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When the Dryden Sertoma Soccer teams kick the first ball this September, they will know if it's a Foulball. Several hundred children will receive soccer balls at the start of the season and Sertoma has made every effort to assure that these were not made with child labor. It is not an easy road, but one which follows the lead of the Federation Internationale de Football Associations, better known to us as the International Soccer League. After video footage revealed children sewing soccer balls with the World Cup Logo and Pele signature, FIFA declared that the 1998 World Cup would be childlabor-free. Did they achieve their goal? 70% of all soccer balls are made in one Pakistani town, Sialkot. The Foulball Campaign, developed to monitor and encourage all soccer leagues to use discretion in purchasing equipment, is the most recent effort in a 90-year global history.

In 1919 the International Labor Organization was formed following World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution, in an effort to prevent future worker unrest. To date there have been 178 Conventions, 11 of which the US has signed. Within the original charter was a definition of child labor as work done by anyone under the age of 14. It was also at the turn of the century that the US was eliminating child labor (and we are still trying). The ILO Convention #138 broadened its child labor restriction in 1973 such that children should not work until the legal age for completion of school. The US did not sign. After World War II, the International Trade Organization and eventually GATT were designed to promote "free trade."

The Shah of Iran declared in 1975 that child labor would be outlawed in his country's carpet industry. Prime Minister Indira Ghandi saw this as a windfall for India and opened many new carpet factories, bringing in lower caste children, who were considered uneducable and dispensable, to serve as laborers. This was not out of character with the prevailing view that "if we educate them they won't want to work in our fields." (UNICEF 1997 State of the World's Children) By 1980 there had begun a crusade to release children from bonded labor and servitude. In 1985 a Grenada film showed the world conditions of children working and got the attention of London Markets. The Western countries began to take notice and backed by German markets, the South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS) initiated what was to become the Rugmark Campaign. By 1994 there was a monitoring process and labeling method. Most important for Rugmark was its Education Fund.

In the United States some few people were taking notice. The Pease-Harkin Bill, which eventually Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) rewrote, began in 1990. In reaction to the exposure of American markets importing goods made with child labor, thousands of children were put out on the streets. Looking for other work, they turned to more dangerous jobs, such as recovering lead from spent batteries with bare hands and feet, and an expansion of the sex trade. This tragedy led to efforts not only to prohibit children from bonded labor and exploitation, but also to get them into school and

provide them with a small stipend. The Harkin Bill finally passed in 1997 along with the Sanders Amendment to the Tariff Act of 1930. So why do we know nothing of this, and why do we have no way of knowing if the malls are filled with items made by children? Because our commitment to Gatt precludes us from "imposing social sanctions, which would be seen as technical barriers to free trade." Would we, the leader of capitalist free trade, want to deter the lowest sectors of other economies from earning a "living?" There is another way to pose the question: **What do we need so badly that a child should sacrifice his childhood or her education?** This presentation was given to the Dryden Sertoma Club on September 3, 1998.

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