

BRING GREATER ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITY TO HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

HON. JAN MEYERS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to bring greater administrative flexibility to Haskell Indian Nations University located in Lawrence, KS.

Haskell has been educating native Americans since 1884. One of only two institutes of its kind in the United States, any person of native American descent can attend Haskell tuition-free in fulfillment of treaty obligations. Since its inception, Haskell has grown into a cherished educational institution in the native American community and a respected neighbor in Lawrence, KS.

Under the leadership of President Bob Martin, Haskell University has begun a far-sighted transformation into a 4 year university specializing in training elementary and secondary education teachers, and environmental science and conservation programs. For the past 3 years, the first group of education baccalaureate students have been studying at Haskell and will graduate this spring.

However, in order to continue its transformation, Haskell needs the autonomy and authority to hire and retain faculty-rank teachers. That is what this bill does. Local control and authority has already been granted to all tribally-controlled community colleges. While I realize that the time before this Congress does not permit a thorough hearing of this bill, I want to alert my colleagues to both the need and importance of the legislation.

TRIBUTE TO FINANCIAL WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of women to the financial services industry and to honor an organization that makes this success possible: Financial Women International.

Women have made a major impact in the realm of financial services, leading to the industry's growth and flourishing. For 75 years, Financial Women International has advanced these goals by helping women in the financial services industry to expand their personal and professional capabilities.

When the group was founded in 1921, it claimed 59 members who held high positions in their banks. Today, Financial Women International counts more than 10,000 members from all 50 States and several foreign countries. These individuals come from all facets of the rapidly expanding world of financial services.

Financial Women International's impressive record stems from its emphasis on education. The group appreciates the importance of continual learning. For this reason, it offers seminars and many other programs that teach women in the financial services industry the skills they need to become and remain competitive.

In addition, Financial Women International advances the interests of working women by promoting pay equity and through its contributions to the efforts of the Glass Ceiling Commission.

I am pleased to honor Financial Women International. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this organization and the many hard-working women of the financial services industry.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE TOM BEVILL AND THE HONORABLE GLEN BROWDER

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in acknowledging the contribution of my good friend, TOM BEVILL, our esteemed colleague has provided such great leadership as chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee and in this Congress as our distinguished ranking member. He will always be "Mr. Chairman."

Mr. TOM BEVILL was elected to this body more than 30 years ago and has proudly represented his constituents in Alabama. The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway is a monument to Chairman BEVILL's work. This barge canal stretches from North Alabama to the Gulf of Mexico and a lock and dam on the canal bear the chairman's name. He has fought Presidents in both parties to secure important development projects and has stood with Members from both sides of the aisle to work to move this country toward the 21st century.

I am proud to have served with TOM. He is an example for us all. TOM has always advanced a bipartisan agenda, and looked at the merits of water projects regardless of party. As chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, Congressman BEVILL boasted that he had never brought a bill to the floor without the full consent and support of then ranking member Myers. I am proud to see that his example has extended to this Congress, and I commend him and the example he has set. His bipartisan spirit has created a model for committee efficiency and has created lasting water projects as its legacy.

Chairman BEVILL has also been a strong advocate of important water projects in the San Francisco Bay area. His strong support of the San Francisco Bay has provided funds for dredging, erosion control programs and general maintenance. He has supported the Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon Program and provided funds for a long-term planning strategy for the San Francisco Bay. His efforts resulted in the important San Francisco breakwater that protects the city shoreline from the ravages of storms. His support will long be remembered by many in San Francisco.

The House of Representatives will miss Chairman BEVILL. He is a friend, an example and a leader to all of us. I wish him well in his retirement. He will be missed but always remembered for his extraordinary leadership in this House.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD LABOR FREE CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT OF 1996

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to introduce today new legislation to aid consumers wanting to avoid products made with abusive and exploitative child labor. The measure, called the Child Labor Free Consumer Information Act of 1996, encourages apparel and sporting good companies to voluntarily adopt a "child labor free" label on their products or packaging.

Over 60 Members of the House have joined me in introducing this important piece of legislation that I wrote with my good friend Senator TOM HARKIN of Iowa, who has been a relentless fighter for children and for human rights.

