

It was the time when America was being tested again and again was about to cast into a great world war. They witnessed husbands, sons, brothers, and a few daughters leave for war and they were there to welcome them home. As a family, we cried and prayed with the families who lost loved ones to that terrible war and we celebrated with the ones who came home heroes. We helped them to put their lives back together again and America was whole again.

They skimped and saved and worked. Mom never had much but was never denied. She made a very happy home. Christmas was an orange, home made toy, and home made clothes. All holidays meant good cooking with a special little twist for her family and relation in times of unbelievable stress and uncertainty.

Memories will always remain of the wonderful smells and aromas emanating from mother's kitchen. It was there she cooked for harvest and hay hands over an old wood range during the hot humid days of summer. Those same smells were even better after chores on a cold winter day.

The badge of authority to the woman of the prairies and a true symbol of womanhood was the apron. It was worn everyday. It was made of anything from feed sacks to the finest cotton. There were those for everyday and those for Sunday or welcoming unexpected callers. Company was always welcome if at meal time, never left unfed.

Mom could gather the eggs, pick the garden, move baby chicks and kittens. The apron was used to haze milk cows to the barn, run wandering livestock out of her garden—along with some colorful language—wipe the tears from a crying child, dust from a husband's eye, and sweat from a working brow.

It was spotted and stained from ripe strawberries, black berries, an overly excited pup, and grease from a spark plug out of the old wash machine. It had the smells of newly picked sweet corn, fresh baked bread, lye soap, and once in a while, the light scent of perfume.

She was the center of our home and was a part of a generation that understood love, life, and death. She understood the value of honesty and openness, a healthy fear and love of God, and the core values of the American Midwest.

She was the daughter of this land. The soil that she loved and sustained her has now received her back. We are the benefactors of her qualities and teachings. We, as a nation, are what we are because of her and the millions of women like her of the American prairies. She was one of the silent builders of the United States of America.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 748

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read for the second time H.R. 748.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 748) to amend the prohibition of title 18, United States Code, against financial transactions with terrorists.

Mr. COCHRAN. I object to any further proceeding on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration S. 1033, which the clerk will read.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1033) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Appropriations Committee staff members and intern be granted floor privileges during the consideration of this bill, S. 1033: Rebecca Davies, Martha Scott Poindexter, Rachelle Graves-Bell, Galen Fountain, Carole Geagley, and Justin Brasell.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. I add to that unanimous consent request, at the suggestion of the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, to ask unanimous-consent they be granted floor privileges during the votes, if any, that may occur in relation to S. 1033.

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

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to present for the Senate's consideration today S. 1033, the fiscal year 1998 Agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies appropriations bill. This bill provides fiscal year 1998 funding for all programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with the exception of the Forest Service, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and expenses and payments of the farm credit system.

As reported, the bill recommends total new budget authority for fiscal year 1998 of \$50.7 billion. This is \$3.2

billion less than the fiscal year 1997 enacted level, and \$1.6 billion less than the President's fiscal year 1998 budget request.

Reductions in mandatory funding requirements account for the overall decrease below the fiscal year 1997 enacted level, principally reflecting lower Food Stamp and Child Nutrition Program costs due to the enactment of welfare reform. Even with these reductions, \$38 billion, or approximately 75 percent of the total \$50.7 billion recommended by this bill, will go to funding the Nation's domestic food assistance programs in fiscal year 1998. These include the Food Stamp Program; the national school lunch and elderly feeding programs; and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children [WIC].

Including congressional budget scorekeeping adjustments and prior-year spending actions, this bill recommends total discretionary spending of \$13.791 billion in budget authority and \$14.039 billion in outlays for fiscal year 1998. These amounts are consistent with the subcommittee's discretionary spending allocations.

The committee continues to place priority on increasing food safety to ensure that American consumers continue to have the safest food in the world.

The bill provides \$591 million for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, \$17 million above the fiscal year 1997 level. This will enable the Food Safety and Inspection Service to maintain the current inspection system and to provide the needed investments required to implement the new hazard analysis and critical control point [HACCP] meat and poultry inspection system.

In addition, the bill provides the increased funds requested as part of the President's \$43 million government-wide food safety initiative. This include the full \$1.1 million proposed for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, the \$4 million increase proposed for Agricultural Research Service food safety research, and \$24 million in addition funds for food safety initiatives of the Food and Drug Administration.

