

I wish to join with Senator BYRD, and with all Senators, in expressing our deepest gratitude to Suzanne Pearson for her long years of service to the U.S. Senate. She has been part of the Office of the Legislative Counsel for almost 32 years, including the last 10 years as Office Manager; during that time she has provided valuable assistance to me and to my staff.

I and my staff appreciated the great dedication and professionalism she displayed in her work for the Senate. I know that her departure will leave a void that is difficult to fill. In adopting this resolution, the Senate recognizes her years of commitment to the Senate.

Madam President, I wish Suzanne Pearson well in her retirement.

COLOMBIA'S PRICE BAND SYSTEM

Mr. CLELAND. Madam President, today I have submitted an amendment to address the treatment of certain American industries by Andean nations. Specifically, I am concerned with the detrimental effect the Colombian government's use of the price band system, as it applies to pet food, is having on the U.S. pet food industry and the farmers who provide the raw materials used in the production of pet food. As a Senator from Georgia, this issue is of particular concern to the poultry farmers in my State who supply a large amount of the poultry and poultry byproduct used in the production of pet food for export to Colombia.

I note that the Andean Trade Promotion and Expansion Act requires a country to demonstrate a commitment to undertake its obligations under the WTO before it can be designated a beneficiary country. It appears that Colombia's application of the price band system as it applies to pet food is a violation of Colombia's WTO obligations. Pursuant to the WTO, a developing nation, such as Colombia, is required to request and be granted a "reservation" if it is going to impose the price band system on a particular product. The Colombian government failed to acquire a reservation for either wet or dry pet food. Therefore, Colombia's application of the price band system to pet food is in violation of the WTO.

It is my expectation that in reviewing the eligibility criteria relating to market access and WTO commitments, the U.S. Trade Representative will insist that Colombia implement its WTO commitment to remove wet and dry pet food from the price band system, and apply the 20 percent common external tariff to imported pet food as required by Andean Community law.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. KYL. Madam President, since trade-promotion authority lapsed in 1994, America has stood on the sidelines while other countries have brokered trade agreements that benefit their workers, their businesses, and their economies. Soon after taking office, President Bush called on Congress

to grant him trade-promotion authority to reassert America's leadership in promoting U.S. goods and the expertise of our workforce to more markets. The House has acted, the Senate Finance Committee has acted, and it is now time for the full Senate to deliver.

Exports accounted for more than one-fourth of U.S. economic growth in the 1990s. Jobs depending on exports pay wages that are an estimated 13 to 18 percent higher than the national average. One in ten American workers, 12 million people, work at jobs that depend on exports of goods and services. Trade is good for American farmers and ranchers. Trade is good for American small businesses. At the most basic level, trade is essential to our country's economic growth and prosperity. Yet, every day that America delays, other countries throughout the world are entering into trade agreements without us, benefitting their workers, their farmers, their businesses and their economies at the expense of ours.

Our competitors in Europe, Asia, and Latin America have sealed deals on approximately 130 preferential trade compacts, many within our own hemisphere. Yet the United States is party to only three, with Canada and Mexico, Israel and Jordan. Without trade-promotion authority, the United States, would not be able to build on the many robust economic relationships we share with other countries throughout the world.

One such country is Australia. There are few larger, stronger, or more open economies with which the United States can negotiate a bilateral free trade agreement than Australia. Annual two-way trade between the United States and Australia is valued at \$28 billion, supporting thousands of jobs in each country. The United States is Australia's largest source of imports and Australia's second largest export market. Everyone can agree that an Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement would only enhance this fruitful relationship.

Aside from being one of our closest friends and allies, Australia is a strategic trading partner in the Asia-Pacific Region. Clearly, we have a mutual stake in expanding our market presence in this region, and a U.S.-Australia Free Trade Agreement would set a benchmark for other trade agreements in the future. It would not only send a message that we are serious about the principle of open markets, but it would show what trade-promotion authority can deliver. This is just one example of why we need trade-promotion authority, but it is reason enough, and it speaks to why we must act now. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of trade-promotion authority.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam 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 May 13, 1998 in Lancaster, SC. A gay woman was brutally beaten. The assailants, two men, were heard to use anti-gay slurs during the attack.

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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING THE COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING TEAM OF THE QUEST PROGRAM AT THE DR. JOHN HOWARD JR. SCHOOL IN EAST RUTHERFORD

• Mr. TORRICELLI. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Community Problem Solving Team at the Dr. John Howard Jr. School in East Rutherford. The group, consisting of 12 fourth and fifth graders, has assisted persons who have experienced personal tragedy in their lives in hopes that they can be of help in improving their situation.

This group of youngsters has worked incredibly hard to help so many get through the most difficult of times. They have volunteered 20 times in an after school program for homeless children at the Whitney Houston School, visited the Brookhaven Health Care Center to uplift patients' spirits, and have already volunteered a total of 600 hours towards this project. The group has also collected 150 new toys to be given during the holiday season and collected over 1,500 canned goods and perishable foods for needy families and a local food pantry. Besides gathering these material goods, the Community Problem Solving Team has been able to contribute fiscally. They applied for and were awarded a \$500 grant towards their cause, in addition to raising \$1,180 through the sales of candy bars and lollipops. In the coming weeks the group plans to present a high school senior in their community, whose sister was tragically struck and killed by a stolen automobile, a scholarship check to help her further her education.

Through the efforts of these grade school children, many members of their community are now living happier lives. Even at their young ages, they are being active in their community and working towards making this world a better place.