Our bill would create the broadest anti-child labor label in today's market. It builds on successful efforts to use labels to inform consumers of socially responsible actions by manufacturers and retailers. The Rugmark label, for example, guarantees that certain hand-knotted Asian rugs were not made by exploited children. And the Green Seal and other environmental labels, such as the Dolphin Safe logo on cans of tuna fish and the European "E" label, provide important information to consumers concerned about environmental protection.

On most products today there is a world of information. You can know if a shirt was made in the United States or abroad, made with union labor, made of cotton or synthetics, and how to care for it. Nowhere, however, will you see reference to any labor protections adhered to in the manufacture. And yet, this is an important piece of information to consumers that could influence their purchasing decisions. It is important to workers, and it is important to the children that are being exploited and abused in the workplace because of insufficient pressure on countries and businesses to put these children in school rather than to work.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that consumers want to avoid products made in sweatshops or by child labor, but they have no way of knowing which products to avoid. Our legislation asks companies to "put your money where your mouth is"—if your product is free of child labor, tell the consumer right on the label.

Numerous polls and surveys show consumers want information about socially responsible business practices. One study, by Marymount University in Virginia, found that three out of four Americans would boycott a store if they knew it sold goods made in sweatshops.

Regrettably, products made with abusive and exploitative child labor and in sweatshops are prevalent. The International Labor Organization estimates there are several hundred million children making goods, many of which are sold in U.S. markets.

Attention to this issue was heightened this year after it was disclosed at a hearing that I chaired by the Democratic Policy Committee that celebrity product lines, such as the Kathie Lee Gifford clothes sold at Wal-Mart stores, were made in part by underage youth and at sweatshops. Life magazine added to the attention by later reporting that most soccer

balls in the world are made by poor children, some as young as 5 years old.

Last year, the United States imported almost 50 percent of the wearing apparel sold here and the garment industry netted \$34 billion. And according to the Department of Commerce, last year the United States imported 494.1 million pairs of athletic footwear—enough shoes to encircle the Earth five and a half times—and produced only 65.3 million pairs domestically.

Many companies say their manufacturing contracts specifically prohibit the use of child labor and other labor violations and that they will terminate contracts with companies that violate those terms. Regrettably, these codes of conduct are rarely independently verified. In fact, the Gifford line and Wal-Mart both have codes of conduct against child labor and sweatshops.

Gifford, who has become an outspoken opponent of these labor violations, told Good Housekeeping magazine this month that codes of conduct are inadequate:

Other celebrities say, "Oh, I've got something in my contract that says this kind of labor can never be exploited." I've had the same clause in my contract since Day One. It's always been a concern of ours. But how much good does it do?

The Child Labor Free Consumer Information Act would establish a commission of government, business, union and non-profit members working together to create guidelines for the use of a "Child Labor Free" or "Not made With Child Labor" label. The label could be attached to or printed on the product or the product packaging. The Commission would also be charged with investigating complaints brought to it that a company may be fraudulently using the label. Even though use of the label would be voluntary, companies would face increased penalties under Federal Trade Commission law for fraudulently using it.

Companies that adopt this label will find that they will be rewarded in the marketplace by consumers that repeatedly state they don't want to support labor exploitation, particularly of small children. This is a socially responsible and economically attractive step for companies to take. We know we cannot rid child labor from the world, but we hope that consumers will be able to make an informed choice about whether they want to support products made with child labor or not.

I recognize that it is late in the legislative session to be introducing new legislation. And I expect to reintroduce this legislation again next year. But I believe it is important to remind the public and my colleagues that this issue will not simply fade away. And this legislation also contains an idea that businesses could act on today, without its passage, if they were so inclined. I hope they will consider a label seriously as a means to prove to consumers their commitment to stopping child labor violations.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to attach to this statement a report that I have prepared based on the information gathered at the April hearing and on subsequent investigations by my staff. The report makes a compelling argument for the use of voluntary product labels to achieve socially—and economically—desirable goals.

THE NEED FOR BETTER PRODUCT LABELING INTRODUCTION

Although the rapidly expanding global marketplace has brought to U.S. consumers

an ever-broadening array of goods from around the world, the market has not brought additional information to consumers on the potential impacts of their purchasing decisions. A highly competitive, unregulated global market is enticing some corporations to flee strong environmental protection or labor laws in the U.S. and other developed countries for nations where such protections are less stringent, or even non-existent. As nations compete to attract global capital, and developing nations strive to industrialize, lack of environmental regulations, unsafe working conditions and low-wage labor—including forced labor and child labor—may provide the competitive edge for many countries. This situation is legitimized by the virtual silence of trade agreements on these issues.