For agriculture research, the bill provides total appropriations of \$1.6 billion, approximately \$37 million below the fiscal year 1997 level. Included in this amount is a reduction of \$62 million, reflecting termination of funding for buildings and facilities of the Corporate State Research, Education, and Extension Service; and a \$27 million total increase for agriculture research and education activities.

The total amount provided for the Agricultural Research Service continues funding for most of the agency's current research activities, and approves nearly \$24 million of the increased funding requested to meet priority research needs, including research focusing on human nutrition, food safety, emerging diseases, and genetics resources. This additional

amount includes \$5 million for the survey of food intakes by children and infants required in response to the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996.

The recommended funding for the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service includes a \$2 million reduction in funding for special research grants, an increase of \$1.8 million for pesticide clearance, and \$100 million, a \$6 million increase above the 1997 level, for the National Research Initiative competitive grants programs. Appropriations for formula programs, including the Smith-Lever and Hatch programs, are maintained at 1997 levels.

For farm credit programs, the bill funds an estimated \$2.9 billion total loan program level, including \$460 million for farm ownership loans and \$2.4 million for farm operating loans.

Total funding of \$912 million is recommended for the Farm Service Agency, \$44 million less than the 1997 level. The Department has worked in 1997 to achieve program efficiencies. As a result, we are assured that the funding recommended in this bill will prevent further personnel reductions during fiscal year 1998.

The committee also has given increased attention to the need to provide affordable, safe, and decent housing for low-income individuals and families living in rural America.

Estimated rural housing loan authorizations funded by this bill total \$3.5 billion, a \$60 million net increase above the fiscal year 1997 appropriations level. This includes funding to support \$1.0 billion in section 502 low-income housing direct loans and \$129 million in section 515 rental housing loans. In addition, a total appropriations level of \$541 million is recommended for the rental assistance program. This is the same as the requested level and \$48 million more than the 1997 appropriation.

The budget also proposed that an additional \$52 million be provided to convert Housing and Urban Development Agency [HUD] section 8 rental assistance to USDA-financed rental assistance. While this proposal may have merit and yield long-term savings, the committee was not able to afford this further increase within its discretionary spending allocation. As an alternative, we would encourage the administration to work to fund this proposed conversion through the section 8 housing program.

For USDA conservation programs, total funding of \$828 million is provided, \$57 million more than the 1997 level. This includes \$730 million for conservation operations, and \$47.7 million for the resource conservation and development program.

USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service is funded at a level of \$136.7 million, and a total program level of \$1.1 million is recommended for the Public Law 480 program.

The bill also provides a total level of \$2.1 billion for rural economic and com-

munity development programs. Included in this amount is \$644 million for the Rural Community Advancement Program authorized in the 1996 farm bill, consolidating funding for 12 existing rural housing, utilities, and business cooperative programs of the Department of Agriculture.

The bill, as recommended, also appropriates \$3.9 billion for the WIC Program and provides up to \$12 million for the farmers market nutrition program. The recommended WIC appropriation level is \$122 million above the 1997 level and will be sufficient to maintain the current average WIC Program participation level in fiscal year 1998. Also included in the bill is a provision to ensure the continuation of infant formula WIC Program rebate savings, and to provide the authority requested by the administration to give the Secretary of Agriculture discretion in allocating WIC funds.

Further, the bill restores funding for the Pesticide Data Program, and provides the increased funds needed in fiscal year 1998 to conduct the Census of Agriculture.

It also includes the full \$202 million required to pay agents' sales commissions under the crop insurance program. Under current law, this shifts these costs from the mandatory to the discretionary side of the ledger beginning in fiscal year 1998. This places an added demand on the limited discretionary dollars available to the subcommittee. We have accommodated this new requirement, in part, through a limitation on the export enhancement program. This is a short-term fix. I am hopeful that this will not become a permanent burden on discretionary spending, and that a long-term legislative solution will be found to pay for this expense.

For those independent agencies funded by the bill, the committee provides the budget request level of \$60.1 million, an increase of \$5.0 million above fiscal year 1997 level, for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. It provides a \$34.4 million limitation on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration, as requested in the budget. And, it recommends total appropriations of \$913 million for the Food and Drug Administration, \$25.5 million more than the fiscal year 1997 level. This increase includes the full \$24 million requested for FDA food safety initiatives and the \$1.5 million increase requested for FDA buildings and facilities requirements.

Only 27 percent of the total funding recommended by this bill is discretionary, subject to the annual control of this subcommittee. As I indicated previously, this bill accommodates increased funding required for such programs as WIC, crop insurance delivery expenses, rural housing, food safety, and other pressing program needs.

