

By Mr. DODD:

S. 2916. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide separate subheadings for hair clippers used for animals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2917. A bill to settle the land claims of the Pueblo of Santo Domingo; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2918. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to improve access to health insurance and Medicare benefits for individuals ages 55 to 65 to be fully funded through premiums and anti-fraud provisions, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for payment of such premiums and of premiums for certain COBRA continuation coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2919. A bill to amend the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 to extend the legislative authority for the Black Patriots Foundation to establish a commemorative work; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 2920. A bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2921. A bill to provide for management and leadership training, the provision of assistance and resources for policy analysis, and other appropriate activities in the training of Native American and Alaska Native professionals in health care and public policy; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 342. A resolution designating the week beginning September 17, 2000, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. 2913. A bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to use the export enhancement program to encourage the commercial sale of United States wheat in world markets at competitive prices whenever the importation of Canadian wheat into the United States reaches certain triggers; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM TRIGGER ACT OF 2000

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to help our

farmers fight back against the unfair trade practices of state trading enterprises. As many of my colleagues know, state trading enterprises are government sanctioned monopolies that control commodity exports. Their unfair practices allow them to undercut prices of U.S. commodities, both in our market and in overseas markets where we compete for exports. My legislation, the Export Enhancement Program Trigger Act of 2000, would direct our government to fight back against these unfair practices.

I am introducing this legislation in response to the experience of farmers in North Dakota, who have been forced to compete not just with foreign farmers, but with foreign state trading enterprises. Ever since the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) took effect, North Dakota farmers have been flooded with a rising tide of imports of Canadian grains.

These imports are coming into our country not because Canadian farmers are more competitive, but because of flaws in the CFTA and the unfair actions of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). As negotiated by then-USTR Clayton Yeutter, the CFTA allows the Canadian Wheat Board to sell into our market at less than the total cost of acquiring and selling its grain.

The fact is that the Canadian Wheat Board is a government created and government supported monopoly. Because Canadian farmers are required to sell their grain to the Wheat Board, the Wheat Board gets its wheat at below market prices and can then tell its customers in this country or overseas that it will undercut U.S. prices. These practices amount to de facto subsidies, but because the Wheat Board operates in secret, these unfair practices are not subjected to the normal rules of international trade.

This unfair competition caused imports of wheat from Canada to increase steadily until, in 1993-94, they reached a record 2.4 million tons of total wheat and 575,000 tons of durum. These levels of imports caused unacceptable damage to North Dakota farmers, so I convinced the Clinton Administration to impose limits on Canadian imports. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) negotiated with Canada, durum imports were limited to 300,000 tons and total wheat imports were limited to 1.5 million tons in 1994-95.

These limits worked. Imports of Canadian grain fell dramatically for several years. Unfortunately, however, the authority to impose these limits disappeared as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreements. As a result, our friends to the north are once again on the move, attacking our markets, using the monopoly power of the Canadian Wheat Board to undercut prices for our farmers.

Last year, imports from Canada again approached their 1993-94 peaks

(2.2 million tons of total wheat and 560,000 tons of durum), and this year they are on track to stay far above the MOU level (2 million tons of total wheat and 480,000 tons of durum). This is unacceptable. It is far past time to send a clear and unmistakable message to our friends in Canada that the U.S. will not tolerate these practices any longer—that we will fight back.

The legislation I am introducing today will do exactly that. My legislation would require USDA to use the Export Enhancement Program—EEP—in either of two circumstances.

First, if imports of durum or wheat into the U.S. from Canada exceed the limits set in the MOU—300,000 tons for durum and 1,500,000 tons for total wheat imports—USDA would be required to use EEP to export wheat or durum into markets where we compete with Canada in a quantity equal to at least twice the total amount of Canadian imports into the U.S. for that year.

This will clearly tell Canada that it will lose far more in its overseas markets than it gains in our markets if it persists in exporting more than the MOU levels. As a result, I expect that Canada will again voluntarily comply with the MOU limits as it did in 1995-96 and 1996-97. Even if Canada does not comply, though, this legislation will ensure that U.S. farmers do not bear the costs of Canadian imports. By requiring the U.S. to export twice as much wheat as we are importing from Canada, this legislation will ensure that total supply will be reduced and prices will strengthen.

Second, if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that a state trading enterprise (STE) like the Canadian Wheat Board is using unfair trade practices to reduce our exports of any agricultural commodity to overseas markets, the Secretary is required to respond by using EEP in an amount sufficient to ensure that prices received by U.S. farmers are not reduced as a result of the STE's actions. Too often, we have heard from our industry and our USDA officials that Canada is arbitrarily undercutting U.S. prices in overseas markets. My proposal would require USDA to respond, to ensure that we do not give up our export markets without a fight.

Taken together, these two provisions will support the efforts of our trade negotiators to discipline STEs as part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations on agriculture. Disciplining STEs is a top priority for our negotiators, and this legislation, by defining the marketing practices of STEs as unfair trade practices, will increase our negotiators' leverage to develop meaningful rules on STEs.

Moreover, I believe these provisions will support the efforts of North Dakota farmers, acting through the Wheat Commission, in bringing a trade