A growing number of investors, consumers, and companies believe that the power to force positive change lies in consumer education. These companies and consumer advocacy organizations are articulating a message that consumers, by choosing products manufactured in a way that does not harm the environment or undermine the rights of workers, will force corporations to produce their goods in a responsible fashion.

In response to concerns raised by the environmental, labor, and human rights communities, in April 1996 the House Democratic Policy Committee convened a hearing that I chaired in an effort to better inform the public and Members of Congress on this complex debate. It was at that hearing that the now infamous allegation about Kathie Lee Gifford's clothing line sold at Wal-Mart Stores was first made. This discussion paper is based on the issues raised at that hearing.

CONSUMERS WANT TO BE INFORMED

Polls consistently show that consumers want to be informed about the impacts of their purchases.

In 1993, Cone Communications collaborated in a poll with Roper Starch Worldwide Inc. To survey, 2,000 consumers on the extent to which socially responsible business practices entered into their purchasing decisions. Thirty-one percent of those surveyed responded that, after price and quality, a company's socially responsible business practices are one of the most important factors in deciding whether or not to buy a brand. (source: Council on Economic Priorities)

A 1992 Ad Age poll conducted by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman of 1,004 consumers found that 70% of respondents said environmental messages in labeling or advertising "sometimes" or "very often" influence their purchasing decisions. (source: Council on Economic Priorities)

And a 1995 survey of 1,008 consumers by Marymount University's Center for Ethical Concerns found more than 75% of those surveyed would boycott a store if they knew it sold goods made in sweatshops. Nearly 85% would pay an extra \$1 on a \$20 garment if it were guaranteed to be made in a legal shop. (source: Maryland University, Department of Fashion Design and Merchandising and Center for Ethical Concerns)

At issue is: how do consumers become informed about the "good" or "bad" product?

Those supporting better consumer information programs are considering how to implement most effectively a program to alert American consumers to the conditions under which products are made. Following the long tradition of environmental labeling, these organizations are also beginning to call for labor-related labels.

LESSONS FROM ECOLABELING PROGRAMS

For several years, some governments and a growing number of non-governmental organizations have promoted consumer information and product labeling as tools that can

aid in improving the global environment. Currently, about two dozen regional or national ecolabeling programs exist around the world. Generally popular with consumers, they are increasingly coming under attack by manufacturers and developing nations who claim that ecolabels are a disguised barrier to trade. (source: National Journal; "Sticker Shock"; March 9, 1996) Critics also claim that ecolabels must be negotiated internationally, and raise the question of how—and whether—different nations' environmental rules can be reconciled.

According to a recent article in Business Ethics, Europeans tend to hold higher standards for their businesses than do most Americans. As a result, socially responsible businesses are better able to compete in Europe. (source: Business Ethics, "Growing Pains", January/February 1996) In recent years the European Union has undertaken a massive government-controlled ecolabeling program, with mixed results. The E.U. scheme covers washing machines, dishwashers, soil improvers, toilet tissue, kitchen paper rolls, laundry detergents, light bulbs, and indoor paints and varnishes. Some U.S. producers of these goods have protested that the E.U. system discriminates against U.S. manufacturers, although the seven types of washing machines that have been awarded the E.U. label to date are all made by U.S.-owned Hoover Ltd. Others criticize the bureaucratic procedures and the cost of attaining certification for an E.U. label.

Some of the ecolabeling debate has focused on the use of so-called "ecoseals", or symbols that are the equivalent of an environmental seal of approval. These seals are generally simple, and may be awarded following a third-party (non-government) approval process (U.S. "Green Seal") or may be the result of a government-approved and defined label (U.S. "Dolphin Safe", or the European Union's "E" label).

Supporters of ecoseals believe that, because the seals are simple and easy for consumers to understand, consumers are more likely to base their purchases on responsible choices. Opponents of ecoseals argue that seals stifle innovation and train customers to look for symbols rather than to learn factual information about environmental effects. They support information-based labeling, such as that used on nutrition labels.

