

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
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February 9, 1994

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4802

Dear Jay,

Here is a voice out of your past. I so often think back to our days together as Governors and recall how we usually agreed on issues that came before us. Politics surely does work in strange and wonderful ways.

Now, as to why you are hearing from "Good Old Vic". It has come to my attention that you are a co-sponsor of S.613 the "Child Labor Deterrence Act of 1993". You may recall that I grew up in a family retail rug business. Although I have not been connected with the company for several years, I cannot help but continue my interest in what goes on in that industry. That is how the measure came to my attention, although it does not directly affect retailing.

Enclosed is a position paper by the Oriental Rug Importers Association which I have read. It is an excellent, well balanced "white paper" which I would respectfully ask that you personally read as well. I would hope that your staff would read it also.

I will not argue the case pro or con. However, questions like: If India, Pakistan and Nepal have trouble policing their own laws relating to child labor how can we expect importers in the U.S. to "certify" or police the products of those countries?

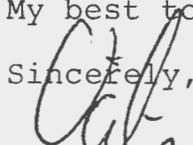
Or, are we indiscriminately hurting poor families in those countries without assisting financially with alternatives?

These are only a few questions that roamed through my mind and the enclosed essay certainly will bring others to yours. It is so well done I am sure you will find ways to make any congressional action workable and constructive, a goal I know you tried to achieve as Governor.

Thanks for letting me bend your ear. Maybe some time in the not too distant future we will see each other again. In the meantime, I would be interested in your reactions.

My best to you.

Sincerely,


Victor Atiyeh