Mr. President, arriving at these funding recommendations always requires a number of difficult decisions. I would like to thank the distinguished rank-

ing member of the subcommittee, Senator BUMPERS, as well as all other members of the subcommittee for their support and cooperation in putting together this bill.

Mr. President, I believe this bill represents a balanced and responsible set of funding recommendations within the limited resources available to the subcommittee, and I hope Senators will support it.

Mr. President, for the information of Senators, this bill is consistent with the allocations under the Budget Act that have been made to this subcommittee. We have worked very hard to identify the priorities that Senators have suggested and were in hearings on the budget proposals submitted by the President during the last several months.

This has been an effort which has involved the distinguished ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. BUMPERS, all of the members of our subcommittee, and our staffs. And all have contributed very substantively to the work that has led to the presentation of this bill today.

We have increased funding for some of the areas where we thought there was justification for doing more in discretionary spending to help improve the services provided by the Government, such as in food safety, in agriculture research to make our farms more efficient and farming more profitable. We have increased funding to maintain the current participation caseload in the WIC Program, for example. And there are other areas.

But I mention those three to illustrate that the committee has identified priority areas where we have provided increases. But overall, this bill reflects a reduction in spending from last year's level and a reduction in proposed spending for the next fiscal year below the request submitted in the President's budget.

So we are trying to do our part to reduce the deficit and to control spending and to make those hard choices that are necessary if we are to in fact balance the budget. We think that the bill reflects a fair and thoughtful balance among the various needs that are sought to be met in this appropriations bill.

We hope that Senators who do have suggested amendments will come to the floor soon during the consideration of this bill so that we can complete action on the legislation today. The leader has suggested that votes will probably not occur before 4 o'clock so that if there are amendments which require votes we are going to ask unanimous consent that those votes be stacked to occur beginning at 4 o'clock. And it is my hope that at the same time we can vote for final passage on the bill at that time or following votes on amendments.

So with that in mind, I am very happy to yield the floor for the purpose of any amendments that Senators may have or for any comments any Senator,

and especially the distinguished Senator from Arkansas, the ranking member of the committee, might have.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I first want to extend my sincere thanks to my distinguished colleague, the chairman of this subcommittee, who crafted this bill. He has done a magnificent job. He has always been unfailingly polite, courteous and thoughtful in the process.

I do not want to take up the Senate's time by going into a full detailed statement of what we provided and what we did not provide. But I do want to say a few things that I have said in the committee and I have said in speeches in the last couple months regarding what I believe is a serious lack of funding for research in the area of agriculture.

We have provided well over \$1 billion in this bill for agriculture research, but it pales by comparison. And in spite of that commitment, I think I have a commitment to express my concern about the comparatively small amounts we provide for agriculture research.

We live in a world with an ever-growing population. We live in a nation with an ever-increasing demand on our natural resources, including the conversion of arable land for urban growth, for highways, and shopping centers. We live in a world where our very survival is premised on our ability to produce more food with fewer inputs on fewer acres and with fewer risks to public health and the environment.

In the face of all these challenges, it is inconceivable that we would not place a much higher premium on investments in the research vital to human survival, simply put, the research of how we are going to feed ourselves.

We live in a nation that is blessed with abundant natural resources. We live in a nation blessed with a bounty of agricultural products currently capable of feeding ourselves and a good part of the rest of the world. We live in a nation that has lapsed into a complacency caused by the fact that our next meal has always been as close as the corner supermarket. It would not take many days spent in the back country villages of Latin America, the ravaged countryside of Central Africa, or the weathered, tortured steps of Mongolia to witness the lack of what we daily take for granted. I constantly admonish high school and college groups who are going out into the world to remember to count their blessings more often and their money less.

Mr. President, do not misunderstand me. I fully support the efforts of Senator COCHRAN in providing the funds contained in this bill for agriculture research, but I am constantly dismayed and perplexed at Congress' willingness to spend 30 times more on weapons research than we do on guaranteeing our future food supply. We spend twice as

much every year just on the space station as we do on agriculture research.

I have often felt that truly meaningful agriculture reform is only one good famine away. But I also continue to hope that such a cataclysm will not be the event that brings us to our senses.