"Dolphin Safe" label. One of the most well-known environmental labels in the United States is the "Dolphin Safe" label found on cans of tuna. Some supporters of ecolabeling have suggested using this statutorily defined label as a model for other ecolabeling efforts, and a brief history of the label's creation is worth noting here.

As a result of continued public outcry against the dolphin kills in the tuna fishery during the 1980's, Starkist Seafood Company announced in 1990 that it would no longer purchase any tuna caught by harming dolphins, and that it would begin labeling cans of Starkist tuna sold in the United States with "Dolphin Safe" symbols. Almost immediately, the rest of the U.S. tuna canners announced that they would no longer purchase tuna considered "dolphin unsafe". The voluntary announcement of the tuna processing industry raised a new labeling issue for the federal government: the definition and enforcement of a voluntary dolphin-safe label. In response, the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (DPCIA) was enacted by the Congress in 1990. The purpose of the DPCIA was to establish criteria for labeling tuna and tuna products "dolphin safe", certification procedures, and enforcement standards for violations of the label.

Although the U.S. lags behind Europe in terms of both government-sponsored and third-party ecolabels, the issue is not likely

to disappear anytime soon. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has been considering international standards for ecolabeling in its negotiations on the connection between trade and the environment. The issue will also be discussed at the Singapore meeting of the World Trade Organization in December, 1996.

CHILD LABOR AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Can we apply our experience from ecolabeling to labor concerns?

One of the most emotional issues regarding goods—particularly textiles—manufactured in developing nations is the use of child labor. In a 1994 Department of Labor (DOL) report mandated by the Congressional Committees on Appropriations, DOL reported that between 100 million and 200 million children are in the workplace more than 95% of them in developing countries. The industries which employ children range from garments and carpets to small-scale mining and gem polishing. (source: Department of Labor, "By The Sweat And Toil Of Children: The Use of Child Labor in American Imports", July 15, 1994)

A recent survey by the International Labor Organization (ILO) found a positive correlation between child labor and factors such as poverty, illiteracy, rural under-development, urban slum conditions, and school non-attendance. About four-fifths of those children who worked did so seven days a week and, in many instances, girls worked longer hours than boys. (source: Child Labor Surveys: Results of methodological experiments in four countries, 1992-1993, International Labor Office, 1996, ISBN 92-2-110106-1)

The ILO estimates that at least half of all child workers are found in South and Southeast Asia. Asia probably boasts the highest percentage of children working in industries which export to the United States. Working conditions range from "crowded garment factories, where the doors are locked and the children work for 14 hours, to small dusty earthen huts which can seat four children to a loom, knotting carpets in a pit for hours on end." (source: Department of Labor report, previously cited)

A recent article in Life magazine on the manufacture of Nike soccer balls in Pakistan told of "children as young as six bought from their parents for as little as \$15, sold and resold like furniture, branded, beaten, blinded as punishment for wanting to go home, rendered speechless by the trauma of their enslavement . . . Children are sought after, and bonded, and sometimes taken in outright slavery, because they do not cost as much." (source: Life, "Six Cents An Hour", June, 1996) Nike, as well as Reebok, have since announced that their soccer balls from Pakistan will soon be made in stitching centers where the labor can be closely monitored, as opposed to the current system that relies on children in small villages scattered throughout the country. Nike and Reebok hope that these stitching centers will eliminate child labor from their portion of the soccer ball industry. Nike and Reebok, however, are currently very small players in the manufacture of soccer balls, when compared with Addidas, Mikasa and other companies that have made no announcement on child labor.

Of equal concern are documented stories of so-called "sweatshop" labor, in which workers, frequently women, are locked into unsafe workplaces, and forced to work long hours for minimal wages. Last summer, U.S. papers carried front-page stories of a raid on an El Monte, California, sweatshop where most of the workers at the shop were recent female immigrants from Thailand who had been virtually enslaved by the manufacturer. Workers were forced to live in a compound encircled by razor wire, threatened with

rape, and required to work 20-hour days for as little as \$1 an hour. (source: People, "Labor Pains", June 10, 1996)

Early experience with labor-related labeling indicates that it can work.

