January 22, 2001

S. Res. 13

Whereas in contrast to the economic prosperity enjoyed by Americans over the past several years, many agriculture-dependent rural economies have continued to experience economic hardship;

Whereas independently owned and operated farms and ranches that are integral to the economic and social stability of rural America, but are severely leveraged and unable to withstand economic shock, have suffered disproportionately during this period of ongoing economic distress;

Whereas the contract payments authorized by the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.) increasingly are considered by producers to be inequitable because—

(1) the contract payments are not based on current production, but are instead based on 85 percent of program yields established in 1988 and frozen in 1990;

(2) the contract payments are provided to owners and producers that may no longer be producing the crop on which the contract payments are calculated; and

(3) the contract payments are not available to producers in nonprogram crops, including soybeans and other oilseeds, resulting in further inequities and arbitrariness in making emergency farm payments;

(4) the contract payments are not available to owners and producers that did not enter into production flexibility contracts under the Agricultural Market Transition Act; and

(5) the contract payments are made for crops regardless of whether the crops are experiencing low prices;

Whereas despite being promoted as a means of limiting farm program spending, current farm policy necessitated record levels of program spending and emergency assistance packages;

Whereas the previous record of $28,000,000,000 in direct payments through the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1986 during the heart of the farm crisis in the 1980’s was eclipsed by direct payments made for fiscal year 2000 by nearly $6,300,000,000;

Whereas even at these high levels of farm program and emergency spending, the farm economy and the financial condition of farm and ranch families and rural communities continues to decline;

Whereas agricultural producers are extremely frustrated and dissatisfied with the inconsistent criteria for receipt of disaster payments, the unpredictability of the payments, the inequity of the payments across producers, regions, and agricultural commodities; and

Whereas over the past 3 years, Congress has waited until well into the legislative year before considering and responding to the need for disaster payments and then has justified the use of unnecessarily simplistic and fiscally wasteful payment formulas by claiming that there was inadequate time to devise superior alternatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress should—

(1) enact a new farm bill during the 1st session of the 107th Congress;

(2) include in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2002 sufficient funds to provide an adequate farm income safety net and eliminate the need for off-budget, emergency spending;

(3) ensure that all farm-related payments are allocated fairly and reasonably in relation to need; and

(4) provide such additional sums as are necessary to fund other farm bill priorities, such as rural development and telecommunication, conservation, research, nutrition, and food safety.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, January 22, 2001, to conduct a mark-up on the nomination of the Honorable Mel Martinez, of Florida, to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOTICE—REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2000 fourth quarter mass mailings is January 25, 2001. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailings registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

NOTICE—2000 YEAR END REPORT


The Public Records office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office at (202) 224-0322.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings of Saturday’s Inaugural Ceremony be printed in today’s Record.

There being no objection, the proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

INAUGURATION CEREMONY, SATURDAY.

January 20, 2001, 1:47 A.M.

Members of the House of Representatives, Members of the Senate, Justices of the Supreme Court, nominees to the Cabinet, the Governors of the States, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other distinguished guests assem- bled on the West Front.

Mr. Martin Paone, Senate Secretary for the Majority, escorted the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Bill Armstrong, to the President’s platform.

Mrs. Elizabeth Smith of New Hampshire, House Secretary for the Minority, escorted Mr. McConnelly of New Hampshire, to the President’s platform.

Mr. Kay Hagan, House CAO, Mr. Gary Stamp, Secretary of the Caucus, and Mr. Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House, escorted President Clinton and Vice President Gore, accompanied by Senator Dodd, Representative Gephardt, and Senator Daschle, to the President’s platform.

Ms. Lanier Gerst, Executive Director, JCCIC, Mrs. Loretta Symms, Senate Deputy Sergeant at Arms, and Ms. Kerri Hanley, House Deputy Sergeant at Arms, escorted Vice President-elect Cheney, accompanied by Senator Lott and Representative Armey, to the President’s platform.

Ms. Tamara Somerville, Chief of Staff, JCCIC, Mr. Jim Ziglar, Senate Sergeant at Arms, and Mr. Bill Livingood, House Sergeant at Arms, escorted President-elect Bush, accompanied by Senator McConnell, Senator Dodd, Speaker Hastert, and Senator Lott, to the President’s platform.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Everyone, please be seated so we can begin.

Welcome to the 58th Inauguration of the President and the Vice President of the United States of America. Today we honor the past in commemorating two centuries of inaugurations in Washington, DC. As well, we greet the future, beginning the first inauguration of the 21st century and the new millennium.

