

INTRODUCTION OF THE RICE
FARMER FAIRNESS ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing the Rice Farmers Fairness Act H.R. 3339. This legislation would condition the continuation of farm subsidies on the maintenance of rice production. The 1996 Freedom to Farm Act allows for the continuation of subsidies to landowners who discontinue tenant rice farming on their land. In essence, this means that the subsidy will continue to flow in spite of an end to production.

Theoretically, the idea of the plan is to "wean" landowners off of subsidies over a transition period. In fact, what this program allows are "something for nothing" subsidies, which is the worst kind of subsidy. Moreover, as a result of this provision there is a very real threat to the agricultural infrastructure. With landowners receiving subsidies in spite of lack of production, the entire warehousing, processing and "value-added" industries are put at risk.

As grain elevators, processors and others see a reduction in demand for their services because of the diminution of production permitted by this legislation they have a disincentive to continue to provide said services, services which must remain in place in order for those who remain in production to be able to bring to market the rice which they continue to produce. Thus, by way of the decimation of the infrastructure, this subsidy to non-producers comes at the expense of those who continue to produce rice. Therefore, the provisions of the Freedom to Farm Act which provide this subsidy actually amount to another form of federal welfare, taking from producers and giving to non-producers.

My legislation is very simple and direct in dealing with this problem. It says that those who had tenant rice farmers producing rice when they began to receive this subsidy must continue to maintain rice in their crop rotation if they wish to retain the subsidy. In this way, we can remove the perverse incentive which the Federal Government has provided to landowners to exit the rice business and thereby put the entire rice infrastructure at risk.

America's rice farmers are among the most efficient, effective producers of rice in the world despite the many hurdles erected by Washington. Our rice producers can compete with anyone absent such hurdles and this bill will help remove one. In order to enhance our competitive position, we should also end our embargoes of other nations which would like access to rice produced in America. Further we should eliminate the burdensome taxes regulations on America's farmers to insure increased market access and a healthy farming community in the these United States.

TRIBUTE TO SARA AVIEL

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sara Aviel, a dedicated community

leader who is being honored as a "Young Woman of Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Sara Aviel has won several awards for her excellence in academics, debate, civic work and music. Her participation as an attorney on the Hillsdale Mock Trial Team helped them win the county championship in 1995, 1996, and 1997 and place second in California last spring. She has been a leader in Junior State of America for three years, as well as a reporter for her school newspaper, writing about issues such as the place of religion in public schools. Last summer, Ms. Aviel spent a month in Costa Rica where she communicated in Spanish while working in the rain forest and in an impoverished village. She plays the piano and has played the viola with the El Camino Youth Symphony. In addition to her extracurricular activities, Ms. Aviel has earned a 3.9 GPA, as well as being a National Merit Semifinalist while tutoring others in math and Spanish.

Mr. Speaker, Sara Aviel is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being chosen a "Young Woman in Excellence" by the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

VICE PRESIDENT TO MEET WITH
RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, Vice President Al Gore will be meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin here in Washington. As a co-chairman of the House Republican Israel Caucus, I believe Russia's continued transfers of missile technology and expertise to Iran is a serious concern. At the current rate of transfer, Iran could have the ability to produce ballistic missiles capable of striking targets in Israel and parts of Europe and Asia within a year. I think the Prime Minister's visit is a great opportunity to force our Administration to confront the Government of Russia on this issue.

I'd like to share for the RECORD a copy of a letter that will be sent to Vice President Gore. In addition to expressing our serious concerns about the issue, it also includes some very tough questions that we would like the Vice President to ask of Prime Minister Chernomyrdin.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, March 4, 1998.

Hon. WILLIAM CLINTON,

President of the United States,

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On the eve of Vice President Al Gore's very important meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, we write to you to express our continuing concerns about Russian transfers of missile technology and expertise to Iran. At this time, we feel the need to re-emphasize to you our strong opposition to such activities and to express to you our concerns regarding your administration's policies in dealing with this critical situation.

As we have expressed to you in the past, Congress believes that the activities of Rus-

sian entities which are engaged in such transfers threaten our national security interests. If the current flow of technology and expertise from Russia to Iran continues unabated, Iran could have an indigenous capability to produce a ballistic missile that could strike at American interests in the Middle East, including our close ally Israel, as well as parts of Europe and Asia.

We believe that your administration needs to do more to address this issue. Under the "Gore-McCain" Iran/Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act of 1992, you are required to sanction foreign governments or entities which knowingly supply Iran with advanced conventional weaponry or technology that could contribute to their acquisition of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, since Russia is a signatory to the Missile Technology Control Regime, and since such technology transfers are in violation of this accord, further sanctions are called for under the Arms Export Control Act and the Export Administration Act.

