

Mr. GRASSLEY. Now, what has the other side had to offer as an alternative to the Republican plan? Most often, although not totally, we hear about a 1-year extension of the current program. To me, this idea has several problems. An extension of the current program ignores the reforms that have been made and that farmers have now come to expect. The farmers in my State want, they expect, and they deserve the regulatory relief provided by the Republican farm bill provisions. Furthermore, an extension would literally deprive rural America of billions of dollars. First, a 1-year extension would require farmers to pay back money they have already received as advance deficiency payments. Many of the farmers in Iowa had very poor crops this year due to heavy rain during the planting season. Particularly that is true of southern Iowa, northern Missouri, and western central Illinois. Yet by a 1-year extension, people are suggesting that they would force these farmers to write checks to the Treasury to pay back their advance deficiency payment. It is estimated that these provisions would cost farmers more than \$2.1 billion nationwide and, in my State of Iowa, \$217 million.

Second, any delay in passing a new farm bill could have a devastating effect on future farm programs. This is due to the Congressional Budget Office's baseline revision that continually shows that Congress will have less money to spend on farm programs in the future. When CBO revised its baseline in November, agriculture lost \$7.8 billion from that baseline. This is \$7.8 billion that we could have spent under the baseline if the President would have signed the farm bill enacted in October but now is lost, due to delay.

If we pass a 1-year extension, the House Agriculture Committee estimates that agriculture could lose an additional \$6 billion—an additional \$6 billion. So, it is time to be very candid with our constituents. An extension will take billions of dollars out of that baseline, or, another way of saying it, out of the pockets of the family farmers, and, at the same time, out of rural America. To this Senator, these numbers make a mere extension of the current program an unacceptable alternative. And, when the truth is known to the farmers and to our constituents, I think they will find it equally unacceptable.

I think it is interesting that the same Senators who have accused the Republican Congress of gutting rural America are willing to deprive these areas of billions of dollars by putting off the passing of a farm bill for another year, through a 1-year extension.

Mr. President, the conclusion is very clear to this Senator. The Senate should pass the farm bill provisions contained in the Balanced Budget Act once again. We should do this as soon as possible, preferably this week on the continuing resolution. The farmers, the

bankers, and the rest of rural America need the certainty as to what the next farm program will be.

It is high time that we put ideology aside and enact a new farm bill.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. EXON pertaining to the introduction of S. 1523 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I came down for another matter that will take about 2 minutes, to clear some resolutions saluting the Nebraska Cornhuskers football team and the volleyball team which have been cleared on both sides.

I ask unanimous consent at this time I be allowed to proceed for a few more minutes for that purpose.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I will not object. The measures the Senator from Nebraska is presenting have been cleared by this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

COMMENDING THE CORNHUSKERS FOR WINNING THE 1994 AND 1995 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) to commend the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for winning both the 1994 and 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Football championships back-to-back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate one of the top college football programs in history—the Nebraska Cornhuskers. The Huskers have once again clinched a national championship earning back-to-back titles in 1994 and 1995. Nebraska won two consecutive championships also in 1970 and 1971. This year's repeat was made special by the fact that this is only the second time ever in college football history that a team was a consensus, undisputed champ in the major polls 2 years in a row. The last time this occurred was in the 1950's.

The Huskers decisively defeated the Florida Gators 62-24 in the Fiesta Bowl on January 2. This victory not only brought with it the national championship, but a perfect 25-0 record for the

past two seasons, a 36th victory for the Huskers in the last three seasons and the worst defeat of a number 1 versus number 2 in a championship game. As for the 36 victories, the Huskers are the only team to win that many games in 3 years time. Nebraska was 36-1 overall and the 1 loss came down to a last-second field goal attempt. That field goal was the difference between a repeat and a threepeat of the national title. The Huskers defeated the Miami Hurricanes in Miami 24-17 last year for the championship.

The Huskers this year managed to play nearly everyone on the roster in many of the games and crush opponents by averaging 52.4 offensive points per game. Also when matched against Top 10 opponents this season—Florida, Colorado, Kansas, Kansas State—the Huskers smacked each by an average of 49-18.

The Nebraska program has risen above all others on the field. The Huskers have the record for the most straight bowl game appearances at 27. Between 1970 and now, they have finished 19 times in the Top 10 and 4 of those were at number 1. Additionally, in this the final year of the Big Eight, the Huskers have dominated with the most Big Eight conference championships at 20. The Huskers were victorious in the Big Eight consecutively for the last 5 years. The Huskers likewise hold the record for overall conference championships—Big Six, Big Seven, Big Eight—at 41.

As it is clear that the Huskers have been winners on the field, they have been winners off the field as well. Coach Osborne, the coach with the highest winning percentage in college football, wrote "More Than Winning," a book which describes his philosophy. There is certainly more than winning and Coach Osborne, who holds a doctorate in educational psychology, tries to teach each of his players how to be winners in the bigger game of life. For example, the University of Nebraska has had the most Academic-All-Americans on its teams at 132 players. The next closest college has 82. The football program itself is number 1 with a total of first team Academic-All-Americans at 49. The next closest college has 35.