One label gaining in popularity and market share in Europe and recently introduced in the U.S. is the "Rugmark" label awarded to some hand-knotted rugs made in Nepal and India without the use of child labor. Nearly 900,000 children under the age of 14—including children as young as 4—are working in the carpet industry in Pakistan; 200,000 in Nepal; and 300,000 in India. Children are frequently bonded to a looming operation to pay off the debts of their parents. The U.S. is the world's second-largest market for hand-knotted Oriental carpets, with imports of over \$150 million annually from India alone, and has the potential to have a major impact on the manner in which these carpets are made.

CONCLUSION

Consumers and advertisers alike are obsessed with determining and declaring that a particular product is safe for children. But our economy fails to tell consumers whether products are safe for the children who made them. Parents have a right to know that the clothes and toys they buy for their children were not made by other exploited and abused children. Unfortunately, they have no way of knowing that in today's marketplace.

Voluntary labeling programs may continue to hold the key. These programs have not been easy to establish or to enforce. Nor will a "one size fits all" approach be practical—it is likely that different modes of labeling regimes will work best in different economic sectors. But our experiences with ecolabeling programs and the Rugmark label prove that voluntary labels are effective, and popular with consumers. If voluntary, they are consistent with our international trade obligations. Corporations who maintain that they have a reliable, enforceable code of conduct should be willing to translate that code into a reliable, enforceable label that informs consumers of the impacts of their purchases.

We must take responsibility for our purchasing and marketing decisions. The price of a product and the rate of profit cannot be allowed to overwhelm the moral obligation to protect children and to respect the rights of other workers. We have the means to inject this level of respect into the marketplace if we exert our will to do so. Through responsible consumer education our values of protection for the environment, for children and for workers can be reflected in the way we make our goods.

THE FAIR HAVEN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 20, 1996 the Fair Haven Community Health Center will hold an Open House to dedicate its new building and to celebrate 25 years of service to the Fair Haven area.

The Fair Haven Community Health Center has been a fixture on Grand Avenue for the past 25 years. During that time, it has been a part of the community people could always rely upon. The Center has undergone considerable change through the years. When it opened for two nights a week in 1971, it was housed in Columbus School with a storefront

office and had a staff of five, including two VISTA volunteers. That year the Center was visited 500 times. By 1982, the Center had begun a prenatal and midwifery program and purchased, renovated, and added on the property at 374 Grand Avenue. The Center also opened the "Body Shop," a school based clinic, at Wilbur Cross High School.

Today, the Fair Haven Center has purchased, renovated and connected property at 362 Grand Avenue. The complete facility now has 24 exam rooms, a new laboratory, waiting area, health education and social service rooms. The Center has a staff of 80 including 10 physicians, 8 nurse practitioners, and 6 nurse midwives. The facilities include three buildings and three satellite clinics which received a total of 48,000 visits this past year. These new renovations and additions mean that the Center can continue to do what it does best, caring for people.

Throughout its history, the Fair Haven Community Health Center has remained committed to the ideal of providing health care for all those who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. While medicine today is increasingly cost-conscious, Fair Haven practices medicine which puts the patient's well-being first. By combining preventive care and education with a range of services from prenatal care to geriatric medicine, the Center ensures that all its patient's needs are met. This holistic, integrated approach is what defines the Center and makes it so valuable to New Haven. Center Director, Katrina Clark said, "We have always felt that we were part of the community, and I think that is why we've been so successful in meeting the health care needs of the people we serve. At a time when many people are alienated and rejected by the health care system, Fair Haven stands as a beacon of caring for our patients and providing excellent service."

I am proud to rise today to congratulate the Fair Haven Community Health Center. The newly renovated facilities will enable the Center to provide even better health services and preventive care to the people of Fair Haven.

BIPARTISANSHIP IS THE KEY TO ETHICS REFORM

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week my dear friend Representative PORTER GOSS who serves on the Ethics Committee as well as the Rules Committee took out a special order to urge changes in the ethics process—September 12, 1996.

He proposed that changes in the ethics process should take effect in the next Congress and that the Rules Committee is the proper venue for ethics reform.

I must take strong exception to the claim that the Rules Committee is the right place to consider reforms of the ethics process. Given the primary job of the Rules Committee—reporting special rules for the consideration of legislation—the committee is properly a partisan committee with a 9 to 4 ratio. The Rules Committee is an arm of the majority leadership and so it is appropriate that all the Republican members of the committee—including