America has now spanned four centuries, but the choice still shining bright—beginning and present—linked by timeless ideals and faith. The enduring strength of our Constitution, which brings us to the West Front of the Capitol today, attests to the wisdom of America’s founders and the heroism of generations of Americans who fought wars and toiled in peace to preserve the precious gift of liberty. In becoming the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush will assume the sacred trust as guardian of our Constitution. Dick Cheney will be sworn in as our new Vice President. Witnessed by the Congress, Supreme Court, Governors, and Presidents past, the current President will stand by as the new President peacefully takes office. This is a triumph of our democratic Re- public, a ceremony befitting a great nation.

In his father’s stead, the Rev. Franklin Graham is with us today to lead the Nation in prayer. Please stand for the invocation.

Reverend Graham.

Reverend GRAHAM. Let us pray:

Blessed are You, O Lord our God. Yours, O God, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and Earth is Yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom. You are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from You. You are the ruler of all things. In Your hands are strength and power to exalt and to give strength to all.

As President Lincoln once said, we have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown, but we have forgotten God. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended powers, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Let us come together on this historic and solemn occasion to inaugurate once again a President and Vice President, teach us afresh that power, wisdom, and sal- vation come only from Your hand.

We pray, O Lord, for President-elect George W. Bush and Vice President-elect Richard B. Cheney to whom You have en- trusted the leadership of this new day, this moment in history. We pray that You will help them bring our country together so that we
Mr. Chief Justice REHNQUIST. Mr. Cheney, are you ready to take the oath? Vice President-elect CHENEY, I am.

I, Richard Bruce Cheney, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office of which I am about to enter. So help me God.

Mr. Chief Justice REHNQUIST. Congratulations.

The Marine Band performed “Hail Columbia.”

Mr. MCCONNELL. Ladies and gentlemen, Staff Sergeant Alec T. Maly of the United States Army Band will now perform an American medley.

(Sergeant Maly sang a medley of American music.)

Mr. MCCONNELL. It is now my high honor to again present the Chief Justice of the United States who will administer the Presidential oath of office. Everyone, please stand.

Mr. Chief Justice REHNQUIST. Governor Bush, are you ready to take the oath?

Governor Bush, yes, sir.

Mr. Chief Justice REHNQUIST. Please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

I, George Walker Bush, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

Mr. Chief Justice REHNQUIST. Congratulations.

I am honored and humbled to stand here, where so many of America’s leaders have come before me and so many will follow. We have a place, all of us, in a long story; a story we continue, but whose end we will not see. It is the story of a new world that became a friend and liberator of the old, the story of a slave-holding society that became a servant of freedom, the story of a power that went into the world to protect but not possess, to serve others, not be served. It is the American story; a story of flawed and fallible people, united across the generations by grand and enduring ideals.

The grandest of these ideals is an unfolding American promise: that everyone belongs, that everyone deserves a chance, that no insignificant person was ever born. Americans are called to enact this promise in our lives and in our laws. And though our Nation has sometimes halted, and sometimes delayed, we must follow no other course. Through much of the last century, America’s faith in freedom and democracy was a rock in a raging sea. Now it is a seed upon the wind, taken up and spread. And even after nearly 225 years, we have a long way yet to travel.

While many of our citizens prosper, others doubt the promise—even the justice—of our own country. The ambitions of some Americans are limited by failing schools, and hidden prejudice, and the circumstances of their birth. The story of America is not written in different rules. So deep, it seems we share a continent, but not a country. We do not accept this, and we will not allow it, our union, is the serious work of leaders and citizens in every generation. And this is our solemn pledge: I will work to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

I know this is within our reach, because we are united by a power that transcends us ourselves and from which we make us equal in His image. And we are confident in principles that unite and lead us onward.

From 1776 to 1865, and from 1890 to 1945, and from 1945 to now, our country has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests, and teach us what it is to be citizens. For those ideals must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing the ideals, makes our country more, not less, American.

Today we affirm a new commitment to live out our Nation’s promise through civility, courage, compassion, and character. America, at its best, matches a commitment to principle with a concern for civility. A civil society demands from each of us good will and respect, fair dealing and forgiveness.

