

smokers are developing a taste for American blend, U.S.-grown tobacco is simply too expensive for many world markets. U.S. tobacco is still as much as 30 percent higher in price than competitive tobacco products from Brazil and Zimbabwe, according to Universal's Starkey.

Perhaps an even greater problem for American growers is the financing role the processing companies play in overseas markets. According to analyst Goldman, companies like Dimon contract with a cigarette maker like R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. to deliver a certain grade of tobacco a year from now and ask for a down payment. They then use that down payment to provide cash advances to growers in countries such as Brazil, helping to finance farmers there without putting their own funds at risk.

"When you're loaning a man money to grow a crop or underwriting his loan and furnishing technical advice, it only seems natural that you're going to want to buy his crop first to recoup that investment," said tobacco grower Jenkins. To compete, tobacco growers in Virginia have had to cultivate larger acreages to achieve efficiencies of scale, he said.

"We don't like to buy without having an order," said Universal's Whelan, adding that most of the company's tobacco purchases are made at local auction, which is how tobacco is sold in this country. She said that in only a handful of countries does Universal have advance contracts with growers, in countries such as Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Italy.

The next possible target for expansion for Universal, Dimon and Standard may be processing tobacco for U.S. cigarette manufacturers who now do their own processing, said Scott & Stringfellow's Kasprzak. In recent years Lorillard Tobacco and R.J.R. turned over their leaf purchasing and some processing to Dimon's predecessors, and others may follow suit.

In the meantime, Virginia's tobacco merchants can look forward to doing business in a world that every year consumes more cigarettes with no sign of slowing down.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 89

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] and the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] were added as cosponsors of S. 89, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals and their family members on the basis of genetic information, or a request for genetic services.

S. 194

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 194, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the section 170(e)(5) rules pertaining to gifts of publicly traded stock to certain private foundations and for other purposes.

S. 202

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 202, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr.

COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to penalties for crimes involving cocaine, and for other purposes.

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for increased medicare reimbursement for nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to increase the delivery of health services in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 830

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 830, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the regulation of food, drugs, devices, and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 887

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 887, a bill to establish in the National Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, and for other purposes.

S. 896

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] and the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] were added as cosponsors of S. 896, a bill to restrict the use of funds for new deployments of antipersonnel landmines, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 974, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the qualifications for a country to be designated as a visa waiver pilot program country.

S. 980

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr.

WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 980, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish incentives to increase the demand for and supply of quality child care, to provide incentives to States that improve the quality of child care, to expand clearing-house and electronic networks for the distribution of child care information, to improve the quality of child care provided through Federal facilities and programs, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN], the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON], and the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 98, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the conditions for the United States becoming a signatory to any international agreement on greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SENATE RESOLUTIONS 109—CON-DEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GORTON, and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 109

Whereas, Canadian fishing vessels blocked the M/V MALASPINA, a U.S. passenger vessel operated by the Alaska Marine Highway System, preventing that vessel from exercising its right to innocent passage from 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 19, 1997 until 9:00 p.m. Monday, July 21, 1997;

Whereas, the Alaska Marine Highway System is part of the United States National Highway System and blocking this critical link between Alaska and the contiguous States is similar in impact to a blockade of a major North American highway or air-travel route;

Whereas, the M/V MALASPINA was carrying over 300 passengers, mail sent through the U.S. Postal Service, quantities of fresh perishable foodstuff bound for communities without any other road connections to the contiguous States, and the official traveling exhibit of the Vietnam War Memorial;

Whereas, international law, as reflected in Article 17 of the United Nations Convention

on the Law of the Sea, guarantees the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada of the ships of all States;

Whereas, the Government of Canada failed to enforce an injunction issued by a Canadian court requiring the M/V MALASPINA to be allowed to continue its passage, and the M/V MALASPINA departed only after the blockaders agreed to let it depart;

Whereas, during the past three years U.S. vessels have periodically been harassed or treated in ways inconsistent with international law by citizens of Canada and by the Government of Canada in an inappropriate response to concerns in Canada about the harvest of Pacific salmon in waters under the sole jurisdiction of the United States;

Whereas, Canada has failed to match the good faith efforts of the United States in attempting to resolve differences under the Pacific Salmon Treaty, in particular, by rejecting continued attempts to reach agreement and withdrawing from negotiations when an agreement seemed imminent just before the Canadian national election of June, 1997;

Whereas neither the Government of Canada nor its citizens have been deterred from additional actions against vessels of the United States by the diplomatic responses of the United States to past incidents such as the imposition of an illegal transit fee on American fishing vessels in June, 1994: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the Senate*, that it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) The failure of the Government of Canada to protect U.S. citizens exercising their right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada from illegal actions and harassment should be condemned;

(2) The President of the United States should immediately take steps to protect the interests of the United States and should not tolerate threats to those interests from the action or inaction of a foreign government or its citizens;

