

marketing orders administered by USDA. So, in fact, we do have price stabilization programs for the vast majority of agricultural commodities. That is why consumers enjoy stable supplies, high quality, and modest food prices.

Mr. President, I believe I have demonstrated how important farm programs are to consumers. Now let us take a hard look at how the elimination of farm programs would affect producers.

Who are these producers? They are good citizens. They are hardworking people. They get up early. They work late. They support their communities. They pay taxes. And, Mr. President, far from the media-generated image of wealthy folks, the average net farm income in North Dakota is \$20,000 a year. I know that is hard to believe when one sees portrayed over the media these images of wealthy farmers who are farming the mailbox.

Mr. President, that is not the way it is. I come from North Dakota. I go across the State of North Dakota, through cities and towns, visiting farmsteads. I get a chance to see what the condition is in rural America.

The hard reality is that the average farmer in my State is earning \$20,000 a year. They have strong families. Farming is a family business. They raise good children; children that grow up with a strong work ethic, a good education, and good values.

But those children rarely come back to farm because they do not see a future in it. They do not see a good opportunity. They do not see a secure and profitable profession. They see a struggle. They see a struggle to raise a good crop, a struggle to withstand low prices, a struggle to persevere through hail, drought, or flood.

They watch their parents struggle and they ask why.

Mr. President, I think we find farm families staying on the land not because it makes sense financially, because the rate of return for agriculture is as low as any industry one can find. I believe they stay with it because it is a way of life.

What will the cuts that some people are suggesting do to this way of life? In North Dakota, the effect would be dramatic. According to USDA statistics, in 1993, farm program payments represented 82 percent of net farm income—82 percent of net farm income represented by Federal farm program payments. Nationally, startling statistics from the U.S. Department of Agriculture provide a clear picture of what is happening on the farm. Let me quote:

\*\*\* recently, entry has fallen fastest for farms operated by those under 35.

They go on to say:

\*\*\* the most noticeable change in the 1992 census (of Agriculture) was among 35-to-44 year-old farmers. Farm exits for this age group increased \*\*\*

What does this tell us? It tells us that farming is not an economically at-

tractive business. It is high risk, not high income.

Again, according to USDA:

Approximately 90 percent of all farm operator households received some income from off-farm sources.

If farming were such a profitable business, far fewer households would have to search for alternative sources of income to meet their needs.

Finally, the difference between the Consumer Price Index and the prices received for farm commodities clearly portrays the pressure that farmers face.

Mr. President, this chart shows the farmers' financial squeeze. The Consumer Price Index rises much faster than farm prices. This chart shows from 1982 to 1993 the relationship between the Consumer Price Index, the prices that farmers pay for things, and farm prices, the prices that farmers get. This chart tells us a very clear story:

From 1982 to 1993, the red line shows farm prices. It has been relatively stable. The blue line shows what has happened to the Consumer Price Index. It has risen each and every year on a steady course. So the gap between what farmers pay and the prices they receive has steadily grown.

Farmers are being squeezed by low farm prices and rising costs. Further, agricultural program cuts will damage rural America in profound and irreversible ways. At a time when we need sustained economic growth in both rural and urban areas, the needs of rural America cannot be ignored. It would be flawed economic policy.

In conclusion, let me restate why we need to maintain our agriculture policy. First, agriculture programs are the foundation for our international competitiveness. Without them, we unilaterally disarm in the world trade battle. That would harm American farmers, eliminate American jobs and threaten America's economic security.

Second, agriculture programs are insurance policies for consumers. Without farm programs, consumers lose security over a basic human need: Food.

Finally, agriculture is a fundamentally different form of business. To work properly, it must maintain a reserve, but that reserve depresses prices for farmers and benefits consumers. Because of agriculture's differences, farm programs are essential.

We as a nation have maintained an agriculture policy for decades to protect producers and consumers. This is not blind generosity. This is not aimless policymaking. This is not luck. Those who seek to destroy the farm program must demonstrate why their way is right for America. The burden of proof is on them. I think the facts prove they are dead wrong.

Our agriculture policy works. We have proof that it works. We must not destroy a program that is proven to deliver an abundance of low-cost, high-quality food. We must not destroy a program that has made America the

world leader in agriculture. We must not destroy a program that has worked. We must not unilaterally disarm.

I thank the Chair, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, is leader's time reserved?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has been reserved.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN WHITE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the official State motto of Texas is just one word. And that word is "Friendship."

That word was also the motto of John White, one of the great sons of Texas, who passed away on Friday.

John was a Democrat through and through. But John knew that partisanship is not as important as friendship. He knew that partisanship is not as important as decency. And he knew that partisanship is not as important as patriotism.

Friendship. Decency. Patriotism. These were the hallmarks of John White's career in public service. It was a career that saw him serve for over a quarter of a century as Texas Agriculture Commissioner, as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

But John's influence extended far beyond the jobs he held. Former Congressman Jake Pickle said,

John was a small-town man who grew into national prominence because he had a lot of just plain common sense.

Almost from the day he arrived in Washington, Presidents, Senators, Congressmen, and countless others called upon John for counsel and for common sense.

And no matter how busy he was, John always answered the call.

Mr. President, I know that all Members of the Senate who had the privilege to know John, join with me in extending our sympathies to his wife, Nellie, and to his entire family.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROSE KENNEDY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, along with all Members of the Senate—and all Americans—I join today in mourning the passing of a true American treasure, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Services for Mrs. Kennedy will be held tomorrow in Boston, and our thoughts and prayers are with Senator KENNEDY and his entire family.