The Government of Russia needs to understand that the United States will not stand idly by as entities under Russian authority assist a rogue nation in acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Despite the resolution issued by Prime Minister Chernomyrdin earlier this year, which did not legally restrict such transfers but rather stipulated that Russian firms "should refrain" from such transfers, U.S. intelligence reports indicate that Russian entities have signed contracts with Iran to help produce liquid-fueled ballistic missiles such as the SS-4. There is also evidence that the sale of high-technology laser equipment and other supplies needed for the manufacture and testing of missiles has been negotiated. Beyond the technology transfers, thousands of Russian scientists, engineers and technicians are reported to be operating in Iran as advisors.

In light of the failure of the Government of Russia to stop these transfers, Congress felt compelled to introduce the Iran Missile Proliferation Sanctions Act last fall. This legislation, which has passed the House of Representatives and currently has 82 cosponsors in the Senate, would sanction those entities engaged in the transfer of technologies to Iran.

Mr. President, we are gravely concerned about this situation. We would appreciate your administration's assessment regarding current Russian procedures to stop such transfers.

The Administration has been reluctant until now to impose sanctions on Russian entities involved in providing Iran with missile technology even through existing law requires such sanctions. While we cannot expect the Russian government to be 100% effective in stopping the flow of missile technology and expertise to Iran, we can, and must, expect 100% effort. But, how are we to judge whether Russia is sincerely seeking an end to its cooperation with Iran or merely doing enough to prevent the imposition of American sanctions? Specifically, to allay our skepticism about Russian intentions, we would expect to see real evidence of Russian action. We are requesting that on our behalf you ask the following questions of Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and provide us with his answers as soon as possible.

Why hasn't the Government of Russia passed a law to strengthen their decree which restricts the transfers of such technologies and expertise to Iran? Are there legal actions which could be sought against those entities that continue to engage in such activities? How soon can we expect a law to be enacted?

What concrete evidence has the Government of Russia provided that contracts and intelligence cooperation between Russia and Iran are ceasing and programs being terminated?

Has the Russian leadership spoken out forcefully in public against the transfer of Russian missile technology? Have any entities participating in the transfer of technology been arrested for their involvement?

Have the Russians begun to put in place an effective export control regime? Is there any evidence that Russian efforts are having an impact on Iran's procurement efforts?

Mr. President, we believe that the time for good will has ended. If Prime Minister Chernomyrdin does not provide the United States with concrete evidence proving that his country has taken a serious initiative to prevent the transfer of such technologies, then we must act.

Thank you for your consideration on this very important matter. We anxiously anticipate your reply.

Sincerely,

INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 235
CALLING FOR AN END TO THE
VIOLENT REPRESSION OF THE
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE
PEOPLE OF KOSOVA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the savagery that the Serbs have unleashed upon innocent men, women and children of the province of Kosova in Serbia since the beginning of this month has surpassed the level of brutality that we have become all too accustomed to in the Balkans. In response to an attack by unknown persons in late February on Serbian police in Kosova that left four of the officers dead, the Serbian authorities conducted a series of large paramilitary sweeps utilizing helicopter gunships and armored personnel carriers throughout several rural villages. During the course of these operations they rounded up male citizens and savagely beat them in front of their terrorized relatives. Scores of people have been reported to be killed or injured.

When 30,000 Kosovars marched peacefully in the streets of Pristina, Kosova's capital, to protest the outrageous behavior of the Serbian authorities, the police again overreacted, wading into the crowd and beating anyone they could. Later they attacked newspaper offices and journalists.

The Congress has called for a non-violent resolution of the situation in Kosova since the current crack-down began ten years ago, and urged our government to keep pressure on Serbia until the government of Serbia improved conditions in Kosova. President Milosevic, who bears personal responsibility for the policies that have now led to the current violence, has been repeatedly warned by our government and other members of the international community that we would not tolerate a massive outbreak of violence. These warnings have apparently gone unheeded, and it is now time to demonstrate our strong resolve not to allow the Serbs to continue brutalizing the Albanian majority in Kosova.

