

However, both Senator BIDEN and I are blessed with excellent staffs. I thank staff on both sides. For the minority, the Democrats, I especially thank the inimitable Ed Hall, Brian McKeon, Runeet Talwar, Diana Ohlbaum, Janice O'Connell, and Joan Woodward.

I am especially grateful to the Senate's legislative counsel, Art Rynearson, and, of course, the best part for me, the majority staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The staff was put together by Admiral Nance and me, but he became the chief of staff of the Foreign Relations Committee. Steve Biegun has succeeded Bud Nance. He has been very artful in his contribution to this measure. Patti McNerney, Garrett Grigsby, Marshall Billingslea, Michael Westphal, Beth Stewart, Roger Noriega—this Noriega was born in Kansas, by the way—Kirsten Madison, Marc Thiessen, Sherry Grandjean, Dany Pletka, who has just given birth to her second little girl—Richard Fontaine, Jim Doran, Natasha Watson, Christa Muratore, Laura Parker, Christa Bailey, Andrew Anderson and Susan Oursler. All of these young people on both sides have made a mighty contribution not only to the composition of the bill but the fact we were able to compose it at all.

We are working together now. I want to say to my friend, Senator BIDEN, I appreciate his friendship and his cooperation. I extend my congratulations to him.

Now then, this bill addresses several significant oversight and authorization issues that ought to be at least mentioned before we go to a vote.

No. 1, it proposes to strengthen and preserve the arms control verification functions of the U.S. Government while addressing other nonproliferation matters as well.

No. 2, the bill authorizes a 5-year construction blueprint for upgrading U.S. embassies around the world to provide secure environments for America's personnel overseas. Unlike the funds provided more than a decade ago in the wake of a report by Admiral Inman calling for improved security of U.S. embassies, this bill would create a firewall for funding of other State Department expenditures. This, of course, would ensure that embassy funds are not raided again to pay for other State Department pet projects. I am just not going to stand for it, and this bill makes that very clear.

This bill makes some reforms to strengthen the Foreign Service and significantly, as Senator BIDEN has discussed at some length, the bill includes the United Nations reform package. This is not something we are going to lay on the table and say we are going to do someday. It is going to be done now. The United Nations is going to be reformed now or there is going to be trouble ahead. The reform agenda re-

quired by this bill, prior to payment of any U.S. taxpayers' dollars, has the full support of the Secretary of State and Senator BIDEN and me. These reforms were approved by the Senate during the 105th Congress by a vote of 90 to 5, with 5 Senators absent. But, of course, those reforms were vetoed by the President of the United States.

In conclusion, I want to pay my respects to all who have participated in the building of this legislation, those with whom I have disagreed as well as those with whom I have agreed. All in all, I think it is a very fine bill and I am glad to have had a very small part in it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, we are going to debate H.R. 975. I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to perhaps speak for 5 minutes on this bill.

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

STEEL IMPORT LIMITATION

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I think I will come back to the floor, and depending on how many Senators are out here, I will speak more on this. But in this short period of time I want to try to deal with some of the arguments on this very important cloture vote on H.R. 975. There are three arguments I want to address in 4 or 5 minutes.

The first argument is that the steel crisis is over. That is what I hear from the White House. I say to my colleagues, I spent the weekend on the Iron Range in northeastern Minnesota, both in Duluth and on the Iron Range in Minnesota. If you were to speak to some of the 108 workers who have been laid off at EVTAC Mining, or talked to the workers at Minntac who had to make all sorts of concessions last fall to avoid layoffs, or if you were to talk to workers at LTV in Hoyt Lakes, you would find quite another reality. I think it would be hard for the administration or any Senator, Republican or Democrat, to go to the Iron Range in Minnesota, where we produce the iron ore for our steel, and tell these workers or their families that this crisis is over. This crisis is far from over.

To go to the flip side of the coin, but it is the same coin, I ask unanimous consent a letter dated June 18 from the CEOs of the major steel companies to Secretary Daley be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Hon. WILLIAM M. DALEY,
Secretary of Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: We regret that your schedule required the cancellation of our meeting with you today. There are issues that are vital to our industry and to the Department's mission in trade law enforcement that require us to meet together as soon as you can do so.

