

Chamber of Commerce, the National Education Association, and the National School Boards Association.

Ed-Flex is a move in the right direction. We must empower States and localities by giving them the flexibility they need to best combine Federal resources with State and local reform efforts. I am pleased that the 106th Congress has acted quickly on my bill to ensure that every State will have the opportunity to participate in this successful program. Ed-Flex is a commonsense, bipartisan plan that will give States and localities the flexibility that they need while holding them accountable for producing results.

Now, the challenge for this Congress is to build on Ed-Flex's themes: flexibility and accountability. As we consider the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act later this year, we must continue the push to cut red tape and remove overly-prescriptive Federal mandates on Federal education funding. At the same time, we must hold States and local schools accountable for increasing student achievement. Flexibility, combined with accountability, must be our objective. The end result of our reform effort must spark innovation—innovation designed to provide all students a world-class education.●

TRADE FAIRNESS ACT OF 1999

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to cosponsor S. 261, the Trade Fairness Act of 1999. I believe this legislation is crucial to our attempts to save American jobs from unfair competition and dumping.

Specifically, Mr. President, we must implement this legislation to protect our steelworkers from imports dumped into our domestic markets by our Russian, Asian and Brazilian competitors.

American steelworkers have proven that they are our nation's backbone. They provide the materials on which our shipping, manufacturing, indeed our entire industrial base rely. In my state's Upper Peninsula two mines, the Tilden and the Empire, employ almost 2,000 Michigianians. Last year the workers in these mines produced over 15 million tons of iron ore pellets. They paid \$8 million in taxes. Time and again they have stood up for America, and it is time for America to stand up for them.

We must stand up for these hard working men and women, Mr. President, because they face a very real threat to their livelihoods. Let me cite a few numbers. By October of last year Japan had already doubled its imports to the United States from the year before. Just in that month of October, Japan sent 882,000 tons of steel to the United States, an all-time record. Finally, in that month alone 4.1 million net tons of steel were imported to the United States.

The reasons for this steep increase in imports are threefold. First, the Federal Reserve's longstanding tight money policy produced actual deflation in commodity prices, deflation from which our steel industry has yet to recover. Second, the Asian, Russian and Brazilian economic crises are forcing those countries to rely on exports to keep their economies afloat. The U.S. is the world's biggest market, and so they have targeted us. Third, the International Monetary Fund convinced these countries to raise interest rates and devalue currencies, which allowed their steel to undercut our prices.

Combined, these factors have encouraged the unfair trade practice of dumping, selling steel in the United States at prices below the cost of production. This practice threatens disastrous consequences for our steelworkers and for our economy. Already, Mr. President, 10,000 workers have been laid off, with more than twice that many put on reduced hours.

We cannot stand by while American workers lose their jobs. We cannot abide the unfair trade practice of dumping. We have worked hard—these men and women have worked hard—to build a prosperous America. We cannot sacrifice them to pay for bureaucrats' mistakes, be they in Washington, Tokyo, or Moscow.

Mr. President, I have never made a secret of my strong, free-trade views. But free trade must also be fair trade. Our laws already recognize this principle. After all, we already have trade laws on the books intended to deal with these kinds of issues. It is time to enforce them. In addition, however, I believe the fact that these trade laws are not being enforced shows the need for reform.

That is why I am cosponsoring the Trade Fairness Act. This legislation will lower the threshold for establishing injury to our industries so that we may more effectively protect them from unfair trade practices.

Under this law imports that have a causal link to substantial injury in an industry will trigger action. Substantial injury will be determined by the International Trade Commission, considering "the rate and amount of the increase in imports of the product concerned in absolute and relative terms; the share of the domestic market taken by increased imports; changes in the levels of sales, production, productivity, capacity utilization, profits and losses, and employment."

In addition, this legislation establishes a comprehensive steel import permit and monitoring program modeled on similar systems in Canada and Mexico. The program would require importers to provide information regarding country of origin, quantity, value, and Harmonized Traffic Schedule number. The legislation also requires the Administration to release the data col-

lected to the public in aggregate form on an expedited basis.

The information provided by the licensing program will allow the Commerce Department and the steel industry to monitor the influx of steel imports into the U.S. Presently, it is very difficult to obtain timely information regarding the volume of steel that enters the country. It usually takes 2-3 months before specific figures can be obtained. This makes it very difficult to gauge the extent of the problem when the damage is occurring.

Mr. President, this legislation provides us with the tools we need to protect working Americans from unfair foreign competition. It will prevent undue hardship while upholding the standards of free, fair and open trade.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.●

AUTHORIZING LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN DIRK S. DIXON, ET AL. VERSUS BRUCE PEARSON, ET AL.

AUTHORIZING LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES VERSUS YAH LIN "CHARLIE" TRIE

AUTHORIZING REPRESENTATION OF SECRETARY OF THE SENATE IN BOB SCHAFFER, ET AL. VERSUS WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON, ET AL.

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed en bloc to the immediate consideration of 3 legal counsel resolutions which are at the desk and numbered as follows: S. Res. 65, S. Res. 66, and S. Res. 67.

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

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and statements of explanation appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 65) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 65

Whereas, in the case of *Dirk S. Dixon, et al. v. Bruce Pearson, et al.*, Civil No. 97-998 (Cass Cty., N.D.) pending in North Dakota state court, testimony has been requested from Kevin Carvell and Judy Steffes, employees of Senator Byron L. Dorgan;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288(a) and 288(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent Senators and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for