I hereby introduce H. Con. Res. 235 and ask that the text be included at this point in the RECORD:

H. CON RES. 235

Whereas the Albanian people of Kosova constitute more than 90 percent of the total population of Kosova;

Whereas the political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova were curtailed when the Government of Yugoslavia illegally amended the Constitution of Yugoslavia without the consent of the people of Kosova on March 23, 1989, revoking the autonomous status of Kosova;

Whereas in 1990, the Parliament and Government of Kosova were abolished by further unlawful amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia;

Whereas the State Department's 1997 Country Report on Human Rights in Serbia notes violations of civil liberties in Kosova particularly in the following categories: political and other extra-judicial killing; torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest, detention or exile; denial of fair public trial; and arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence;

Whereas on the night of February 28, 1998, Serbian paramilitary policy units, reported to number in excess of 25,000 men, swept through the Drenica region of Kosova killing more than 20 Albanian citizens, many of whom died from being beaten to death;

Whereas on March 2, 1998, 30,000 demonstrators peacefully marched in Pristina to protest the massacre of February 28 and were brutally attacked by Serbian police;

Whereas a group calling itself the Liberation Army of Kosova has threatened to retaliate against the atrocities committed by Serbian authorities;

Whereas new elections in Kosova have been scheduled for March 22, 1998; and

Whereas the President of the United States and other officials have warned the Government of Serbia that there would be serious consequences if Serbian policies led to an escalation of violence in Kosova: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) efforts of the international Contact Group (the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and Italy) in support of a resolution of the conflict in Kosova are to be commended and intensified;

(2) no international or United States sanctions currently in force against the Government of Serbia and Montenegro should be terminated at this time, unless such termination serves to support a peaceful resolution to the repression in Kosova;

(3) the United States should consult with its allies and other members of the United Nations on reimposing those sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro that were terminated following the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995 if Serbian authorities continue to use unlawful violence against the Albanian people of Kosova;

(4) the United States should acknowledge recent developments in the Republic of Montenegro that indicate that the new leadership of the Republic is seeking a peaceful resolution to the repression in Kosova, particularly the statement by Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic that Kosova must receive a certain degree of autonomy, and his call for a dialog between the Government of Serbia and Montenegro and ethnic Albanians in Kosova;

(5) the United States should, to the extent practicable, recognize positive actions by the Government of the Republic of Montenegro with regard to repression in Kosova through exclusion from those sanctions that may be applied to the Government of Serbia;

(6) the elections in Kosova scheduled on March 22, 1998, should be allowed to proceed unimpeded by Belgrade, as they represent the opportunity for a peaceful expression of the political will of the Albanian people of Kosova;

(7) all parties should refrain from acts that could lead to heightened tensions in Kosova;

(8) the agreement on education in Kosova should be implemented immediately, including at the university level, allowing all residents of Kosova regardless of ethnicity to receive education in their native tongue; and

(9) that the elected leaders of Kosova should begin a dialog with the authorities in Belgrade to resolve the present situation, and to provide for the exercise of the legitimate civil and political rights of the Albanian people of Kosova.

AMERICAN SAMOA GARMENT
INDUSTRY

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 1998

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would make effective the country of origin rules in effect on June 30, 1996 for apparel items produced in American Samoa. This legislation is limited in scope, and it will have a limited impact on U.S. trade. It is, however, critical to the economic development of American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the American Samoa Government has been pursuing outside investment opportunities for many years. A few years ago, a garment manufacturing company began production in American Samoa—the first significant new outside industry to invest in the territory since the nineteen-sixties. The new industry provides jobs for our people, tax revenues for the local government and secondary revenue for a variety of private sector businesses.

The industry is small by U.S. standards (it employs fewer than 500 local people at this time), but it represents diversification for our economy, and its presence lessens our dependence on the federal government. The plant is running smoothly and is meeting scheduled production levels.

Because this is a new industry for American Samoa, it requires a significant amount of planning and training of the local workforce. While our people need time to develop the sewing skills needed to be competitive on a world-wide basis, we are very good at cutting—regularly meeting or exceeding the quantitative standards.

To take advantage of our cutting skills, the existing garment manufacturing company is proposing a three-phase expansion. The expansion plans call for the construction of an enlarged cutting facility where fabric of U.S. origin will be cut, a dye plant in which "grey goods" or pre-dyed fabric of U.S. origin will be dyed and a knitting facility where yarn of U.S. origin will be knit into fabric.

This will be good for the U.S. textile industry—in American Samoa and on the mainland. We estimate that an additional \$5–7 million dollars can be generated for the mainland U.S. textile industry if the expansion goes forward as planned.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers involved are very small in U.S. mainland terms, but they are of great significance on an island whose population totals 60,000 people.

It now appears that the 1996 change in U.S. Customs regulations has placed in jeopardy our infant garment industry and its future