

California for doing such a sweet thing. She is going to speak for some time. I know it would help educate me to stay and hear it, but like so many other people, I am too busy and I want to say a few things.

First of all, I congratulate the President for proposing the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. The President recognized wisely that even if we took all the aid provided by every country in the world and gave it to sub-Saharan Africa, obviously we could have a short-term impact on them, but the long-term impact would be small when compared to the impact we can have through trade.

This bill is an opportunity for us to open up our markets for goods from some of the poorest countries in the world. I know there are some who say that even though this will mean clothing will be cheaper for American consumers, for working and low-income Americans, somehow there is a sacrifice involved. I fail to see it. I see everybody benefiting from trade. Desperately poor people in Africa will have an opportunity to produce products that can be sold in America, and we can raise their living standards and our own through the miracle of world trade.

This is not a perfect bill. I wish it were less protectionist. One provision in the bill requires that in order for textiles from sub-Saharan Africa to come into the country, they have to be made out of American yarn and American thread. That provision is going to reduce their competitiveness, but I appreciate the fact that the conference put in an exception for the 41 countries that have per capita incomes of below \$1,500 a year.

So the bill is not perfect, but it is a movement in the right direction, and I strongly support it.

It is important for us to promote world trade. I know our colleague who spoke before me believes that trade only helps rich people and big companies, but I believe trade helps working people. It creates jobs. It creates opportunity. It expands freedom. That is why I am so strongly in support of this bill.

I thank the Finance Committee for working out a compromise that will mean more trade, that will mean more products. I have to say I do not understand how, with a straight face, the textile industry was so adamantly opposed to this bill. If we unleashed all of the energies of sub-Saharan Africa and all of their productive capacity and had them produce textiles to sell in America, they would still have no substantial impact on our market.

I do not understand why we continue to let special interests in America direct our Government to limit our ability to buy goods that would raise the living standards of working Americans. It is outrageous and unfair, and it is

important that we stand up against these protectionist forces. Who gives the American textile industry the right to say that, as a free person, I cannot buy a better shirt or a cheaper shirt produced somewhere else in the world? How is America diminished by it? I say it is not. My freedom is diminished by such forces.

We have a mixture of protectionism and trade in this bill. But, overall, it is a movement in the right direction, and I am in favor of it. When the Multifiber Agreement is implemented, we will open up trade in textiles. As late as 5 years ago, the average American family paid \$700 more a year for clothing because of textile protection in America than they would with free trade. This is a small step in the right direction. I rejoice in it, and I support it.

I thank the Senator from California for yielding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I notice that the distinguished Senator from Alabama is on the floor. So I ask unanimous consent to yield to him, and then to have the floor returned to me when he concludes.

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

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to present to the Senate today Alfredo Phillips, who is a member of the Congress of the Nation of Mexico. I have gotten to know him in 3 years now at the interparliamentary conference between the United States and Mexico. We have had 39 years of interparliamentary conferences between our two nations. He has an extraordinary history in banking.

He was Director of the North American Development Bank, which is part of the NAFTA agreement. He has been Executive Director of the International Money Fund for 4 years. He is General Coordinator of International Affairs of the PRI. That is his title now. He was Mexico's Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador to Japan, and chairs the Foreign Relations Commission for the Congress of Mexico.

He got his degree in humanities from the University of Mexico and his degree in economics from the University of London. He studied at George Washington University. His wife Maureen is a wonderful lady who my wife Mary and I have had the pleasure to meet. His son Alfredo is in an economics section of the Mexican Embassy here in the United States.

Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce Mr. Alfredo Phillips to this body. He is known to many of our Senators and Congressmen.

RECESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess for 3 minutes, before Senator FEINSTEIN takes the floor again, in order for the Senate to greet our guest.

There being no objection, at 11:57 a.m., the Senate recessed until 12:03 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BURNS).

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when Senator FEINSTEIN has finished speaking, Senator FEINGOLD be able to consume his time for debate on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the conference report on the African Growth and Opportunity Act and to express my deep disappointment that the conference decided to strip out of the report the amendment which has been spoken about on this floor which addresses HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. This is an amendment I offered with the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. FEINGOLD.

This amendment was accepted by the Senate, and it was intended to provide African countries experiencing an HIV/AIDS crisis with the ability to institute measures consistent with the World Trade Organization intellectual property rules that are designed to ensure the distribution of pharmaceuticals and medical technology to afflicted populations.

We offered this amendment because we believed the act inadvertently threatened to undermine the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa. Our amendment was a simple, common-sense approach consistent with international law to fix this oversight. I believe the action of the conference in stripping this amendment was unconscionable. I found it especially disappointing because my office and staff had been working with the chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. ROTH, to develop compromise language that met our concerns and would be acceptable to the conference.

Chairman ROTH negotiated in good faith, and he and the other Senate conferees—Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. BAUCUS—wanted to do the right thing. Unfortunately, as I understand it, because of the way in which the House and Senate Republican leadership dealt with this conference, the majority leader and the Speaker, as I have been told, decided my amendment was to be eliminated and presented a take-it-or-leave-it offer to the conferees. The conference was never really