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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Commissioner John Busby, of the Salvation Army, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for being the refuge and strength of our Nation during these last painful months. We praise You for the comfort You have given during our time of deepest need.

Faithful God, we ask Your blessing upon our Senators. Give them wisdom and compassion as they lead our country. Give them wisdom to see the deep physical and spiritual needs of many Americans. Give them courage to affirm that faith in You gives meaning to human life and that service to humanity is the best work we can do.

We humbly ask You to help the Members of the Senate make this great Nation greater. May we all realize that the prosperity we enjoy in the United States of America has come only by Your grace. Make us worthy stewards of that grace. Help us all to put into action Your greatest commandment to love God with all our heart, mind, strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

This we pray in the name of Jesus who set for us the example of service above self. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HILLARY RODMAN CLINTON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CLINTON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the time under the control of Senator STABENOW or her designee.

At 10:30 a.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider four judicial nominations. At approximately 11:30 a.m. the Senate will proceed to vote on these nominations.

Following disposition of these nominations, the Senate will resume consideration of the trade bill.

MARY ANNE MOORE CLARKSON GIVES BIRTH

Mr. REID. Madam President, for all of us who work here on a daily basis, we congratulate Mary Anne Moore Clarkson who, last night had a baby weighing more than 10 pounds. Mary Anne is here every day. We are excited for her and her husband. Some of us

know she is Senator BYRD's granddaughter. We are excited for him and the entire family.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2485

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand S. 2485 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. REID. I ask that the bill be read for a second time, and I will then object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2485) entitled the "Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act."

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. When the Chair turns to a period for morning business, I ask unanimous consent the Senator from West Virginia, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, be recognized for up to 7 minutes. That will be out of Senator STABENOW's time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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minutes each and with the time to be under the control of the Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW, or her designee.

Under the previous order, the Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

STEEL

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, yesterday the President made very clear what we have all known for a long time in steel country, and that is that he basically does not care whether the American steel industry goes to Japan, Korea, Brazil, Russia, or some other place; that he is willing to see it go as an industry but, much more importantly in terms of my comments, that he is willing to consider perhaps TAA health care benefits for workers who have been destroyed by illegal importing problems. But steelworkers do not count. He specifically, in his statement of administration policy, said: I don't want steelworkers to have any health care retirement—retirement in the sense they do not have any more health benefits. I don't care about them. I want the RECORD to be crystal clear on that.

It is a sad position. It is a terrible day for steel. Somebody is going to get up today, they are going to make a motion, and it is going to be a point of order probably. I don't know when it will happen, who will do it, or how it will happen, but I want my colleagues to be aware of the situation.

Abandoning steelworkers, not allowing them to have health care coverage—we are only talking about 125,000 people as we start the process, none of whom, incidentally, is from the State I represent, the State of West Virginia. But they are just being excluded from the process.

TAA is a wonderful program. We recognize when people are thrown out of work due to imports, they need certain protections. Health care certainly needs to be one of those protections. Unfortunately, TAA does not cover, under its definition, retirees. It only covers active workers, not retirees.

You say retirees, that must be somebody who is in their seventies or eighties, and we should not be doing that here. But it is a very different situation in steel. A retiree in steel might be 35 years old, but the company went chapter 7. That means they turned out the lights, closed the door, pink slips, no health benefits, everything shut down—no bankruptcy problems, just no more existence.

The steelworkers go. They are called retirees, but in fact they are people, younger than average age, but out of health care.

I think it is outrageous. The steelworkers in fact were subjected to import surges which broke American Federal law, the 1974 Trade Act. Other countries did it at will. Our administration has refused to enforce that. So we have dumped steel, which has thrown people out of work. The admin-

istration then says: No, steelworkers cannot have health care benefits.

I do not understand how people come to think that way, what their value system is. But it is very clear in steel country that the President of the United States has abandoned the steelworkers of America and that he has abandoned people who have been already thrown out of work and who have no health care benefits, and have children to feed, even as he contemplates reluctantly the idea of doing health care benefits for other eligible active workers.

Let me say this. The President got a lot of credit in steel country for doing something called section 201. It was taking the dumping crisis, the illegal dumping crisis, before the International Trade Commission. He got a lot of credit for that. He pretty much had to do that, I would say—on political grounds, No. 1. But more importantly, the Finance Committee had already voted to do it. The Finance Committee has the same standing legally under the law as does the President, so it was going to happen anyway. So the result would have been the same. The International Trade Commission would have voted unanimously the steel industry was grievously injured by imports and people were hurting badly.

He did that knowing that it would make him somewhat popular in steel country because people were saying: Gee, we just solved the problem. It is not even the beginning of the problem. All that did was buy us time.

We have three steps we have to accomplish. One is we have to do section 201, which buys us time to consider health care costs, which we have to consider if we are going to have consolidation in the steel industry to preserve an American steel industry. It is sort of one of the great basic industries of this country.

We just passed a farm bill yesterday dumping billions and billions of dollars on farms for the hundredth consecutive year. Yet there was no consideration whatsoever for steelworkers. I find that very odd, even as my colleagues make these kinds of judgments.

So, No. 1, he did section 2101. He had to do that. He had no choice politically or procedurally. It just bought us some time. But we have to go on to retirement health care costs. He has washed his hands of that. He says: I want nothing to do with it. He actually writes in the statement of administrative—whatever the word is—practice that he particularly opposes the majority leader's amendment which would include retired steelworkers. He makes that very clear. He wants them cut out of the deal. He wants them excluded.

That is only 125,000 and would probably cost \$200 million or \$300 million.

I think the farm bill we passed yesterday was \$100 billion over 10 years. The proportion in sort of the human dimension of this is rather extraordinary.

The President has also done a lot of tariff exclusions. He has taken a lot of

countries out of section 201 that had to pay tariffs because they were illegally dumping steel in the United States and putting our workers out of work. He started to exempt different countries. He has different requirements for that—again, I think in violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the 1974 Trade Act.

All of us have asked him to stop that. Again, he has washed his hands of steel. He has washed his hands, more importantly, of the steelworkers who can also be called human beings with families—people. It doesn't have to be an industry. They are called human beings. They are Americans. They pay taxes. They do things right. They work in a very dangerous industry. So do farmers. Is a farmer more vulnerable than a steelworker? I do not know. Maybe a farmer is, but not where I come from.

I very much regret this action on his part. Let me conclude by saying this: We now know that the President doesn't have a commitment to steelworkers and to the steel industry. We know he has no regard for how people's lives and entire communities are going to be affected. I have believed that for a long time. Now it is proven. It is clear. He is moving aggressively with the help of some of our colleagues, unfortunately—most of them on the other side but a couple on this side—to simply walk away from steelworkers.

I think that is a kind of betrayal by somebody who claimed to be a friend of the steel industry. The President and the Vice President were in steel country in my part of the world a number of times saying how important steel was to the national defense, how it is basic to Americans, and how they were not going to let them down. When push came to shove, they let them down. They made it very clear.

I want to be incisively precise about that as we start this Thursday so that the people of America understand that.

I don't understand sometimes how people make decisions and what their value systems are, and what kind of fairness is within the fair trade or free trade system. But I do know this: The administration has abandoned any semblance of fairness toward some very decent people in this country called steelworkers.

I thank the Presiding Officer. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I commend my colleague from West Virginia for his diligence and compassionate concern for our steelworkers.

Coming from Michigan, I share his deep disappointment and concern about the administration's position.

I know the Senator from West Virginia has been in the Chamber over and over again speaking up for our steelworkers. I thank him on behalf of the steelworkers in Michigan—those in the Upper Peninsula, those downriver in communities near Detroit, and those