Senator COCHRAN has done an excellent job with this bill within the fiscal constraints that bind all of us. He has properly balanced the needs of the research community with the other demands to which we must answer. This Nation looks to Congress, and I admonish Congress that we do not have forever to come to grips with the train wreck that is on the horizon and is absolutely certain to occur. We must begin laying the groundwork for an agricultural policy that allows our producers all the scientific advances we can develop if we are to grow more with less. We know that certainly we will need more and we will have less if we don't.

One other comment I make regarding the need to bolster agricultural research. Just 1 year ago, this Congress ended most of the support programs that historically protected American farmers from the market forces that often were marshaled to their disadvantage through either the plagues of weather, the domain of foreign policy, or forces beyond their control. Now they are left with the tattered safety net that has brought prices declining, as they are now doing, and there is little break to their fall.

One of the safety net remnants in hand is our agricultural research structure. As the cost of farm inputs skyrocket, we must find ways to reduce their application. As threats to the environment increase, we must find cost-effective protections. If we expect to continue spending less on food than any other developed nation on Earth, we must find ways to make its production cost less.

More than simply a producer, there is not a better steward of the Earth than the American farmer. The farmer knows that his livelihood is directly tied to his care for the soil and water. This bill contains funding for programs designed to help the farmer continue what he practices naturally—conservation. For the first time in many years, this bill places no limitations on the mandatory conservation programs established in the farm bill. These include the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Conservation Reserve Program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and many others established to help farmers protect our natural environment.

In the area of rural development, important areas of spending are protected and, in some instances, provided an increase. The Water and Sewer Grants Program, one near and dear to my heart, increased this year from the budget request of \$438 million to \$491 million. I want to especially thank Senator COCHRAN for engineering that. The section 502 Single-Family Housing

Program was returned to a program level of \$1 billion. In addition, the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program, one I am happy to say is housed at the University of Arkansas, important for the sustainable agricultural prices and products, is increased to \$1.5 million.

The bill provides nearly \$4 billion for the WIC Program. We all know that is the program that provides a healthy diet for poor pregnant women and thereby increases the protein diet and the brain count of the fetus. This amount is an increase of nearly \$200 million above the level we provided in the fiscal year 1997 bill. Noninclusive is the \$76 million we put in the recent supplemental appropriations bill. Included in the fiscal year 1998 WIC appropriation is \$12 million for the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program. That helps provide fresh produce for WIC participants. In other words, WIC participants can buy produce at the roadside vegetable stand, just as everybody else can, with their vouchers.

For the Food and Drug Administration, this bill provides an increase above last year—an increase—and includes a 1-year extension of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and a Mammography Quality Standard Act. Fees collected from these two authorities will provide an additional \$105.2 million for the FDA. These funds are vital to protect Food and Drug supplies and to ensure the safety and efficacy of our pharmaceutical and medical devices.

Mr. President, just as we too often take for granted the availability of food, we too often take for granted the safety of that food. It only takes a single outbreak of E. coli in fruit juice, or similar strains in other food products, to quickly bring us short as to how fragile our health can become in the hostile world of bacteria and microorganisms. Visit with one mother of a child who has known the horror of a food-borne illness and what it can do, and you will never take the safety of our food for granted again. The Food and Drug Administration, along with the Food Safety Inspection Service, stands as a guardian to protect our food supplies and the public health. This bill serves to help those agencies carry out those very important missions.

The bill provides \$14.5 billion to complete phase 2 for the FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research. This important facility is on the front-line of helping protect the health of American consumers. Once complete, this facility will be a cornerstone of the FDA's streamlining efforts to make Government more efficient and cost effective.

There were several initiatives included in the administration's budget request, many of which included funding in this bill. The food safety initiative, vitally important to protect our food supply and help bolster consumer confidence in all meat, poultry and

other products, has provided nearly full funding. The human nutrition initiative, though not completely funded, gets a substantial boost.

Mr. President, let me conclude by restating, I am again most grateful to Senator COCHRAN for his unfailing courtesy and consultations and for the fine job he and his excellent staff have done in crafting this bill. To expedite matters, let me simply say we are all grateful for his fair and open consideration of all requests. I gladly join him in bringing this bill to the Senate floor and urge the support of all Senators in its passage.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am very grateful for the generous comments by the distinguished Senator from Arkansas about our work together on this bill and my contributions to the effort. It has been a genuine pleasure working with him. I have considered it one of the highlights of my career in the Senate of getting to know him personally and serving with him on the Appropriations Committee, as we have for these last 18 years.

