

**SENATOR  
SAM ERVIN  
SAYS**



The Senate has approved a much needed change in U. S. trade policy toward Rhodesia. The battle over this issue began as a legislative matter in early spring when Senator Harry Byrd introduced S. 1404, which I cosponsored, to free the United States from dependence on Russia for its supply of

chrome ore which we have been purchasing from the communists since we ceased trading with Rhodesia five years ago. Chrome is a strategic material that is vital to the production of aircraft, missiles, submarines. It is also essential to much of our heavy industrial output. But S. 1404 got nowhere when it was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Then when the Senate Armed Services Committee began consideration of the military procurement bill, Senator Byrd

offered the language of S. 1404 as an amendment to that measure. It was unanimously approved by that Committee as Section 503 of the military procurement act.

Simply stated, Section 503 denies the President the power to prohibit imports of a strategic material from a free world country so long as the importation of the same material is permitted from a communist dominated country. It happens that the principal sources of chrome ore are in two countries—Rhodesia and Russia. Today we are buying about 60 percent of this material from Russia.

It will be remembered that we got into this odd state of affairs in 1966 when President Johnson with the consent of the Congress put an embargo on all trade with Rhodesia under a sanction imposed by the Security Council of the United Nations.

When the Senate considered this provision of the military procurement bill in late September and early October, there was intense opposition by some members of the Senate to Section 503. Their principal arguments were that our State Department did not favor this provision, that it might interfere with some negotiations which Britain is having with Rhodesia to effect a permanent settlement of the mother country's controversy with that small nation, and that there might be repercussions in the United Nations if the Senate took any such action. Even so, after three votes, the Senate decided that Section 503 ought to stay in the bill and that we ought to end the chrome embargo.

The Rhodesian embargo has from its inception seemed to me to be both an unwise and a damaging action from the standpoint of our national interest. The whole matter came about over an internal affair in Rhodesia, and as I read the UN Charter, it plainly says that the United Nations will not interfere in the domestic affairs of a nation.

Nor do I think that the President should have declared an embargo on trade with Rhodesia over that nation's internal affairs. This has been a costly action for the American taxpayer and it has robbed American businesses of some of their ability to compete in the world market. The price of chrome coming into the United

States has risen about 288 percent since we began this embargo, which incidentally has been recognized as a monumental failure. Moreover, it makes no sense to me to say that because of ideological considerations we are forbidden to trade with Rhodesia, a free world nation, but we are permitted to trade with Russia, a communist nation.

Apart from these considerations, there is a most serious national security issue involved, and that is we have placed ourselves at the mercy of a potential enemy power for the supply of a vital strategic

ore which we must have if we are to build essential weapons for our survival.

I am hopeful that the House will go along with this Senate action so that we can remedy this matter which affects both our security and our economy.

First love is an instinct, at once a gift and a sacrifice. Every other is a philosophy, a bargain.—A. S. Hardy.

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