

When John Chafee first announced that he was not going to run for reelection, a lot of us who care about the environment realized what a great loss John Chafee's retirement would be. Now his sudden death reminds us all too quickly that he was an irreplaceable friend of the environment. He was a very sturdy, forthright, faithful leader at a time when the number of legislators in his great party who consider themselves environmental stewards grew smaller. This trend has been contrary to the proud environmental tradition of the Republican party that goes back to the days of Teddy Roosevelt and contrary to what I find to be the opinion of Republicans in Connecticut who are quite enthusiastically supportive of environmental protection. Senator Chafee held high the banner of that tradition.

He always considered himself a centrist and I know that what he meant by that was not that he was neutral, but that he was committed to bringing different groups and factions within Congress and outside together to get things done. One of my first and best experiences as a Senator was in 1990 when we were considering the Clean Air Act Amendments. Senator George Mitchell, then Majority Leader, pulled a group of us together with representatives of the Bush Administration in his conference room. John Chafee was there day after day, and night after night, throughout long, tedious negotiations. But in the end, he helped put the pieces together for us to adopt a bill signed by President Bush that has clearly made our nation's air healthier and cleaner.

He was also a leader in the effort to protect against global climate change, urging the President to adopt an international framework to address the issue as early as 1988, and supporting the efforts to achieve the signing and ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. We went to Kyoto, Japan for the critical meetings there to forge further agreements to fulfill the objectives of the Framework Convention agreement. In that difficult setting John sent a message to the countries of the world which were being quite critical of the United States' position, that there was bipartisan support in Congress for taking action to address global warming. He and I then worked together with Senator MACK to sponsor what we thought was a modest proposal in this Congress to begin to give companies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions the promise of credit if and when we adopt a mandatory system for controlling that kind of air pollution. I remember laughing with John that we must be on the right path because our proposal was opposed by both sides of the debate.

John Chafee was the quintessential New Englander; he was a straight-

forward, very honest, very civil man. He also was a great outdoorsman. I think that some of the work he was proudest of involved his efforts to protect natural resources. He played a critical role in expanding our National Wildlife Refuge System and worked hard to conserve wetlands. He instituted several reforms to tax policy to encourage the preservation of open space. He was a great advocate right up to his death for full and permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is so important to preserving open spaces in our states.

John Chafee was a good man and a superb chairman. Always respectful to those who came before our Committee, he wanted to get things done. When it came to the environment, he really did get things done. I'll miss him. We'll all miss him. The Lord's good earth will miss him, because he was indeed a good friend. My wife Hadassah joins me in extending condolences to Ginny Chafee and the entire family. We all do truly share in their loss.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to make additional remarks on a provision contained in the Manager's Amendment to the Trade and Development Act of 1999 adopted last week by voice vote. The manager's included a Sense of the Senate on Tariff Inversions that has raised some concerns with several of my colleagues. I would like to engage them in a discussion of the issue on the floor of the United States Senate.

There is a company in my state, The Warren Corporation, that specializes in the manufacture of high quality woolen and worsted apparel fabric. This company has been producing luxurious fabrics for decades and recently invested heavily in the U.S. to become a fully integrated textile mill with a diverse set of manufacturing operations. I mention Warren today because this proud contributor to the New England textile heritage could be adversely affected by a tariff provision recently adopted by voice vote in the Manager's Amendment to the Trade and Development Act of 1999. I would like to call on some of my esteemed colleagues who I am sure have similar concerns in their states. Senator HELMS, is it not true that you have thousands of workers in the textile industry that could be adversely affected by this legislation.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President in responding to the distinguished Senator from Connecticut, it is certainly true that North Carolina is the largest of the nation's textile and apparel states in terms of employment. In fact, North Carolina employs over 200,000 workers in this industry, many of which are directly involved in wool fabric production. For that reason, I share his deep