(3) The President should provide assistance, including financial assistance, to States and citizens of the United States seeking damages in Canada that have resulted from illegal or harassing actions by the Government of Canada or its citizens; and

(4) The President should use all necessary and appropriate means to compel the Government of Canada to prevent any further illegal or harassing actions against the United States, its citizens or their interests, which may include—

(A) using U.S. assets and personnel to protect U.S. citizens exercising their right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada from illegal actions or harassment until such time as the President determines that the Government of Canada has adopted a long-term policy that ensures such protection;

(B) prohibiting the import of selected Canadian products until such time as the President determines that Canada has adopted a long-term policy that protects U.S. citizens exercising their right of innocent passage through the territorial sea of Canada from illegal actions or harassment;

(C) directing that no Canadian vessel may anchor or otherwise take shelter in U.S. waters off Alaska or other States without formal clearance from U.S. Customs, except in emergency situations;

(D) directing that no fish or shellfish taken in sport fisheries in the Province of British Columbia may enter the United States; and

(E) enforcing U.S. law with respect to all vessels in waters of the Dixon Entrance claimed by the United States, including the area in which jurisdiction is disputed.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

ROBERTS AMENDMENT NO. 961

Mr. ROBERTS proposed an amendment to the 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; as follows:

On page 28, line 19, before the period at the end of the sentence, insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That, of the amount made available under this sentence, \$4,000,000 shall be available for obligation only after the Administrator of the Risk Management Agency issues and begins to implement the plan to reduce administrative and operating costs of approved insurance providers required under section 508(k)(7) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(7)).”

COCHRAN (AND BUMPERS) AMENDMENT NO. 962

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. BUMPERS) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1033, *supra*; as follows:

On page 55, line 20, strike “1997” and insert “1998”.

On page 55, line 21, strike “1997” and insert “1998”.

D'AMATO (AND SARBANES) AMENDMENT NO. 963

Mr. COCHRAN (for Mr. D'AMATO for himself and Mr. SARBANES) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1033, *supra*; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

SEC. . RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMS.

(a) HOUSING IN UNDERSERVED AREAS PROGRAM.—The first sentence of section 509(f)(4)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1479(f)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “fiscal year 1998”.

(b) HOUSING AND RELATED FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY PERSONS AND FAMILIES AND OTHER LOW-INCOME PERSONS AND FAMILIES.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS.—Section 515(b)(4) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(b)(4)) is amended by striking “September 30, 1997” and inserting “September 30, 1998”.

(2) SET-ASIDE FOR NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—The first sentence of section 515(w)(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485(w)(1)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “fiscal year 1998”.

(3) LOAN TERM.—Section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “up to fifty” and inserting “up to 30”; and

(B) in subsection (b)—
(i) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) such a loan may be made for a period of up to 30 years from the making of the loan, but the Secretary may provide for periodic payments based on an amortization schedule of 50 years with a final payment of the balance due at the end of the term of the loan;”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) the Secretary may make a new loan to the current borrower to finance the final payment of the original loan for an additional period not to exceed twenty years, if—

“(A) the Secretary determines—

“(i) it is more cost-efficient and serves the tenant base more effectively to maintain the current property than to build a new property in the same location; or

“(ii) the property has been maintained to such an extent that it warrants retention in the current portfolio because it can be expected to continue providing decent, safe, and affordable rental units for the balance of the loan; and

“(B) the Secretary determines—

“(i) current market studies show that a need for low-income rural rental housing still exists for that area; and

“(ii) any other criteria established by the Secretary has been met.”.

(c) LOAN GUARANTEES FOR MULTIFAMILY RENTAL HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS.—Section 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (q), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) ANNUAL LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF LOAN GUARANTEE.—In each fiscal year, the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans under this section only to the extent that the costs of the guarantees entered into in such fiscal year do not exceed such amount as may be provided in appropriation Acts for such fiscal year.”;

(2) by striking subsection (t) and inserting the following:

“(t) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1998 for costs (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) of loan guarantees made under this section such sums as may be necessary for such fiscal year.”; and

(3) in subsection (u), by striking “1996” and inserting “1998”.

COCHRAN (AND BUMPERS) AMENDMENT NO. 964

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. BUMPERS) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1033, *supra*; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new provision:

SEC. . Effective on October 1, 1998, section 136(a) of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7236(a)) is amended—

(a) in paragraph (1)

(1) by striking “Subject to paragraph (4), during” and inserting “During”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “130” and inserting “134”;

(b) by striking paragraph (4); and

(c) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (4).

DURBIN (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 965

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GREGG, and Mr. WYDEN) proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 1033, *supra*; as follows:

On page 66, between lines 12 and 13, insert the follows:

SEC. 728. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide or pay the salaries of personnel who provide crop insurance or noninsured crop disaster assistance for tobacco for the 1998 for later crop years.