

Phil English Flip Flops Again on NAFTA CAFTA Expansion:

Will the Real Phil English Please Stand Up?

FIRST [June 15, 2005]:

“[I] was compelled to vote against the bill [CAFTA] due to concerns that the signatory countries are not adequately equipped, both in terms of political will and institutional resources, to enforce the terms of the agreement.”¹

-Representative English in a press release following his vote against CAFTA in the House Ways and Means Committee.

THEN [July 15, 2005]:

“My view now is that CAFTA is fine.”²

-Representative English at a news conference with House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas, following Thomas’ support of a watered down version of English’s “Trade Rights Enforcement Act,” which has still not gained U.S. Senate or White House support.

NOW [October 19, 2005]:

“[NAFTA’s] outdated labor and environmental mechanisms . . . [are] contributing to a race to the bottom.”³

-Representative English at an Institute for International Economics panel on the record of NAFTA, which he had voted months before to extend to six additional countries.

¹ “English Statement on CAFTA-DR No Vote,” Congressional Press Release, June 15, 2005.

² Edmund Andrews, “GOP Hopes Bill on China Will Assist Trade Pact,” *New York Times*, July 15, 2005.

³ Rossella Brevetti, “NAFTA Should Upgrade to Customs Union With Common External Tariff, IIE Study Says,” *BNA Report for Executives*, October 19, 2005, A15; the BNA article summarizes statements made by English at the IIE event.