

of risk management for farmers and ranchers. Maintaining an effective farm income safety net is paramount to the survival of agriculture. I believe an effective crop insurance program will provide farmers and ranchers greater possibilities for economic sustainability in the future and help them out of the current financial crisis.

A truly effective crop insurance plan involves simply three things: private insurance, the federal government and the farmer or rancher. The federal government can help facilitate a program to unite the producer and the private insurance company. Privatization with government intervention will ultimately put the control in the hands of the agricultural producer. With a risk management plan, bankers are also more likely to finance producers if they have both their commodity and their price covered, with a reliable insurance program.

This bill will render relief to the inadequacies of the current program. All agricultural producers are painfully aware of the problems with the current crop insurance program. Unaffordable premiums are the primary stumbling block for producers. In years of depressed market prices, crop insurance, though badly needed, is simply unaffordable for farmers and ranchers. Other problems prevalent in the current program are inequalities in rating structure and the issue of unfair coverage given to multiple year disasters.

This bill inverts the current subsidy formula, in order to provide the highest levels of subsidies to producers at the highest levels of buy-up coverage, and thus alleviate the unaffordable premiums. It also allows for the revenue policies to be fully subsidized.

This bill also removes the exclusion for livestock in the current crop insurance program. For Montana, which derived \$991 million from livestock sales in 1996-97 this exclusion is extremely important. Of course, the choice will remain up to the livestock producer whether they wish to purchase a policy. It is important however, that they are given the option. With several years of depressed market prices, livestock producers can no longer remain in business without assistance.

This bill will also ultimately put more control in the hands of active producers. It restructures the Federal Crop Insurance board of directors to include two active producers; one in crop insurance, and one in reinsurance. The board would also include the Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, the Under Secretary for Rural Development and the Chief Economist of USDA. In addition, it mandates that the Board Chairperson be one of the non-governmental members. These are important steps to ensure that the new program is run for the producers by the producers.

A larger step towards private enterprise is the initiation of a flexible subsidy pilot program for the private sector to compete on rates and delivery

expenses. I believe this will ultimately put the accountability factor on the companies carrying the policies. Much like auto insurance, health or medical insurance, companies will be forced to compete for agricultural producers business, in effect lowering premiums further.

This bill is an important tool to reform the current crop insurance program into a risk management program, designed to help the producer in the long-term. It is vital to find a solution to provide a way for farmers and ranchers to stay in agriculture. They must be able to continue to produce and distribute the world's safest food supply at a profitable margin.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with Senators ROBERTS and KERREY on this important piece of legislation. I will have some amendments forthcoming, that I believe will make this bill even more effective. I believe this bill will pave the way for massive crop insurance reform and help producers out of this economic crisis.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR JOHN GINOPOLIS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. John Ginopolis for his continuing dedication to support efforts that benefit children. John Ginopolis has served on the board of trustees for Children's Hospital of Michigan since 1984 and also serves on the Executive Committees for the Children's Hospital Pediatric Clinical Services Board.

A tireless fundraiser, John's annual events help support two endowments, The George Ginopolis Endowment for Hematology/Oncology and the Ginopolis-Karmanos Pediatric Cancer Research Endowment.

In 1987, John Ginopolis joined Sparky Anderson in Sparky's creation of Caring Athletes Team for Children's and Henry Ford Hospitals (CATCH) which has issued grants in excess of \$1 million and built an endowment of more than \$3 million. John has served on CATCH's board of trustees since its inception, and in 1989 John was inducted into the CATCH Hall of Fame.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that John Ginopolis is the recipient of this year's March of Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." He will be given his award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweetheart Ball" on Saturday, March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Ginopolis.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR PAM AGUIRRE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Ms. Pam Aguirre, for her strong commitment to the Detroit area Hispanic community. After working her way up through her father's company, Mexican Industries, she was ultimately named CEO and

later chairman of the board. Under her guidance and leadership, Mexican Industries has blossomed into one of the most successful Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States, with over 1,500 employees and annual sales of \$167 million.

Ms. Aguirre has received recognition for her dedication to the Hispanic community and for Mexican Industries' involvement with charitable organizations. In 1996 she was presented with the "Hispanic Business Alliance Award," and she and Mexican Industries have been featured in Working Woman magazine as one of the "The Top Fifty Woman-Owned Businesses." Her dedication to community involvement is also illustrated in her participation on several boards. Among these are the Economic Club of Detroit, the Boy Scouts, Michigan Minority Business Development, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Hank Aguirre Cancer Foundation.

