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'Land of the Maquiladora' Senator cautions against pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Howard Metzenbaum turned to a sobbing Juarez woman whose son was mangled to death in a factory to make his case Tuesday against rushing into a free trade agreement with Mexico.

Metzenbaum ringed a stately Senate hearing room with photographs depicting Third World conditions on the Southern border and played a three-minute video in which the narrator describes "the land of the maquiladora" as a place where poverty and pollution, not prosperity, are the byproducts.

As he opened the hearing, Metzenbaum promised to move away from the theoretical economic and computer-driven labor force projections that have driven the debate over free trade with Mexico to "the relevant economic and environmental conditions as they exist today."

"We will hear from witnesses who have experienced life in the current 'free trade zone' with Mexico, the maquiladora system just beyond the Rio Grande," Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said.

"Clearly, the lessons of the maquiladora have direct relevance to the expanded agreement under discussion," he said.

Under the maquiladora system, plants on the Mexican side of the border assemble U.S. made components and then ship them back to the United States, paying tariffs only on the value added.

Witnesses told Metzenbaum that maquiladora workers face numerous hazards on the job, earn barely enough to survive and are forced to live in squalid squatter's neighborhoods that lack electricity and potable water.

The maquiladoras were accused of fouling the border envi-

ronment by dumping toxins into open ditches or across the countryside.

Choking back tears, Elizabeth Macias of Ciudad Juarez testified that her 16-year-old son, Julio Cesar, was dragged by a revolving belt into a factory grinder at a Ford Motor Co. maquiladora.

The boy's comrades, she said, found him 15 minutes later, his right arm, thorax and head destroyed by "that mechanical monster."

"The murderous machine had no mechanism for being stopped in case of emergency," she said in Spanish. "They sent my son to that basement without providing him with any safety equipment; he had no glasses, no helmet, not even a uniform to protect him from a minor accident."

The boy was making 45 cents an hour at the auto glass factory, she said, and had been on the job only five days. He had planned to spend his first wages on shoes for himself, the rest on the family.

"I have seen that the Ford Company announces safety measures for its cars ... but I've never seen them announce the standards ... to protect the workers in their plants in Mexico," she said, as the debate intensifies in Congress over granting the Bush administration the authority to negotiate a non-amendable free-trade agreement.

A Ford spokesman in Dearborn, Mich., Rex Greenslade, defended the company's safety record at the Autovidrio plant in Juarez and said the boy's death was its first fatality in nearly three years of operation.

Unless either the House or Senate votes it down, the "fast-track" extension is automatically extended on June 1. Metzenbaum opposes negotiating under the fast track.

What's Up

Wednesday

THE BATTALION: Informational meeting for students interested in applying for staff at 8:30 p.m. in 226 MSC.

EPISCOPAL STUDENT CENTER: Holy Eucharist and community dinner at 6:15 p.m. at the Canterbury House, 902 George Bush Drive. Call Rev. Larry Benfield for more information at 693-4245.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

METHODIST STUDENT CENTER: Informal worship at 7 p.m. and women's Bible study at 8 p.m. in the Methodist Student Center. Call Max at 846-4701 for more information.

BETA ALPHA PSI: Initiation at 6:30 p.m. at the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP: Evening prayer and supper at 6:30 p.m. in the University Lutheran Chapel.

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Final meeting at 8:30 p.m. at Pat's apartment. Call Pat at 696-0823 for more information.

THE NAVIGATORS: Fellowship, singing, testimonies and great loads of fun at 7:30 p.m. in Lounge D on the Quad. Call Rosie Rios at 693-5499 for more information.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN: Officer elections and semester end organization at 8:30 p.m. in 507AB Rudder. Call Jennifer Arnold at 823-4283 for more information.

WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE: General meeting at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC.

SPIC-MACAY: Lecture-demonstration and concert in Indian music by Budhaditya Mukherjee at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Call Jyothi Shankar at 846-5313 for more information.

LE CERCLE FRANCAIS: Annual banquet at 7 p.m. at the College Station Community Center. Call Christy Cattanna at 847-2029 for more information.

TEAC: General meeting, election of officers at 7 p.m. in 202 Engineering/Physics. Anyone interested in environmental concerns, community or campus is invited. Call Wallin at 847-6460 for more information.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: General elections for ISA officers at 8:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder. Call Suzanne Droleskey at 845-2909 for more information.

Thursday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: General discussion at 6 p.m. Call C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

TAMU SURF CLUB: Movie: "Surfers 2," with special guest Derrick Ho at 8 p.m. in Rudder. Admission \$5, \$6 at door. Call Brent at 764-1967 for more information.

TEXAS A&M EMERGENCY CARE TEAM: Final meeting of the semester to discuss membership and banquet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Call 845-4321 for more information.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: Last Life Line meeting of the semester at 7:30 p.m. in 108 HECC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM: Dr. Paula England will give a formal lecture entitled "Social Philosophies and Their Implications for Comparable Worth" at 8 p.m. in 226 MSC. Call 845-9670 for more information.

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: Informational meeting on how to apply for a British Marshall Scholarship at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in 251 Bizzell Hall West. Information meeting for Finance and Accounting majors to study in Italy for Spring '92 at 2 to 3 p.m. in 503 Blocker. Information meeting on how to apply for a Jr. Fulbright Grant (U.S. citizens only) at 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in 251 Bizzell Hall West. Table with information on Study Abroad opportunities at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the MSC.

FOURTH DAY: Meeting for all those who have made Aggie Awakening at 6:15 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center. Call 846-5717 for more information.

CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD: This group meets weekly to discuss contemporary Christian issues at 9 p.m. in Lounge D. Call Jo Anne at 693-1703 for this week's topic and more information.

HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL: General meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder. We will be holding elections for next year, nominations will be taken at the meeting. Call Randy at 847-0598 for more information.

SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM: Autocrat's meeting to discuss the Kingdom Dance Symposium in June at 7:30 p.m. contact Michael at 268-7737 or Star for the location.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

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Summer I (June 5 - July 10, 1991; Registration is June 4)
 GOVT 4333-050 - Government of the United States
 HIST 3373-050 - History of the United States I
 PSYCH 3113-050 - General Psychology
 SOCIO 4373 -050 - Social Principles and Institutions

Summer II (July 12 - Aug. 16, 1991; Registration is July 11)
 GOVT 4343-050 - Government of Texas and the U.S.
 HIST 3383-050 - History of the United States II
 PSYCH 4153-050 - Child Psychology (Prereq: General Psychology)

Amarillo College telecourses combine television viewing on KACV-TV, Channel 2 in Amarillo, related reading assignments and a few meetings on campus for orientation, discussions and exams. All televised lessons are available on VHS video cassettes for check out from the AC library.

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