

Four Northwest senators to support Tariffs and Trade pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — All four Northwest senators have said they will vote for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, noting their region would benefit from the pact more than any other in the country.

"My friends and neighbors understand that international commerce is the lifeblood of our economy," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said in a Senate floor speech.

"Per capita, my home state is America's largest exporter. One in five jobs in Washington is directly linked to trade," she said Wednesday.

Republican Sens. Bob Packwood of Oregon, a GOP floor manager of the bill, and Slade Gorton of Washington were equally strong in their backing of GATT. The Senate vote was set later today.

"I will support the president when he is right and I will oppose him when he is wrong.

This is an issue on which he has my full support," Gorton said in a floor speech.

Under the pact, Gorton said the Boeing Co. would receive protection from new aircraft manufacturing subsidies.

Microsoft Corp. and other software firms would gain significant protection from piracy of intellectual property. Paper tariffs would be eliminated and wood products tariffs sharply decreased, he said.

"Our agriculture industry will get some relief from European subsidies," Gorton said.

"All and all, this agreement could create 80,000 and 100,000 new jobs in Washington state over the next 10 years," he said.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., intended to join the other three Northwesterners in voting for GATT.

The House approved the deal on Tuesday. Among Northwesters, only Democratic Reps.

Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Jolene Unsoeld of Washington voted against it.

"It's not going to open markets for America. It's going to further open the American markets to unfair traders around the world," DeFazio said Tuesday.

"We are lowering ourselves to the worst standards, to the lowest common denominator, in order to get something that a few multinational corporations desperately want," he said.

For example, DeFazio said, he buys shoes made in America.

"They cost the same as the Nike shoes made in China, and they pay a hell of a lot more to those workers to make it," he said.

"Those profits don't go to the consumers. Those profits go to the stockholders, plain and simple. And there are a number of very powerful stockholders and corporations that desperately want this agreement done...

before the American people are focused on what a loser it is," he said.

"Six years ago, I came to this body to improve the lives of average, hard-working families and to seek policies that promote sustainable use of this earth's resources," Unsoeld said Tuesday.

"This agreement will hurt working families in this country and undermine our efforts to advance responsible natural resources policies," she said.

GATT "ignores our workers trying to support families while having to compete with 9-, 10-, 11-year-olds locked away in factories in far-off lands. It ignores those who profit from the earth's natural resources without regard for their sustainable use," she said.

Packwood, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, rejected the claim that foreign competitors will use low

wages and child labor to undercut American prices.

"If wages were the key, Bangladesh would be the industrial behemoth of the world," Packwood said.

"There would be no industry in Japan, no industry in Britain, no industry in the United States. It would all be in Bangladesh at whatever their five- or 10- or 15-cent-an-hour wages are. That is not true. Has not happened, will not happen," he said.

House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., said in his final floor speech Tuesday night, "It is probably impossible to imagine the single act of this Congress that can do more to contribute to our economic growth. This is a vote of great magnitude.

"It has taken seven years and three presidents to reach this agreement, and it will take many more years before any round can promise still further significant reduction in trade barriers."

First human test of oral AIDS vaccine begins

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Researchers at San Francisco General Hospital enrolled patients this week for the first human test of an oral AIDS vaccine.

An oral vaccine is easier to administer than injected vaccines and stimulates the body to fight the infection at its first line of defense, the fluids of the membranes that line the digestive and respiratory systems, Dr. James Kahn said.

Earlier this month, Kahn reported that his study of 24 people found the injected version to be safe. In most of the patients, it triggered the immune system to fight the virus.

Antibodies from about 80 percent of the patients successfully fought off the virus in test-tube studies, Kahn said.

It was unclear how many patients would enroll in the new study at the hospital, run by the University of California at San Francisco. The vaccine is the oral version an injected drug made by United Biomedical Inc. in New York.

Kahn plans to evaluate the safety of the oral vac-

cine and measure whether it can cause the body to produce infection-fighting antibodies in sperm, vaginal fluid and saliva.

The vaccine stimulates an immune response by mimicking part of the envelope protein of the HIV virus. An oral version was difficult to make because it had to survive the digestive system, Kahn said.

The new study will compare the oral vaccine to the oral vaccine followed by a booster shot, and also to the injected vaccine followed by an oral booster. Kahn hopes the combination approach will stimulate antibodies in the blood and mucus.

"I'm hopeful and skeptical," Kahn said. "I hope we find something important but I don't want the hope to interfere with my objectivity."

Some scientists have become discouraged with vaccines because studies haven't shown them to be very effective. Earlier this year, the government called off a late-stage clinical trial of two HIV vaccines and researchers predicted that it would take as many as three years before a vaccine was ready for large-scale testing.

Former President breaks ground for Texas library

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — With a crowd of a thousand looking on, George and Barbara Bush broke ground Wednesday for the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Center at Texas A&M University.

"We hope in some small way this library and school will give something back to help prepare our children and the generations to come for the exciting challenges that lie ahead," Bush said.

Several former cabinet

members, most of the Bush family, including Texas Gov.-elect George W. Bush and family, and about 1,000 others watched as the former president and first lady grabbed shiny silver shovels to turn the ceremonial dirt.

The library and school of government will be constructed on a 90-acre site on the western edge of the Texas A&M campus, about 90 miles northwest of Houston and just across the road from the university's swine, goat and sheep research centers.

Student newspaper columnist acknowledges faking story

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — Arizona State University's student newspaper apologized for publishing a false story that Orthodox Jews had stoned a quadriplegic man to death at the Wailing Wall.

Journalism student Mary Leigh Summerton acknowledged inventing the story, said Bruce Itule, director of student publications.

Summerton, who visited the Wailing Wall on a United Nations-sponsored trip to Israel, told The Mesa Tribune she hadn't seen any stoning and that her account had come from a feminist organization in Jerusalem.

"I allowed myself to be used," she was quoted Wednesday in the Tribune. "They wrote it. I made changes in the grammar. I'm sorry I did it."

Summerton is under investigation by a university council for possible campus conduct violations and could face expulsion.

She handed in the story for Itule's in-depth reporting class and it was published Nov. 15 as a guest column in the State Press. Summerton was the student paper's managing editor last summer but isn't on staff now.

According to the story, Orthodox Jews were angered when a European Jew used an electric wheelchair to approach the holy wall on a Saturday, the Sabbath day when use of mechanical devices is forbidden by strict Orthodox Jews.

"He screamed in terror as stones thrown by adults and children slammed into his face. He didn't even hold up his hands to protect himself," the story said. "He couldn't."

Publication caused an uproar and Jewish groups demanded the report be verified. The State Press reported Nov. 18 it couldn't confirm the story.

On Monday, the paper reported the story was false and on Tuesday it published a lengthy apology.

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