a result of an honest days work.

The very nature of the term welfare reform implies that our current system is not functioning properly and is in need of modification. But in our zeal, to reform—to score political points in an election year—we must ask ourselves one very important question: Is it fair to gut this welfare program on the backs of our children?

I would submit that the welfare system as we know it today was not intended to function as it does currently. At its inception, welfare was intended to be a transitional program—a proverbial bridge over troubled waters for our citizens who had recently become unemployed, widowed, or forced to deal with some other unfortunate financial crisis.

At its inception, the current welfare program did not contain child care programs for parents who wanted to work. Nor did it provide adequate job training or job location assistance.

We now know that these elements—child care, job training, and job search assistance—are necessary if parents are going to get off of welfare and into the work force.

I recognized this and my constituents recognized this. Throughout the town hall meetings that I have had over the last few weeks I have heard again and again that welfare reform is not true reform unless it contains job training, child care, and job location assistance.

Welfare usually referred to aid to families with dependent children program, AFDC, as it is commonly referred to today, provides benefits to families with children headed by a single parent, or two parents, if one is incapacitated, or unemployed, with incomes below State-determined limits. Most adult AFDC recipients