Some seem to believe that our politics can afford to be petty because, in a time of peace, the stakes of our debates appear small. But the stakes, for America, are never small. If our country does not lead the cause of freedom, it will not matter if we lose the hearts and minds of our friends and the support of our allies, or the international influence that goes with it. If we do not turn the hearts of children toward knowledge and character, we will lose their gifts and undermine their idealism. If we permit our economy to drift and decline, the vulnerable will suffer most. We must live up to the calling we share. Civility is not a tactic or a sentiment. It is the determined choice over cynicism, of community over chaos. And this commitment, if we keep it, is a way to show the country that America, at its best, is also courageous. Our national courage has been clear in times of depression and war, when defeating common dangers defined our common good. Now we must choose if the example of our fathers and mothers will inspire us or condemn us. We must show courage in a time of blessing by confronting problems instead of passing them onto future generations.

Together we will reclaim America’s soul before ignorance and apathy claim more young lives. We will reform Social Security and Medicare, sparing our children from struggles we have the power to prevent. We will reduce taxes, to recover the momentum of our economy and reward the efforts and enterprise of working Americans.

We will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge. We will confront weapons of mass destruction, so that a new century is spared new horrors. The enemies of liberty and our country should make no mistake, America remains engaged in the world, by history and by choice, shaping a balance of power that favors freedom. We will defend our allies and our interests. We will show purpose without arrogance. We will meet aggression and bad faith with resolve and strength. And to all nations, we will speak for the values that guide our Nation’s birth.

America, at its best, is compassionate. In the quiet of American conscience, we know that deep, persistent poverty is unworthy of our Nation’s promise. And whatever our views of its cause, we can agree that children at risk are not at fault. Abandoning our children is not acts of God; they are failures of love.
And the proliferation of prisons, however necessary, is no substitute for hope and order in our souls.

Where there is suffering, there is duty. Americans are not strangers, they are citizens; not problems, but priorities. And all of us are diminished when any are hopeless.

Government has great responsibilities, for public safety and public health, for civil rights and common schools. Yet compassion is the work of a nation, not just a government. And some needs and hurts are so deep, they will only respond to a mentor’s touch or a pastor’s word. Church and charity, dialogue and mosque lend our communities their humanity, and they will have an honored place in our plans and in our laws.

Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty. But we can listen to those who do. And I can pledge our Nation to a goal. When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side.

( Applause.)

Americans, at its best, is a place where personal responsibility is valued and expected. Encouraging responsibility is not a search for scapegoats; it is a call to conscience. And though we could fail in this office, it brings a duty and an honor fulfillment. We find the fullness of life, not only in options, but in commitments. And we find that children and community are the set we free.

Our public interest depends on private character; on civic duty and family bonds and basic fairness; on uncounted, un honored acts of decency which give direction to our freedom. Sometimes in life we are called to do great things. But as a saint of our times has said, every day we are called to do small things with great love. The most important works of our history to the care of our times.

( Applause.)

What you do is as important as anything we do. And I can pledge our Nation to a goal. The years and changes accumulate, but the themes of this Bush team will be remembered no more. And Lord, only do we thank You for our forgiveness, we thank You for faith, faith to believe, faith to hope, faith to live and faith will be left behind and no youth will be left out.

Thank You for blessing us with the faith to believe that all of Your leaders can sit down and reason with one another so that each American is blessed.

Thank You for blessing us with the faith to believe that the walls of inequity can be torn down and the gaps between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, the uneducated and the educated, can and will be closed.

And, Lord, lastly, we thank You for favor. We thank You for Your divine favor. Let Your favor be upon President Clinton and the outgoing administration. May they go forth in spiritual grace and civic greatness.

Let us pray, please:

Almighty God, the supply and supplier of peace, prudent policy, and nonpartisanship, we bless Your holy and righteous name. Thank You, O God, for blessing us with forgiveness, with faith, and with favor. Forgive and, of course, O Lord, let Your divine favor be upon President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Welch Bush and their family. We ask unanimous consent that the President pro tempore, the morning hour be deemed extended until the hour of 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2001. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23. I further ask unanimous consent that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 12:24 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes.

( Applause.)

( Staff Sergeant Maly performed the National Anthem.)

We respectfully submit this humble prayer of the American people, the 106th Congress, the first session of the 106th Congress, as a member of the Commission on the Future of the United States Aerospace Industry.

Let us pray, please:

Almighty God, the supply and supplier of peace, prudent policy, and nonpartisanship, we bless Your holy and righteous name. Let us pray, please:

Almighty God, the supply and supplier of peace, prudent policy, and nonpartisanship, we bless Your holy and righteous name. Thank You for blessing us with peace, prudent policy, and nonpartisanship. Forgive and, of course, O Lord, let Your divine favor be upon President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Welch Bush and their family. We ask unanimous consent that the President pro tempore, the morning hour be deemed extended until the hour of 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2001. I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23. I further ask unanimous consent that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 12:24 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes.

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