

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FAR EAST DELEGATION WRAP-UP

AUGUST 15-AUGUST 29

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA
TOKYO, JAPAN
TAIPEI, TAIWAN
HONG KONG
BEIJING, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA
SHANGHAI, PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN THE OFFICE AFTER A GRUELING, BUT PRODUCTIVE, TWO-WEEK VISIT TO THE FAR EAST. OUR 7 MEMBER DELEGATION HAD APPROXIMATELY 41 MEETINGS WITH HEADS OF STATE, TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INDUSTRY LEADERS AND AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN THE COUNTRIES WE VISITED.

OUR MISSION PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE GROWING AND SERIOUS TRADE PROBLEMS THE U.S. HAS WITH OUR PACIFIC NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY JAPAN. TOGETHER THESE COUNTRIES REPRESENT ABOUT ONE-HALF THIS NATION'S RECORD \$150 BILLION TRADE DEFICIT. IN MY VIEW, WE SUCCESSFULLY RELAYED A STRONG MESSAGE THAT THESE DEFICITS AND THE UNFAIR TRADE BARRIERS THAT HELP CREATE THEM CAN NO LONGER BE TOLERATED. THESE BARRIERS SERIOUSLY IMPACT ON OUR KANSAS FARMERS' ABILITY TO MOVE THEIR ABUNDANT PRODUCT OVERSEAS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE MOOD OF CONGRESS HAS SHIFTED DRAMATICALLY WITH REGARDS TO TRADE LEGISLATION. AND I BELIEVE THE ASIAN LEADERS WE SPOKE TO NOW UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS THE PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IS IN WASHINGTON. AS I STATED IN A SPEECH TO THE JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, "THE PROTECTIONIST POT IS ABOUT TO BOIL OVER." I HOPE IT DOESN'T HAVE TO COME TO THAT. AND WE'LL BE WATCHING CLOSELY FOR ANY SIGNS OF POSTIIVE ACTION FROM LEADERS OF THESE FAR EAST NATIONS.

KANSAS

I AM ALSO PLEASED TO HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO PROMOTE KANSAS DURING OUR TRIP. IN SEOUL I MET WITH TOP KOREAN INDUSTRY LEADERS -- INCLUDING THREE WASHBURN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI-- ABOUT LOOKING TO OUR STATE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANT LOCATIONS. WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO DELIVER PIZZA HUT PIZZAS TO SOME OF OUR DEDICATED KANSAS TROOPS ON THE FRONTLINE AT THE DMZ.

IN TOKYO, I MADE THE CASE FOR KANSAS WITH DR. SHOICHIRO TOYODA., PRESIDENT OF TOYOTA MOTOR COMPANY, WHO IS CONSIDERING LOCATING A NEW AUTO PLANT IN THE U.S. ON THE NEXT LEG OF OUR TRIP, I RECEIVED SOME GOOD NEWS. THE TAIWAN BOARD OF FOREIGN TRADE TOLD ME IT WAS GOING TO BUY \$30 MILLION WORTH OF KANSAS WHEAT AND CORN. OFFICIALS IN TAIPEI ALSO TOLD ME THEY WOULD ADD KANSAS TO THE LIST OF STATES THEY PLAN TO VISIT NEXT MONTH WHEN THE TAIWANESE SEND A "BUY AMERICA" DELEGATION TO THE U.S.

IN CHINA IT WAS A PLEASURE TO MEET WITH SEVERAL OFFICALS FROM KANSAS' SISTER STATE OF HENAN PROVINCE AND TO CHECK ON THE PROGRESS OF TWO KANSAS PROJECTS THERE WORTH ABOUT \$3 MILLION. THEY ASKED FOR MY HELP IN CUTTING THROUGH FEDERAL RED TAPE SO THAT MORE CHINESE STUDENTS CAN BE ALLOWED TO STUDY AT TOP AGRICULTURE INSTITUTIONS, LIKE KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY. I WILL BE VISITING WITH HENAN OFFICIALS IN KANSAS IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHEN I STOP BY THEIR EXHIBITION BOOTH AT THE STATE FAIR IN HUTCHINSON.