We feel compelled, however, since we could not meet with you today, to convey to you immediately our emphatic disagreement with the comment attributed to you in this morning's Washington Post that "the steel crisis is over".

The steel crisis is still very much with us. Imports volumes are down from the disastrous levels of 1998 but are still very high by historic standards. While imports of hot-rolled steel are down dramatically due to your enforcement actions, the surge of imports in 1998 caused inventories to balloon to extremely high levels. These inventories have seriously depressed prices up until the present and will continue to do so until these stocks have been worked down. Moreover, cold-rolled imports are up dramatically through April of this year, 24% above the level of the first four months of last year. Imports of cut-to-length plate are up dramatically—25% year-to-year for this period. (If full year 1999 imports decline, it will only be because of the Department's prosecution of the cases against unfair trade that our companies recently filed.)

Prices remain extremely depressed. The producer price index for all steel mill products is down 9% (1999:Q2/1998:Q2). This is the largest decline in nearly 20 years. Prices for hot-rolled sheet, cold-rolled sheet and plate are down 11%, 9%, and 15%, respectively.

Operating rates have plunged from 93% to 80% between January and December 1998 and have remained at the depressed level through the first half of 1999. The decline in operating rates equates to about \$2 billion in lost revenue in the second half of last year. On an annualized basis, a 10% change in operating rate equals about \$5 billion in revenue. (Please see the attached charts addressing the facts set out above.)

The depressed prices and operating rates caused most American steel companies to post losses in the most recent quarter. Several steel companies have seen forced into bankruptcy. Thousands of those who were laid off due to unfairly traded imports are still out of work. Many thousands have seen their workweeks shortened and are still not back to full time.

For our industry, therefore, this crisis is far from over. It is very real, and very much with us.

We look forward to meeting with you soon. Your role in overseeing the Department's vigorous enforcement of the trade laws last fall was vital in preventing what is a continuing crisis from turning into an irreversible disaster. Your prompt action taken in initiating and prosecuting cases against dumping of hot-rolled steel from Japan, Russia and Brazil was essential to curtail the surge in these unfairly traded imports. The personal attention and energy which you have devoted to enforcing U.S. trade laws at the height of the import surge is deeply appreciated by all of us.

The Department is proceeding now to investigate other steel cases in cut-to-length plate and is due to make public its initiation decisions on the cold-rolled steel cases on Tuesday. These actions and decisions are

vital to the future of the American steel industry.

Very truly yours,
Hank Barnette, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Bethlehem Steel Corporation; James DeClusin, Senior Executive Vice President, California Steel Industries; Don Daily, Vice President & General Manager, Gallatin Steel; Joseph Cannon, Chief Executive Officer & Chairman, Geneva Steel; Robert Schaal, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Gulf States Steel, Inc.; Roger Phillips, President and Chief Executive Officer, IPSCO Inc.; Dale E. Wiersbe, President and Chief Operating Officer, Ispat Inland Inc.; J. Peter Kelly, President & Chief Executive Officer, LTV Steel Company, Inc.; John Maczuzak, President & Chief Operating Officer, National Steel Corporation; Keith Busse, President & Chief Executive Officer, Steel Dynamics, Inc.; Paul Wilhelm, President, U.S. Steel Group, a Unit of USX Corporation; Richard Reiderer, President and Chief Executive Officer, Weirton Steel Corporation.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, they make it clear the crisis is far from over as well.

The global conditions at the root of the crisis have not gone away. Imports from the major foreign producers have declined, but other countries have taken their place and we see major producers shifting to different steel products to get around the dumping orders. We need this Rockefeller bill to plug the loopholes.

Dumping cases take time. In many cases the relief is too little too late, or it gets negotiated away in suspension agreements. I am afraid someday we are going to wake up and we are not going to have any steel industry at all.

In my State of Minnesota we were a part of what happened in the 1980s, when we lost 350,000 steelworker jobs and 28,000 people left the Iron Range for good. As a Senator, I do not want to let that happen again.