CORRECTIONS TO SENATE REPORT 105-51

Mr. President, I would like to reflect for the record the following corrections to Senate Report 105-51 accompanying S. 1033, the fiscal year 1998 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

The table on page 36 of the report should properly reflect that the committee recommends a \$200,000 Federal administration grant to the "Center for Human Nutrition (Maryland)" rather than the "Center for Hawaiian Nutrition (Maryland)."

On page 37, the first paragraph should reflect a total recommendation of "\$47,525,000" for special research grants under Public Law 89-106 rather than "\$46,525,000".

In the table on pages 42-43 of the report, the committee recommended total for "Agricultural quarantine inspection" under "Pest and disease exclusion" should be "26,747" rather than "28,547", making the subtotal for agricultural quarantine inspection "126,747"; and the committee recommended total for "Biological control" under "pest and disease management programs" should be "6,090" rather than "6,290", making the subtotal for pest and disease management "96,281".

And, on page 76, delete "the University of Colorado Health Science Center telemedicine project, Colorado," from the list of rural business enterprise grants which the committee encourages the Department to consider.

Further, I would like to clarify that the \$275,100 in the first paragraph on page 24 of the report for the University of Hawaii Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for the collaboration work on developing and evaluating efficacious and nontoxic methods to control tephritid fruit flies is the net amount currently going to

the location, rather than the gross amount.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, there are several amendments which have been brought to our attention that we know will be offered by Senators. We invite those Senators to come to the floor now and present their amendments for the consideration of the Senate. Some of them we expect to recommend approval; others we will have to oppose. We hope that we can begin that process soon so we can complete action on all amendments so that we can have votes on those amendments and final passage of the bill at 4 o'clock this afternoon. That is our goal. We need the cooperation and assistance of all Senators in order to achieve that goal.

Let me say, in connection with the provisions of the bill, some of which the Senator from Arkansas mentioned specifically, I am particularly pleased we were able to continue funding for a lot of the traditional programs of the Department of Agriculture, which, because they are not new, because they do not seem innovative, are often overlooked or taken for granted. One that comes to mind is the Extension Service. We have seen a lot of changes in the Extension Service over the years, and we have tried to give that service the funds they need to carry out what many consider to be services and benefits that are not often applauded or recognized.

We have seen so many new developments in technology and in modern science that we are able now to utilize in our rural communities and on our farms that have really elevated the standard of living in rural America to a point that is really quite impressive. We need a lot of things done that have not been done, but that is one of the agencies that, in my judgment, has done a great deal to help make life more livable, more enjoyable, and enrich the lives of many people every day because of the work that has been done.

Another area that seems to me important to mention is the protection of our environment, our soil and water resources. The funds for conservation programs are increased because of the growing importance of developing new technologies, new ways to deal with pests and other problems in production of agriculture in an environmentally sensitive way. All of that is reflected in this legislation—those ambitions, those goals, and the importance of protecting the safety and health of those who live in rural America.

We think the research activities done by the Agricultural Research Service also merit special mention. There are a lot of new things being undertaken by agricultural research scientists that offer great promise in terms of food safety, in reducing the necessity for using some products on our farms that many consider to have the potential for harming health and human safety. We are trying to make these changes

and these improvements in agriculture possible through the development of new discoveries and new applications of science in agriculture. That is the agency that the Federal Government has charged with the responsibility of concentrating in that area.

We also are developing, in concert with the legislative committees in the House and Senate, a level of funding of over \$100 million for a comprehensive research effort that is new and recently authorized in the farm bill that was passed 2 years ago. We are hopeful that this will mean a more coherent approach to research and a more effective approach. Some worry about our spending too much money for so-called basic research and not enough money for applied research. The line between those two efforts has been blurred, and, in some cases, it is hard to distinguish between one kind and another. We appreciate the input we have received from those throughout the country who have presented information and have made their views known to the committee on that subject.

This bill reflects an effort to bring together the best suggestions that we have had on that subject to have a more effective and more successful research effort for the betterment of our country.

With the hope that other Senators will come to the floor and present amendments or suggested changes or comments on this legislation, I am prepared to yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to commend Subcommittee Chairman COCHRAN for his work on the Agriculture appropriations bill for fiscal year 1998. This bill provides funding for all the activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, except for the U.S. Forest Service. It also funds the activities of the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Farm Credit System.

This has been one of the most difficult years to date and I congratulate Senator COCHRAN and his staff in working through the difficult decisions in crafting this bill.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Rob Mangas and Jim Low of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of S. 1033.

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

Mr. FORD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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