

(1) a 4 percent special additional tariff introduced in 1998 on nearly all imports;

(2) an additional 10 percent surcharge added to the applied existing tariff rates in 1999 on nearly all imports; and

(3) a "customs simplification" in 1999 which increased by 5 percent tariffs previously set at 0 percent, 10 percent, 20 percent and 30 percent rates;

Whereas India's 1999/2000 Budget has further increased the tariff on soda ash to 38.5 percent, making it the highest in the world and creating an impossible trade barrier for individual United States soda ash exporters to overcome in order to remain competitive;

Whereas India has erected further barriers to United States soda ash through the imposition of a "temporary" order by India's Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission ("MRTPC"), which precludes United States producers from exporting to India through the American Natural Soda Ash Corporation ("ANSAC"), an export trading joint venture which operates in strict accordance with the provisions of the Export Trade Promotion Act of 1917 (15 U.S. Code Sec. 61 et seq.) and the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S. Code Sec. 4001 et seq.);

Whereas this MRTPC order effectively maintains a complete and total de facto embargo on United States soda ash exports to India;

Whereas it appears that the MRTPC order was issued at the behest of Indian soda ash producers solely to protect their local market monopoly, rather than for legitimate reasons;

Whereas, since 1995 the United States Trade Representative's ("USTR") National Trade Estimate Report to Congress has identified India's denial of United States access to its soda ash market as a high priority;

Whereas, in January 1999, in response to an ANSAC petition, the USTR initiated a "country practice" petition to suspend India's duty-free benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") program on the grounds that India, by virtue of the foregoing tariffs and orders, fails to provide the United States equitable and reasonable access to its soda ash market;

Whereas, on February 14, 2000, U.S. Trade Representative Barshesky and Secretary of Commerce Daley issued a joint press release concluding that "U.S. soda ash is being shut out of the Indian market:"

Whereas, in March 2000, in apparent response to ANSAC's efforts to open India's soda ash market, the MRTPC issued a "show cause" order why ANSAC representatives should not be held in criminal contempt;

Whereas the basis for that show cause order were statements made by ANSAC representatives during testimony before the USTR's GSP Subcommittee at a hearing in Washington in March 1999, which statements characterized the Indian soda ash market as closed and the actions of the MRTPC as unfair;

Whereas, the actions of the MRTPC appear to be designed to ensure that India's market remains closed to United States exports; and

Whereas the unfair closure of India's market to United States soda ash exports runs counter to the concepts of fair and free trade and to the interests of India's soda ash consumers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That—*

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that India's tariffs on United States soda ash exports are excessive and are designed solely to exclude unfairly United States producers from the Indian market;

(2) the Senate strongly urges President Clinton, the USTR and the Government of India to use the mid-September visit to Washington of India's Prime Minister Vajpayee as an opportunity to address and settle the soda ash dispute by allowing United States soda ash equitable and reasonable access to the Indian market through the ANSAC joint venture at tariff reduced rates consistent with WTO normalization levels; and

(3) the Senate calls on the President and the USTR, in the absence of such a settlement, promptly to begin the process of suspending India's GSP benefits.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on September 12, 2000 in SR-328A at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the operation of the Office of Civil Rights, USDA, and the role of the Office of General Counsel, USDA.

##### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, September 13, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Building for a hearing on S. 2899, a bill to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States' relationship with Native Hawaiians.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Holly Vineyard of the Finance Committee, a fellow from the Department of Commerce, be granted privilege of the floor during the remainder of the debate on H.R. 4444.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 1776

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1776 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

I ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1452, which is a bill to modernize the requirements for the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1994, as passed, be inserted in lieu thereof. I further ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the Senate insist upon its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, we have this afternoon received the response from one of our Senators who believes this bill is very close, but that he has some problems with it. We would, therefore, on behalf of this unnamed Senator, object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me urge Senator REID and the leadership to work with us, if he would talk with that Senator and identify what the problem might be. I know this bill has broad, I think almost unanimous, support.

I read what the bill does in its title. It would modernize the requirements for manufactured housing construction. This is in the interest of consumers. It will help the industry because it will clarify what the standards should be.

It is about safety; it is about manufactured housing construction. I have a feeling the problem is not with this bill, that it is an unrelated issue. But I hope we can work through the objection and we will come back on Monday or Tuesday of next week, I might say to Senator REID, and see if we cannot get that worked out.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I think it is an important piece of legislation. In Nevada, we depend very heavily on manufactured housing. We will do everything we can to see if we can get this worked out.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3615

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 525, H.R. 3615, the Rural Local Broadcast Signal Act and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

I further ask consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 2097 as passed be inserted in lieu thereof. I further ask consent that the bill then be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate on this legislation.

Just so everybody in the Senate will understand, this is the rural local satellite bill. Most of us refer to it as the satellite bill. It is the bill that was developed as a result of an agreement last year to make sure that there was some way for these loans to be available so satellites could be put up in space, where those of us in rural States, smaller communities, would have access to these satellites with dishes, just like the cities have. This is an effort to keep that commitment.