

December 10, 1999

Amy,

True, the Seattle police did a bad job handling this situation. But the mob did a lot of destruction and interfered with a lot of folks trying to exercise their constitutionally protected freedoms. Peaceful demonstrations are fine, but as we saw in Seattle, they can get out of control. Demonstrations are not really a valid means of achieving political results in a democracy, because although they voice a point of view, they are no indication of what the majority believes and wants, and in a democracy, the only thing that really matters is what the majority wants. It is the job of Congress to carry out the wishes of the majority. If that is not happening, we need to fix Congress.

Also, I believe that the demonstrators were wrong. Free trade is good for everyone in the long run, and the environmental and human rights issues can be addressed separately. Restricting trade is no way to guarantee human rights or protect the environment.

Dad