interest in this wool fabric issue. I want to make it clear that any such legislation would institute a unilateral tariff reduction on the part of the U.S. I do not believe that it is wise policy for the U.S. to simply reduce important tariffs and gain nothing in return. These same fabric makers are essentially precluded from shipping their products to many key markets overseas. My point is simply, if we want to consider reducing these duties, it would be better done as part of the upcoming World Trade Organization talks later this month in Seattle. At the very least, in that forum we would have the ability to gain some reciprocal market access to our manufacturers.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to also express my concern in regard to this wool fabric issue. Like my colleague from Connecticut, I have great respect for the workers and employers in the textile sector in my state. In particular the Warren corporation was mentioned. Eleven years ago, this company invested over \$40 million in an abandoned textile factory in Stafford Springs, Connecticut. For several years they operated at a loss as they fought for market share here in the U.S. However, they understood that if they produced a quality product at reasonable price, they would succeed. Today they are one of the most respected suppliers of fine grade wool fabrics in the world, and they are providing nearly 300 jobs in a depressed area of my state. This is the type of investment and the type of jobs that we want to attract to our region. As a result, we in Congress need to be very careful about proposals that would cut the legs out from under a company such as Warren. Instead of unilaterally cutting their tariffs, we should be searching for ways to further encourage such investment.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I too have an interest in this matter, but from a different angle. The U.S. fabric industry consumes virtually all the wool fiber produced in the United States. My home state is a significant producer of wool. If we approve legislation that damages fabric makers, it will have a direct and adverse impact on wool growers. The growers in my state are already suffering from surging imports of lamb meat. In addition, the price of their wool has been severely depressed due to the fact that wool from Australia and New Zealand is routinely dumped on the world market. As a result, I am on the record as strongly opposing any legislation that cuts U.S. wool fabric duties. It is critical that in the discussions of this issue members from the wool producing regions are fully informed and involved. We simply cannot accept a move that would take steps to appease suit makers without fully understanding and considering the impact of such legislation all the way down the chain—from fabric makers to wool growers.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise to fully support the remarks of my colleague from Colorado. The wool fiber industry in my state is critical to our overall state economy.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. And Senator THOMAS, am I correct in noting that 23 distinguished members of this body submitted a letter to the Chairman of the Finance Committee earlier this year expressing concern over legislation that would threaten domestic textile producers?

Mr. THOMAS. That is correct. I was one of 23 signatories of a letter dated April 16, 1999, that provides several reasons why unilateral tariff reductions should be avoided. First, wool fabric similar to the foreign imported product, subject to tariffs, is already available from domestic producers. Second, this is not the appropriate time to address accelerated tariff reductions as wool fabric tariffs are currently being reduced at the multilateral level. U.S. producers and textile companies have made investments and based business decisions on trade negotiations that were reached under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). If we are to consider additional tariff reductions, those discussions should occur during trade negotiations, instead of being legislated on the floor of the U.S. Senate. U.S. manufacturers are the only customers domestic wool growers have; virtually no wool is exported. Wyoming is the second largest wool producing state and because of already depressed wool prices, our growers can not break even, let alone turn a profit. Accelerating wool fabric tariff cuts, at this time, will only further decrease fiber prices and sales, consequently putting U.S. wool growers and textile workers at risk. I thank my colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, for his work on this crucial issue.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank my colleague from Wyoming for his kind words. On November 3, I presented legislative background on the wool tariff provision to reflect the concerns of my constituents about any revision to tariff reduction and phase-out schedules that would unfairly alter their competitive posture and force layoffs. Specifically, I noted that the language in the provision as originally proposed dinging the inclusion of the wool fabric industry was purposely deleted in the version that passed in the Manager's Amendment, underscoring the Senate's clear intent that this provision is not directed at this sector.

Second, the provision specifically requires that full account be taken of "conditions" in the various "producing industry in the United States," indicating that whatever further action Congress may want to consider in the future on this issue, or that the U.S. Trade Representative may raise in future negotiations, must assure fairness

and equitable treatment to those currently producing in the United States. Furthermore, the language specifically states that special attention and equity is to be provided to "those currently facing tariff phase-outs negotiated under prior trade agreements." Since my constituents in the wool fabrication sector specifically fall into exactly that posture, property relying on phase-out schedules negotiated in prior trade agreements, this protection and assurance is directed at their concerns, which, in turn, is why their industry sector was dropped from application of this provision.

Senator HELMS, is it not true that Senators MOYNIHAN and ROTH provided assurances that I would be given full notice of any consideration of this issue in conference and that it will be resolved in a manner satisfactory to me in representative of my constituents concerns?