I am very pleased with the Huskers for the success that they have had over the years and another repeat of the national championship. While the 1971 match-up between Nebraska and Oklahoma has often been called the game of the century, the run the Huskers have made in the last three seasons, 1993, 1994, and 1995, deserves the caption—"the Team of the Century."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 210

Whereas Dr. Tom Osborne, the winningest coach in college football, has led the Nebraska Cornhuskers to the last five Big Eight titles, a second perfect season, and repeat of the National Championship;

Whereas the Huskers have gone undefeated at 25-0 in the last two seasons and 36-1 in the last three seasons, the most victories ever in that time span for any collegiate team;

Whereas Tommie Frazier, the great Husker quarterback, continued the unmatched Nebraska tradition by being named Most Valuable Player in the last three Championship games and finished his brilliant career with a rushing high 199 yards in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl;

Whereas the Huskers decisively won the Fiesta Bowl becoming the second football team ever in collegiate history to earn a consensus #1 rank in the major polls for two consecutive years.

Resolved, That the Senate commends the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for having won the 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championship.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

COMMENDING THE CORNHUSKERS FOR WINNING THE 1995 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution will be stated by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) to commend the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for winning the 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Volleyball Championship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a great women's volleyball team, as a matter of fact, the best in the Nation—the Nebraska Cornhuskers. This is only the second time in the history of the volleyball championship tournament that a team east of California has won the title.

The Huskers had a spectacular season led by their great coach Terry Pettit. Coach Pettit has been with the Huskers for 18 years and has become a key part of their success. The season was also boosted by the help of Allison Weston who was named cowlinner of the national Player of the Year Award. And finally, the team was raised to a level above all others on the court by a team of national championship-winning players.

The Huskers have played for the title previously in the 1980's, so being in the limelight of college volleyball is nothing new for them. What it is, however,

is a feat only few have attained outside of the Pacific rim. The only other team was the Texas Longhorns.

The Huskers were incredible in a 3-1 title match versus the Texas Longhorns.

The volleyball program should be acclaimed for another great record as well and that is the success in the classroom. The University of Nebraska has 132 Academic-All-Americans, the most of any college sports, and 16 of them are on the volleyball team. Playing like champions and being champions in the classroom are two incredible accomplishments.

I am quite pleased and very impressed by the success of the Nebraska Huskers and look forward to continued excellence by our great volleyball program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 211

Whereas the Cornhusker Volleyball team under the leadership and experience of Coach Terry Pettit has risen above all others in the volleyball arena;

Whereas Nebraska player Allison Weston was named co-winner of the national Player of the Year Award assisting her National Championship winning teammates in a spectacular season;

Whereas this year's Nebraska team was only the second east of California ever to win the Volleyball Championship Tournament by winning the title match;

Resolved, That the Senate commends the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for having won 1995 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women's Volleyball Championship.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

THE AGRICULTURAL RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1995

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, in a few moments I will propound a unanimous consent request that I know the minority will want to be on the floor to respond to.

While they are coming, let me speak for a few moments to the dilemma we find ourselves in here in the Congress, having passed a Budget Reconciliation Act, and in that budget reconciliation having a substantial portion of new farm policy that is known as the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 1995. Of course that went to the President and, as we know, was vetoed.

The problem has been spoken to by the Senator from Nebraska, the Senator from North Dakota, the Senator from Iowa already this afternoon, with clearly differing points of view as to

how that was handled. But what is clear, in my State of Idaho, is that farmers and their bankers are now sitting down to determine which acres will go into potatoes or sugar beets or barley or wheat or alfalfa crops this coming season. That means that Idaho farmers are putting together their farm plans and determining their financial structure for the coming year. They prefer to do that in the presence of U.S. farm policy.

Of course, we know that on September 30 of this past year, the farm bill has expired. As a result of that, the Secretary of Agriculture is now at least looking at the possibility of our farm policy reverting to the Agriculture Act of 1949. All of us know that simply cannot be allowed to happen. The stalemate that has resulted from the budget considerations that we are now in simply has not produced farm policy as should be expected by American agriculture.

I serve on the Senate Agricultural Committee. Chairman Dick LUGAR and I and all Members of that committee now for over 10 months have been engaged in looking at and crafting farm policy on a title-by-title basis. But because of the necessary savings that we needed to acquire in fiscal 1996 as a result of the balanced budget process that this Congress is now in, the Budget Reconciliation Act handled a substantial portion of new farm policy. Whether you call it "Freedom to Farm" or whether you call it the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 1995, all of us know that there were clear and substantial changes made. We had held extensive hearings with American agriculture and all segments of the commodity interest of agriculture to craft that farm policy. We had gone to conference with the House, the Senate and the House differing substantially on approaches toward this, but all of us coming together to agree on a policy, finally, that made its way into the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. Since that time, American agriculture has had an opportunity to review it, and I must say that the reviews have been favorable.

Early on, farmers scratched their heads and said, "How will this work," only to recognize the kind of new flexibility that we offer in farm policy which says to American agriculture, no longer will you have to farm to the program. You can now start farming to the marketplace, and you can begin to adjust your cropping patterns to move toward the market.

Farmers cannot wait now for this President. Farmers need to know what we are going to do. It is clearly time that we speak to that issue.

This past summer and fall, as I have mentioned, the Congress, the Senate and the House alike, have attempted to craft new farm policy resulting in an approach that brings us to a balanced budget. Somehow there appears to be a message on this floor this afternoon that American agriculture is not interested in a balanced budget.