

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 19, 1993
FROM: Rolf Th. Lundberg, Jr. *Rolf*
TO: Senator Dole
SUBJECT: Stevens Amendment on NAFTA

Sen. Stevens probably will offer an amendment that would effectively kill the NAFTA, and any future effort to negotiate trade agreements that need Congressional approval.

The amendment would strip out of the NAFTA implementing bill all language relating to the side agreements. The Chair would rule the amendment out of order, because fast-track procedures prohibit amendments. Sen. Stevens would appeal that ruling. Under fast-track rules, debate of his appeal would be limited to one hour. Time would be equally divided between Sen. Stevens and the manager of the bill.

It will be important to make clear to members that a vote for Sen. Stevens' position will destroy the NAFTA. If Sen. Stevens wins his appeal of the Chair's ruling, NAFTA will be open to amendment.

Similarly, a Stevens victory would set a precedent for any future Congressional consideration of trade agreements. They would all become open to amendment. Without the assurance of the no-amendment rule, the U.S. would never be a credible negotiating partner for any other country.

Attached are suggested talking points.