

world into recession. If we were to pass this non-WTO compliant legislation, the likely result is that other countries will respond by limiting our products from their markets. The resulting trade wars could affect millions of workers and lead to economic and political turmoil. While some view such a result as extreme, we all should remember that the Smoot-Hawley tariff legislation started a similar series of trade wars in the early 1930s that directly corresponded to the rise of Hitler and the origins of World War II.

Some would urge us to pass this legislation with the hopes that it will emasculate the WTO. I can only tell you how much I regret this short-sighted view. The United States, more than any other country, created today's trading system based on the principles of free trade. It was developed after witnessing how the trade wars of the 1930s led to the worldwide calamity of World War II. The United States has pursued a trade policy based on open markets for more than 50 years under both Republican and Democratic leadership. We should not allow misguided politics to destroy all of the gains that we fought so hard to achieve, precisely when we are reaping the benefits of these policies.

Instead, the United States, which has the strongest economy in the world, should try to use its leverage to continue to open markets. We should open the November WTO Ministerial as the champions of competition and open markets, not hiding behind a wall of quotas and tariffs. We in Congress should do our part to ensure that the United States remains in its position of world leadership. Instead of debating this ill-advised quota bill, we should be passing fast track authority for the President. The President needs this authority to continue to make agreements to knock down foreign barriers to American goods. Additionally, we should pass legislation to grant NAFTA parity to our Caribbean allies and to give trade incentives to help Africa grow and prosper. My hope is that after we reject this current legislation, we can start debating real progress in trade policy and how we can eliminate barriers to foreign goods to ensure that our citizens continue to prosper into the 21st Century.

In conclusion, I congratulate my colleagues who voted against cloture on the motion to proceed to this legislation. We will now begin the next global century not hiding behind barriers, but continuing the fight for open markets and prosperity.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few brief moments to comment on the cloture vote that just occurred regarding H.R. 975, the Steel Import Limitation bill.

As has been noted by several of my colleagues this afternoon, this was a difficult vote. There exist compelling

interests on both sides of the steel quota issue that were only touched upon earlier. Without question, this legislation is critically important to those men and women involved in the steel industry who have suffered financially due to alleged steel dumping practices. At the same time, this bill could also have a profound effect on this country's trade policy and countless other American industries' relationships with our foreign trading partners.

Understanding that these are cursory assessments of the deeper substance of this bill, I present them simply to underscore the need to discuss the bill at greater length, to emphasize the importance of allowing Senators the opportunity to articulate their specific concerns and positions on this legislation. This was not a vote on final passage or a vote to support this bill in its current form. Rather, it was a vote to move forward and fully consider this legislation and amendments to it. Regardless of one's opinion on the impact of this legislation, it deserved the chance to be considered and debated completely and fairly.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA'S COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. As the Senate moves toward consideration of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000, I want to note the significant efforts being made by the Government of Bolivia in its counternarcotics program. Since taking office in August, 1997, the government of Hugo Banzer has reduced Bolivia's cocaine production potential by a remarkable 40 percent. This is historic progress, which I hope will be emulated by other nations in the region. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter I received from the Vice President of Bolivia, Mr. Jorge Quiroga Ramirez, which discusses the Bolivian Government's plans and seeks continued American assistance in its counternarcotics efforts.

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

PRESIDENCIA DEL CONGRESO NACIONAL,
VICEPRESIDENCIA-DE LA
REPUBLICA,

La Paz, May 24, 1999.

Hon. TRENT LOTT,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SIR: I am writing to ask your help in addressing Bolivia's counter-narcotics needs in the coming Fiscal Year. As you are aware the government of President Banzer has embarked on an ambitious program (the Dignity Plan) to end our country's involvement in the illegal drug trade by the time we leave office in 2002. To date, the Dignity Plan has produced impressive results. In just twenty—one months we have successfully eradicated close to 40% of coca crops that go into making cocaine, and we are on target to meet our goal of a drug-free Bolivia by 2002. Our success thus far has been achieved through a

combination of national political will and assistance from the international donor community.

We are at a critical juncture in the development of the Dignity Plan. Having gained broad based domestic support for our policies, we now have to show our people that we can provide more legitimate commercial ventures as alternatives to coca in order to keep them from returning to coca planting in the future. It would be a profound tragedy for Bolivia and for the consumer nations if, after scud successful eradication, we were unable to hold the progress gained. The Bolivian people are willing to leave the illegal narcotics circuit if we can show them that feasible commercial alternatives exist. Where we have accomplished this, re-planting rates are at historical lows and our system of community-based compensation (as opposed to individual compensation) provides the best incentives for keeping our farmers in legitimate agricultural enterprises.

Proud as we are of our record, we know that the most difficult work lies ahead. We must maintain historic levels of eradication while dramatically enhancing our Alternative Development efforts to ensure that this eradication holds. For these reasons we are turning to the international donor community, and especially to the United States. I must be candid in stating, however, that the levels of counter-narcotics and alternative development funding which have recently been proposed for Bolivia, will fall well short of our needs.

In February of this year I visited Washington to present a comprehensive budget for the last years of our Dignity Plan. This figure of \$384 million from the United States (coupled with our own contributions and those from Europe) across four years represents our best estimates of what will be required to move our country out of the international narcotics circuit. As a former Finance Minister I understand and respect the need for fiscal discipline and I know that the United States Congress is struggling with its own budget priorities for the coming years. I would point out, however, that we have a once-in-a generation opportunity to completely win a battle, in Bolivia, in the worldwide war against drugs. If we fail to meet this challenge it may take us decades to arrive at this point again as the credibility of counter narcotics programs will suffer.

I would like to again ask your help and support in locating the resources needed for complete funding of the Dignity Plan request. With the proper levels of assistance we can soon celebrate with the United States the day when my country is out of the drug circuit entirely and Bolivian based cocaine no longer plagues the streets of our countries. The war on drugs needs its first victory. With your help Bolivia can be that victory.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

JORGE F. QUIROGA R.,
Vicepresident of the Republic of Bolivia,
President of the National Congress.

RETIREMENT OF GENERAL CHARLES KRULAK

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the outstanding service to our nation of General Charles Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps who is about to retire. General Krulak is completing 35