

finance reform, in this session, with this Congress and this President, that it has to be a bipartisan effort.

It is my view that when Mr. DASCHLE, the minority leader, made this unanimous-consent request, that he was not seeking to make this a partisan issue. Senator DASCHLE has indicated that he believes that the so-called McCain-Feingold bill ought to be the vehicle for achieving campaign finance reform. He has indicated that he disagrees with some aspects of it. But I believe that the Senator from South Dakota is a friend to the issue of campaign finance reform.

Nonetheless, I think we will do better on the issue of campaign finance reform if it is offered on the basis of a bipartisan agreement, either by Senators working together on the bill, as Senator McCAIN and Senator WELLSTONE and I are doing, or preferably if the two leaders, the Senator from Kansas and the Senator from South Dakota, were to get together and make sure that in the very near future this body turn specifically to the issue of campaign finance reform as the order of the day. That is what all of us who cosponsor this bill prefer, although we stand ready to attach this bill as an amendment to other legislation if we are not afforded that opportunity.

So let me just reiterate, the campaign finance reform effort is the first bipartisan effort of its kind in 10 years in this body. It is a real effort. It is an effort that has enormous support, and we will not allow any partisan maneuvers on either side to prevent us from our opportunity to make this change that the American people want very, very much.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND BRIBERY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on another matter, international trade is a high priority in almost every country today. We are negotiating all sorts of agreements to bring down barriers and protect our workers and promote economic development worldwide.

One issue, Mr. President, that I have tried to identify as a barrier for competition for American businesses is the issue of bribery. American businesses live in accordance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. This was a bill offered by my predecessor from Wisconsin, Senator William Proxmire. Most businesspeople praise it as a way of maintaining honesty, and thus stability, in their business relationships. But, unfortunately, other countries—and one example is Germany—actually give their businesses the opportunity to write off a bribe in a foreign country as a tax deduction at the end of the year. So it is illegal for one German to bribe another German, but if they were to offer that bribe to somebody in another country, they can use it as a tax deduction. This produces some pretty unhappy faces when American businesspeople find this out.

Some say that bribes are the cost of doing business overseas, particularly in some developing countries. I believe, however, it is a barrier to doing business in the long run, particularly overseas, since it can only retard economic growth in some of the developing countries.

As a result, Mr. President, I have introduced legislation to try to get at this problem. In the State Department authorization bill for this year, I offered an amendment requiring an interagency study on bribery and corruption and the impact it causes on American businesses. I was disappointed that the majority dropped it in conference committee, but I am pleased that the Commerce Department is going ahead and pursuing a study of its own on this study anyway. I appreciate that.

I have also raised the issue of international bribery consistently in the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, not only as we examine how to promote U.S. products, but in my role as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, to try to raise the issue of bribery with the African heads of States and other officials when we have confirmation hearings for ambassadors headed to the region. I believe that the ambassadors should be intimately involved in this issue as we seek to promote American products overseas.

I also want to praise Ambassador Kantor's very direct and public efforts on this issue and to say that I think his recent efforts have been critical in making headway on a universal acceptance of the principles that underlie the American Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. I am particularly encouraged that the administration seems to want the WTO to consider sanctions against bribers when Government contracts are under consideration.

Mr. President, it is important that even though we have this tough law and our businesses have to abide by it, we are not alone in this campaign. There have been many significant accomplishments. The Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, took a landmark step 2 years ago in recognizing that bribery is a destabilizing factor in international trade, and they recommended that the member states cooperate on revisions of their domestic laws about bribery.

Several weeks ago, OECD tried to eliminate tax writeoffs on the laws of the member States of the kind that exist in Germany. Latin America has also taken this issue on. In March of this year, the Inter-America Convention Against Corruption, known as the Caracas Convention, identifies corruption as a main obstacle to democratic development in public trust in government institutions, and it also calls and provides for the prohibition on transnational bribery.

Mr. President, perhaps some might see this document from the Inter-America Convention as a utopian document that cannot be enforced, but

what it does do is begin the process, in Latin America, as has been done in the rest of the world, to commit the parties—in theory, at least—to the notion that bribery is a destructive force in democratic development and international business.

Given the developments with the OECD, the United States and Latin America, one would have thought it was a trend for the future, but we are really making progress. Unfortunately, however, at the end of April, the seven-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations spoke out for the first time on the issue of bribery and unfortunately opposed any attempt by the United States to stamp out corruption, saying they would not talk about it in the context of the World Trade Organization.

Deputy United States Trade Representative Jeff Lang tried to raise the issue and was criticized by Malaysia and Indonesia officials for plotting against the developing nations. This reaction to the seven countries is a very counterproductive reaction. We focus on bribery to engage more in business, not to discriminate. I hope that Malaysia and Indonesia and others think of this as an area of cooperation, of mutual interest, rather than an area for polarizing, as has been done in this case.

Mr. President, to conclude, if international markets are indeed to connect nations around the globe, somehow we have to be able to conduct business in a transparent and responsible manner. Bribery has to be discouraged, not rewarded, by all governments.

I hope that the ASEAN countries will reconsider this issue and join governments from every continent in seeking to end the corruption that does exist in international markets.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL OFFICE LEGISLATION

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3960

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the teamwork for employees and management. If ever there were a law that makes no sense, it is to forbid teamwork between management and employees.

This is a bill to encourage worker-management cooperation. It is sorely needed in this country in industry today. Senator DOLE has made this part of the repeal of the gas tax and a rise in the minimum wage. The TEAM Act will permit employees in nonunion