The second argument that is made by the administration is that we cannot go forward with this bill because this is quota relief, and the question is whether or not quota relief is WTO-legal.

I see here a bit of a double standard. When Mr. Carl Lindner from Chiquita Bananas had a trade complaint, the administration did not hesitate to slap a 100-percent tariff on imports from Europe. But when our workers and working families ask for some relief under Section 201, which provides for quotas and is WTO-legal, then all of a sudden there is no relief forthcoming.

Finally, I make a point that this crisis is not the fault of steelworkers. They should not be the ones asked to pay the price. I am in complete agreement that we ought to care fiercely about what happens in Russia, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, and other countries as well, but again I see another double standard. When our financial interests, when a lot of our Wall Street interests, if you will, wanted to

be able to invest capital in these countries and take capital out at a second's notice, when they wanted to put hot capital in and take hot capital out without any regulatory framework in place, they were pleased to do so as long as they were making huge profits. Then when they decided to pull their capital out, these countries were left in terrible trouble. When it came to whether or not there would be IMF bailouts and whether or not there would be any kind of public dollars to help these financial interests out, again we had an administration that was all for these Wall Street interests.

I come to the floor of the Senate today to say this administration ought to really put working families—steelworkers of the Iron Range, steelworkers all across the country—as high on its list of priorities as Wall Street investors. And not just those steelworkers but the communities where they work and the communities where they live.

This bill, H.R. 975, is a good place to start. I thank Senator ROCKEFELLER for his leadership. I am proud to be out here on the floor speaking on this legislation. I hope we not only get votes for cloture, but we get more than enough votes to override any Presidential veto. This is a critically important vote that is going to take place within the next hour.

I yield the floor.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2000 AND 2001

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before we get into this traffic jam timewise, I want the Chair to state what the situation is with the time agreement so there will be no mistake about it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At 11:35 a.m., we have a new time agreement that will begin with 40 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders, or their designees, on the cloture vote on the motion to proceed on H.R. 975.

Mr. HELMS. So there are 5 minutes remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 5 minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I did not know that was the situation before us. As I understand, at 11:35 a.m., under a previous unanimous consent, there will be 40 minutes of debate equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Preceding the vote at 12:15 p.m.; the Senator is correct.

Mr. BIDEN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. HARKIN. I will be glad to yield.

Mr. BIDEN. I suggest the Senator start, and if no one is here to speak on the steel bill, while he is still speaking, we might be able to ask consent for

him to continue. Otherwise, he can pick up afterward.

Mr. HARKIN. That makes sense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank the chairman and ranking member, the managers of the bill, for including the amendment I had offered in the managers' packet. I thank Senators WELLSTONE, KOHL, LAUTENBERG, KENNEDY, DODD, TORRICELLI, WYDEN, and FEINGOLD for cosponsoring this sense-of-the-Senate resolution regarding the recent adoption in Geneva by the International Labor Organization of the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

June 17, 1999 marked a historic event in the battle to end the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor. By a unanimous vote, the International Labor Organization's member states approved a new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

For the first time in history, the world spoke with one voice in opposition to abusive and exploitative child labor. Countries from across the political, economic, and religious spectrum—from Jewish to Muslim, from Buddhists to Christians—came together to proclaim unequivocally that "abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice which will not be tolerated and must be abolished."

Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is an acceptable practice because of a country's economic circumstances. Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is acceptable because of cultural traditions. And gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is a necessary evil on the road to economic development. The United States and the international community as a whole unanimously for the first time laid those arguments to rest and laid the groundwork to begin the process of ending the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor.

Mr. President, for the better part of a decade, I have been in my own capacity working to do what I can to end abusive and exploitative child labor around the globe, including in the United States. The ILO estimates that there are about 250 million children worldwide, many as young as 6 or 7, who are working. These are not just part-time jobs. Many of them work in dangerous environments which are detrimental to their emotional, physical, and moral well-being.

Last year, I traveled with my staff to Katmandu, Nepal, and also to Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. We were able to witness firsthand the abuse of child labor.

This chart shows a plant we went to in Katmandu. It was on a Sunday. I was taken there by a young man who had previously been a child laborer. On the outside of the gate there was this