

In particular, she committed to consult with outside experts to get to the bottom of the differences between the Government Accountability Office, GAO, and the FTC on the impacts of the FTC oil merger policies on gasoline prices. Ms. Majoras' letter states that she is working to do this by conducting a public review of the GAO report on the Effects of Mergers and Market Concentration in the U.S. Petroleum Industry. Following that review, Ms. Majoras also promises to share her views with me on the GAO report.

Ms. Majoras' letter indicates she is making a good-faith effort to take a fresh look at the issues raised by the GAO report. In light of this and the other actions Ms. Majoras has initiated to get to the bottom of the reasons why consumers in my part of the country are paying such high gasoline prices, I will no longer object to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to take up Ms. Majoras' nomination. I will, however, continue to closely monitor the FTC actions under Ms. Majoras' leadership to ensure gasoline consumers are not overpaying at the pump.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of this statement along with Ms. Majoras' letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,
Washington, DC, November 18, 2004.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN, In response to your recent inquiries, I want to assure you that I am working to implement the actions that I laid out in my letter of June 10, 2004. For example, we are working on the public review by outside economic experts of the findings in the GAO Report, *Energy Markets: Effects of Mergers and Market Concentration in the U.S. Petroleum Industry* and the criticisms of that report. As you know, it is common for economists to submit their work for peer review and discussion, and I believe that such an assessment would be useful. Given your interest in the report, I plan to share my views with you about the findings and conclusions of this public discussion once we have completed that process.

Here at the FTC, we are working at full throttle to protect American consumers; I look forward to working cooperatively with the Congress in the coming session on these efforts.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH PLATT MAJORAS.

COMMENDING SECRETARY POWELL AND STATE DEPARTMENT ON MANAGING INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FOR U.S. TERRITORIES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as our colleagues on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will attest, it takes years of experience to understand some of the nuances of Federal law and policy applicable in American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Vir-

gin Islands. Yet, our current Secretary of State has shown remarkable knowledge of the sometimes complex issues arising from official international activities of local territorial governments.

In responding to international issues arising from Federal-territorial relations in the case of Puerto Rico, Secretary Powell has articulated sound principles that are relevant to Federal policy with respect to the other territories as well. Specifically, the record should reflect the success of measures adopted by the Department of State to ensure that local government officials in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico do not take official actions inconsistent with the reservation of foreign relations powers to the federal government under the U.S. Constitution.

The Department of State has tried to show flexibility and include territories in international programs and activities when appropriate, as it does in the case of other domestic political subdivisions. However, Department of State oversight and regulation of all official international activities by local territorial governments is necessary to preserve the constitutional allocation of powers within the U.S. Federal system, especially as it relates to administration of territories with a political status defined by Federal statute rather than the U.S. Constitution itself. In the case of Puerto Rico, Federal authority in all official international matters is consistent with the Puerto Rico Federal Relations Act (64 Stat. 319), and required by the status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a territory subject to the authority of Congress under Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution. All powers of the local government remain subject to the supremacy of Federal law.

The Department of State acted in the national interest and in the best long-term interest of our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico by not acquiescing in actions by U.S. citizen officials of the local government seeking international recognition and treatment for Puerto Rico that are reserved for sovereign nations. The Department must continue to adhere to the simple rule that the Commonwealth should not be permitted to act officially in the international sphere in a manner that would not be permitted for other political subdivisions, whether State, county, city or territorial, unless otherwise specifically provided by Congress.

By confirming the correct application of Federal law and policy in his cable to our embassies, Secretary Powell has given diplomatic expression to the principles of federalism that apply to Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories. This "Powell Doctrine", if you will, ends the ambivalence and ambiguity that have existed about these issues for too long. The Secretary of State applied the correct legal doctrine in these matters, based on the principle that the Federal Government conducts

the foreign policy of the United States and all its citizens, which includes the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico under its current status.

The actions taken by the Department of State in this matter do not affect the process of self-determination as to the ultimate political status of Puerto Rico. Rather, this is a matter of confirming and in a proper manner implementing Federal powers and responsibilities beyond the realm of local politics regarding the status of the territory, until informed self-determination recognized under Federal law and policy leads to status resolution. Of course, neither local government powers nor the terms for political status resolution can be determined unilaterally by local law or political processes, because in each case Federal law is supreme and only changes in Federal law can change the status or define the extent that local governments can exercise sovereignty as to local matters.

For making these realities clear, and doing so in an impartial and entirely fair way, it is appropriate to commend our Secretary of State and the men and women of the U.S. State Department.

TRIBUTE TO INTERNS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I extend my appreciation to my fall 2004 class of interns: Sonja Loges, Colleen Coffey, Lauryn Douglas, Cheri Rolfes, Sarah Helgen, Katie Callahan, Milan Dalal and Deborah Sundquist. Each of them has been of tremendous assistance to me and to the people of Iowa over the past several months.

Since I was first elected to the Senate in 1984, my office has offered internships to young Iowans and other interested students. Through their work in the Senate, our interns have not only seen the legislative process, but also personally contributed to our Nation's democracy.

It is with much appreciation that I recognize Sonja, Colleen, Lauryn, Cheri, Sarah, Katie, Milan and Deborah for their hard work this fall. It has been a delight to watch them take on their assignments with enthusiasm and hard work. I am very proud to have worked with each of them. I hope they take from their fall a sense of pride in what they have been able to accomplish, as well as an increased interest in public service and our democratic system and process.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD TINBERG AND ROBERT BELL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to commend two college professors in Massachusetts for the national recognition they have won today. Professor of English Howard Tinberg at Bristol Community College in Fall River was named an Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year, and Robert Bell, professor of English at Williams College in Williamstown, was