It is with great pleasure that I announce Ms. Pam Aguirre as the recipient of this year's March of Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." She will be given this award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweetheart Ball" on March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Ms. Aguirre.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR RUBEN BURKS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Ruben Burks for his continuing dedication to the UAW, and his support of children in the Flint community. Mr. Burks has been a member of the UAW since 1955 when he went to work as an assembler at General Motors in Flint, Michigan. Throughout his career in the UAW, Mr. Ruben has served in several capacities, including shop committeeperson, alternate committeeperson, and Local 598 executive board member. In 1970 Mr. Burks was appointed to the International Union staff where he served UAW members in General Motors and independents, parts, and suppliers plants. Last year Mr. Burks had the privilege of being elected secretary-treasurer of the UAW, making him responsible for various administrative departments of the international Union. In addition, he directs the UAW's Veterans department.

A long-time community activist, Mr. Burks is actively involved in numerous civic, charitable, and youth organizations in the Flint community, including the Special Olympics, March of Dimes, Red Cross, and Easter Seals. He has also served as a director of the Flint Urban League, Goodwill Industries of Flint, and the Sam Duncan Memorial Scholarship Fund. Mr. Burks is also an active member of the advisory board of the University of Michigan at Flint.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mr. Ruben Burks will be the recipient of this year's March of

Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." Mr. Burks is being honored with this award as a result of his tireless commitment to the Flint community. He will receive this award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweet-heart Ball" on March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan. I wish to extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Burks.●

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR WALTER C. WATKINS JR.

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge Mr. Walter C. Watkins, Jr., recipient of this year's March of Dimes "Humanitarian of the Year Award." Mr. Watkins' distinguished career in the field of banking began in 1968, when he joined NBD as a management trainee. Mr. Watkins has since gone on to become the President of NBD Bank in Michigan, and head of BANK ONE'S middle market customers in Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Mr. Watkins is a member of the board of Fisk University, as well as the boards of the Detroit Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC). In addition, Mr. Watkins serves on the advisory board of Black Family Development, Inc., and is a member of the Urban Bankers Forum, the Leadership Detroit Alumni Association, and 100 Black Men of Greater Detroit. Mr. Watkins' community involvement also extends to past board affiliations with the Detroit Medical Center, the Public Administration Foundation, and the Rehabilitation Institute, where he served as chairman.

I want to commend Mr. Watkins for his distinguished career and numerous contributions to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. I extend my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Watkins, who will receive his award at the 27th annual March of Dimes "Sweet-heart Ball" award dinner on Saturday, March 6, 1999, in Dearborn, Michigan.●

FILING OF FIRST DEGREE AMENDMENTS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding adjournment of the Senate, Members have until 1 p.m. to file first-degree amendments to amendment number 31 to the Ed-Flex bill.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Monday, March 8. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period of morning business until 2 p.m. with the following limitations: 12 o'clock to 12:30 under the control of Senator GRAMM, or his designee; 12:30 to 1 o'clock under the control of Senator VOINOVICH; and 60 minutes under the control of Senator DURBIN or his designee.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at the hour of 2 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 280, the Ed-Flex legislation.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, at 2 p.m. on Monday the Senate will resume consideration of the Ed-Flex legislation. Under the order, a cloture vote will occur at 5 p.m. on Monday on the pending substitute amendment to the

Ed-Flex bill. If necessary, a second cloture vote will occur on Tuesday.

In accordance with rule XXII, Members will have until 4 p.m. on Monday to file second-degree amendments to the substitute.

With regard to the second cloture vote, Senators will have until 1 p.m. on Monday to file timely first-degree amendments.

The majority leader has stated that it is hoped that the Senate will be able to complete action on this important education bill as soon as possible.

I thank all Senators for their attention, and I remind everyone that the next vote will occur on Monday beginning at 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:06 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 8, 1999, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 5, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

KELLY H. CARNES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR TECHNOLOGY POLICY, VICE GRAHAM R. MITCHELL, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN DAVID HOLUM, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, (NEW POSITION)

DAVID B. SANDALOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS, VICE EILEEN B. CLAUSSEN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BILL LANN LEE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE DEVAL L. PATRICK, RESIGNED.

BETH NOLAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE WALTER DELLINGER.