Mr. HELMS. That is my understanding of your verbal agreement with the managers of the bill.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, we have reiterated our concerns concerning the wool tariff provision with the hope that the leadership will find a way to support the views of nearly one quarter of the Senate. I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD a letter from April 16, 1999, from 23 Senators opposed by any changes in wool tariffs addressed to Senator ROTH.

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

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1999.

Hon. WILLIAM ROTH
Chairman, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: We write to express strong opposition to S. 218, which is designed to reduce some and eliminate other existing U.S. tariffs on certain types of wool fabric. This bill is virtually identical to legislation introduced last Congress, which drew widespread, adverse reaction from U.S. producers of wool fiber, top, yarns, and fabrics, as well as many in Congress.

Our continued opposition to this legislation is based on a number of factors:

The fabric types covered by S. 218 are readily available from U.S. producers.

Wool fabric tariffs are already in the process of being reduced, and as such there is no need for these additional, unilateral cuts. In 1995 the WTO/Uruguay Round instituted a phased 30% tariff reduction and import quota elimination for the same products covered by S. 218.

Based on the trade laws and tariffs in place as a result of the Uruguay Round/WTO and the NAFTA, hundreds of millions of dollars in investments were made by the domestic wool fabric industry to try to help ensure their survival. Changing the rules of the game now by making additional, unforeseen tariff cuts will undermine the integrity of these trade rules/agreements and destroy these investments.

In preparation for the new WTO Round, the U.S. is participating in multilateral trade talks this year. Rather than sanctioning additional, unilateral U.S. tariff cuts, Congress

should instead instruct the Administration to focus on improving foreign market access for U.S. produced wool fabric and other textile products during these talks. We believe that even those in Congress who may favor tariff cuts, would understand that doing so outside the WTO negotiating context is not in the best interests of the United States, since there would be no possibility of using these or any other cuts as a bargaining tool to get trade concession in return.

These proposed cuts would have an extremely severe impact on the approximately 90,000 U.S. workers whose livelihoods are directly tied to the production of wool textiles.

The unilateral giveaway of U.S. wool fabric tariffs mandated under S. 218 comes at a time when imports are already at record levels. Adding to the current import crisis in this sector is the fact that many Asian suppliers are exporting these fabrics well below 1997 prices as a result of the economic crisis in that region.

The flood of low cost imports has forced U.S. companies to lay-off over 1,600 wool yarn and fabric workers in January 1999, alone. This is the continuation of a devastating trend whereby nearly one-third of all U.S. wool yarn and fabric jobs have been lost in recent years. Certainly, passage of S. 218 will result in the loss of thousands of additional jobs.

U.S. woolgrowers produce fine wools that go into the fabrics covered by S. 218. U.S. wool, top, yarn, & fabric manufacturers are the only customers U.S. woolgrowers have; virtually no wool is exported. Due to surging wool textile and apparel imports, U.S. wool fiber sales and prices have been extremely depressed. Wool fabric tariff cuts will leave woolgrowers with an even more diminished customer base for their wool fiber, at a time when the lamb meat portion of their business is also being severely harmed by increased lamb meat imports.

For these reasons, we believe that you should oppose S. 218. Specifically, we encourage you to block the inclusion of this legislation as part of any trade bill or other legislation that your committee may approve in the 106th Congress. Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Craig; Mike Enzi; Olympia Snowe; Mike Crapo; Ben Nighthorse Campbell; John Warner; Chuck Robb; Fritz Hollings; Susan Collins; Conrad Burns; Max Baucus; Craig Thomas; Pete V. Domenici; Joe Lieberman; Richard Shelby; Robert F. Bennett; Strom Thurmond; Jesse Helms; John Edwards; Tim Johnson; Jeff Bingaman; John H. Chafee; Jeff Sessions.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, November 8, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,660,688,811,424.68 (Five trillion, six hundred sixty billion, six hundred eighty-eight million, eight hundred eleven thousand, four hundred twenty-four dollars and sixty-eight cents).

Five years ago, November 8, 1994, the Federal debt stood at \$4,724,109,000,000 (Four trillion, seven hundred twenty-four billion, one hundred nine million).

Ten years ago, November 8, 1989, the Federal debt stood at \$2,895,742,000,000