

MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Commissioners. I'm Phillip Smith, a retired Chief Executive of Copperweld Corporation, a classmate of Dick Simmons. I can only say I support just about everything Dick made in his speech, every point he made here.

I want to speak today and bring to the attention of the Commission really two queries: One is to ask you in your deliberations and your visits to go and visit some of the maquiladoras along the Rio Grande. Over the past six or seven years, I've had the privilege of going down there with church groups, some labor people from Canada, from the UAW, visiting Matamoros, visiting Nogales, visiting Tijuana, visiting Juarez. And I have to say to you, gentlemen, that those maquiladoras are really the cancer on the face of American business.

Let me give you a human side of it in going to the plants in Matamoros, just across the river from Brownsville. Three plants were scheduled, and the folks that set it up for us were a group of Catholics, Quakers, and Presbyterians in the UAW. We were to go to Stepan Chemical, which is a privately owned chemical company from Chicago. We were to go to the General Motors Delco Remy plant, now the Delco Electronics plant, and we were to go to Dupont, and we did, except that the Stepan people would not let us in. To see the colonias that sit

around these maquillas is a disgrace. These are the villages sitting around them.

In the visit to the General Motors plant, later some of us went over to what is called the birthing clinic. It's a midwifery and birthing clinic for the Mexicans. They come across for both prenatal and postnatal care. And one of the points that one of the doctors was making was that they have one of the highest rates of anencephalic births in the United States.

COMMISSIONER LEWIS: What does that mean?

MR. SMITH: No brain, no brain. They've traced it back to the use of xylene and glycol ethers that's in the electronic plants. In turn, it was suggested to them they should contact the CDC to see whether they could get some statistical evidence so that they could take it to say this should not be done. And, as I said earlier, this was arranged for us by the Coalition for the Justice of the Maquilladoras. It's a trade union group down along the -- the CDC wouldn't touch it, understandably so, because you don't want a government agency supplying the evidence for somebody to sue an American corporation. That's just one example.

The Dupont plant was a hydrofluoric acid plant. If any of you think of your freshmen chemistry,

we usually used hydrofluoric acid to put your initials on glass. But why is it there? Because it's better to put it there than in the United States.

And, as some of the people were talking earlier about the EPA considerations, you have to see this to believe it. To go to Nogales -- Nogales, Arizona, Nogales, Senora -- 18,000 on the American side, 440,000 on the other side; air pollution and water pollution coming down the Gilla River. Go over there and see some shuttered plants. I had to lead with my chin and say, "Where are they? What happened?"

Well, they were moved to the Philippines. The plants were paying about 30 pesos a day, but they could get in half by moving it to the Philippines.

The big shift that's going on down there today is not more American investments so much, although that's happening, but the big drive for investment is coming in from the Asians and from the Europeans who put their plants there and then get those products into the United States under NAFTA.

Remember that when we did our trade agreements with Canada, we ratcheted up on the EPA. Why? Because we border this great network of lakes. So, we could not ratchet down. In the NAFTA, EPA has been a ratcheting down.

My closing request, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, would be let the American people fully understand what the WTO is and what its powers are and how much we have surrendered to that. I think some of us who are sitting here today did not even know of some of the powers this organization has to control the laws in this country. I think it's wrong, but that's one person's opinion. But I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, it would be a fair thing for this Commission to do is to make sure the American people fully understand what was given.

I'd asked Alan Mollohan a couple of, he's the Congressman from the 1st District of West Virginia, "Alan, how many of your colleagues really understand the WTO?" He said, "Maybe eight to ten." That's what we've surrendered.

Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Thank you very much.

I have just one comment. When you talk about the relinquishing of power to the WTO, our leaders told us when the WTO was adopted under fast-track provisions, that we did not relinquish any of our sovereignty, that our labor laws were sacred. This doesn't require a comment, this is a fact. This is what we were told. It doesn't always turn out that way, does it?

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, if I may be permitted to make a comment. I'm sure they said that to you with a straight face, didn't they?

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Sure, without a doubt.

MR. SMITH: They should have bitten their tongue off if they said it.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Thank you very much for your comments.

COMMISSIONER LEWIS: You were the President of Copperweld Corporation?

MR. SMITH: I beg your pardon?

COMMISSIONER LEWIS: You were the President of Copperweld Corporation?

MR. SMITH: Copperweld; yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER LEWIS: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: It was an alloy, steel producing, tubing, and fine metallica.

COMMISSIONER LEWIS: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: And it was a steel worker company.

MR. SMITH: Yes, sir; it was.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Is Jim McKay here from the "Pittsburgh Post Gazette?" I don't think so.

Eric Schultz?

I imagine some of these folks got tired of waiting. Speak up now if I'm calling your name -- I know Jim McKay.

I have a name here I can't even read. Does anybody here have a name I can't read?

Is there somebody here from KQV? Okay.

Jay Koontz? We're going through the list pretty quickly.

P.A. Carnevale? You can't recognize it the way I said it, can you?

MR. CARNEVALE: That's fine.

COMMISSIONER BECKER: Okay.