Rose Kennedy's remarkable life was full of hills and valleys. And through moments of triumph and tragedy, Rose Kennedy exhibited a seemingly endless supply of grace, grit, and courage.

There were two enduring principles at the center of Rose Kennedy's life. The first was love of family—and what a remarkable family it is. Over the past half-century, the Kennedy name has become synonymous with public service.

Indeed, during Rose Kennedy's life, she would see three of her sons serve in the U.S. Senate—one of whom, of course, became President of the United States.

One daughter currently serves as Ambassador to Ireland; another is regarded as one of the great humanitarians of our time.

Two grandsons currently serve in the U.S. Congress; and just last week a granddaughter was sworn-in as Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, and a grandson became a member of the Maryland House of Delegates.

The other principle at the center of Rose Kennedy's life was love of God. And it was that love that enabled her to survive through the deaths of four of her children.

Many words will be written and spoken in the coming days about Rose Kennedy, but none will be more eloquent than those of our colleague, Senator EDWARD KENNEDY, who said, "She was the most beautiful rose of all."

#### ROSE KENNEDY

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I want to join my voice with so many other voices in expressing sorrow at the loss of Rose Kennedy, a woman who epitomized, I think, strength and class and grace; and say to Senator KENNEDY and all the members of the Kennedy family that our thoughts and our prayers are with them as we celebrate the life of that remarkable woman.

#### THE PASSING OF GREATNESS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as one of millions upon millions of Americans mourning today the passing of a great woman, I want to extend to our colleague Senator EDWARD KENNEDY from Massachusetts, and to his extended family, my wife Erma's and my condolences on the death yesterday of his mother, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy—Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, as we knew her best.

Some Americans have expressed a regret that our representative democracy precludes the granting of titles of noble recognition as is common among our British cousins.

To be certain, if titles were granted in America to those most worthy, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy would long, long ago have been known affectionately as "Lady Kennedy."

Indeed, given her innate intelligence, political acumen, and enviable sense of self, had Rose Kennedy been born per-

haps 50 years later than she was, she might well have been the first United States Senator in her family.

Instead, being born 104 years ago, from her childhood and youth, Rose Kennedy imbibed the air of the politics of Boston, of Massachusetts, and of America, and learned to play magnificently the role of wife to her husband and mother to her sons and daughters as she brought her incomparable strengths and graces to bear on their successes.

Rose Kennedy's life spanned more than half the history of the Republic of the United States. For much of that history, Rose Kennedy was a frontline participant in the great events of our era, and in more than a peripheral fashion.

Where else in American history can be recorded that one woman was the wife of an Ambassador to the Court of St. James, the mother of an American President, the mother of three United States Senators, mother of the Attorney General of the United States.

And, perhaps, above all else, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy will live on in the hearts and memories of untold millions of Americans who witnessed her fortitude and faith in the face of pitiless tragedy in the loss of three of her sons in the service of our country—her son Joe, Jr., in World War II, and her sons John and Robert to the mindless hatred of the previously nameless assassins on whom infamy will forever rest through the sins against our country and history itself that they committed in murdering these two outstanding men.

Mr. President, I hope that the members of the Kennedy family will experience some degree of comfort in the condolences that we offer them today, and, more importantly, that the Kennedy family will find increased strength in consolation in recalling the strength and character that Rose Kennedy embodied and in realizing the affection and reverence in which she was held by the American people and by people around the world.

Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy, Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy;

Which come, in the night-time of sorrow and care,

And bring back the features that joy used to wear.

Long, long be my heart with such memories filled!

Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled,—

You may break, you may shatter the vase, if you will,

But the scent of the roses will hang round it still.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I would like to compliment the Senator from West Virginia for a beautiful tribute to a remarkable woman. I know that will be of great, soothing comfort to the family.

I think on behalf of many people, I say how much we appreciate the tribute.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I, too, would like to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from West Virginia. It is hard to believe that Rose Kennedy in her 104 years comes close to encompassing almost half the time period that this country has been in existence—a little short of that, but not very much.

It has been my pleasure to know her from some years ago. I have not seen her in recent years, but we were visitors with the Kennedy family on a number of occasions years ago when she was there. We got to know her as a very gracious lady.

I think Senator BYRD has very properly given the accolades that he has, that she has so well deserved. And I associate myself with his remarks at this time.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### ROSE FITZGERALD KENNEDY

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I wish to extend my wife's and my deepest sympathy to our colleague, the senior Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY], on the death of his mother, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy. I extend condolences also to two of her grandsons, my Rhode Island colleague Representatives PATRICK KENNEDY and Representative JOSEPH KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

No other woman in American history can match the distinction of Rose Kennedy in nurturing progeny for distinguished service to the Nation. Three sons who became U.S. Senators, one of them a President, and now in the next generation two grandsons in the House of Representatives, a granddaughter who is a Lieutenant Governor, and another grandson in a State legislature.

History will look back in wonder and admiration at such a family and especially at the woman who instilled it with so much vitality and high sense of purpose.

Rose Kennedy was privileged to savor the highest of life's triumphs but she also had to bear the burdens of tragedy of almost unbearable weight. Where lesser mortals would have been crushed by such adversity, Rose Kennedy remarkably kept on course, guided, as it were by some strong inner compass.

We know now that the compass was steadied by her own great faith and religious commitment, and that these were the sure cornerstones on which she built her extraordinary family.

Rose Kennedy left a legacy like no other to the Nation, and the Nation will always be grateful.