

Mr. Speaker, we are making progress. Let us continue to work harder and do more for the American taxpayers of this country.

AGRICULTURAL BILL PAYMENT LIMITATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 23, 2002, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I will introduce a motion to instruct conferees on the agricultural bill that suggests that we need to incorporate payment limitations.

Payment limitations now in effect are not binding simply because there is a loophole in the law which allows many farmers to receive \$1 million-plus in farm benefit payments. One reason I feel so strongly that it is reasonable to have some kind of payment limits is that the public thinks that farmers are just being given a great deal of money, regardless of their need, regardless of their size. If we are going to have farm program policy in the United States, then I and many others suggest that we focus our efforts on those farmers that need that kind of help.

We talk about the family farm, and, of course, we can get in arguments about what is a family farm or how big is a family farm. But I think most of us can agree that if someone has 40,000, 50,000 or 60,000 acres and is taking in millions of dollars of farm program payments, then probably this is not the mainstream type of family farm that most of us think of.

I would like to read some quotes from the Senate debate when this language was put into the Senate version of the bill. What this shows is that there is tremendous bipartisan support for some kind of a limit on these farm payments.

Senator GRASSLEY, Republican from Iowa, said, "When is enough enough? How long will the American public put up with these programs that send out billions of dollars to the biggest farm entities?"

BYRON DORGAN, Senator from North Dakota, a Democrat, said, "Many of the benefits provided through the current ag programs are being funneled to large, non-family agricultural corporations while family farmers are being shortchanged. That is just plain wrong."

Senator JOHN KERRY, Democrat of Massachusetts: "This amendment ensures that farm aid will target the people who need it the most, the small family farmers that actually work the land and are the lifeblood of our rural communities. It is a pleasure to support this amendment."

Senator CHUCK HAGEL, Republican: "The amendment would remove the loopholes that allow a handful of large farmers to receive unlimited payments.

Without real payment-limitation reform, we will continue to weaken the same farmers we claim to want to help."

I want to just mention what that loophole is. There are price-support benefit limits on a couple ways a farmer can derive those benefits, specifically the loan deficiency payment and the marketing loans. But what is left out of that payment limit, which tends to hoodwink a lot of people when we brag there are some kind of payment limits in the House bill, is non-recourse loans. You can do an end-run and farmers can have a non-recourse loan that they can forfeit, or the government will give you the certificate that results in the same kind of subsidy benefit payments for price supports as do the loan deficiency payments in marketing loans.

It gets rather complicated, Mr. Speaker; but the fact is that we are calling for, and we are going to have, a debate in this House tomorrow on the reasonableness of having some kind of price limitations.

I am a farmer from Michigan. I served as deputy administrator of Farm Programs in the USDA in the early seventies. Currently 82 percent of the farm program payments go to 17 percent of the largest farm operations. If we do not control this, if we do not have some kind of a cap, some kind of a limit, we are going to lose the good will of the people of this Chamber, of the people in the Senate, of the people in the United States that really want to help those farmers. So payment limitations of \$275,000 per farmer per year is reasonable as structured in the Senate version. I hope we can do that.

A couple more quotes, with your permission, Mr. Speaker. Senator RICHARD LUGAR said, "This is a modest amendment. I stress 'modest.' There were 98,835 recipients of farm subsidies in Indiana during 1996 to 2000. Only six of that 98,000 would be affected by this amendment."

Senator TOM DASCHLE says, "I am pleased we were able to pass this important payment limitation amendment."

The President of the United States says we need to help those small and medium-sized farmers that need it the most.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will support me on this payment limitation that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) and I are offering tomorrow.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PENCE) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "O the happiness of the heavenly Alleluia sung in security, in fear of no adversity!" These words of Your servant Augustine from the fifth century sound melodious, as from another world, when read in the springtime of our conflicted lives.

Lord, many Americans wonder if we have lost an innocence never to be regained. In the midst of war and unpredictable terrorism, evil sometimes seems more creative than goodness. Fear not only reveals the most fragile ones around us, uncertainty can cause the strong to be hesitant and slow down a Nation's progress.

Reassure us by Your presence, Lord. Out of compassion for Your people, grant a glimpse of Your glory so that hopefulness springs eternal and confidence is restored.

With hearts fixed on lasting values, give the Members of Congress practical wisdom to address the substantive issues which truly affect the lives of their constituents. May their work together build signs of hope that will move this country into a bright future. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PRIVATE CALENDAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is the day for the call of the Private Calendar. The Clerk will call the bill on the Private Calendar.

NANCY B. WILSON

The Clerk called the bill (H.R. 392) for the relief of Nancy B. Wilson.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be passed over without prejudice.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This concludes the call of the Private Calendar.

BUSH TAX CUTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday millions of Americans lined up at post offices all over the country to get their taxes in on time. And once again, as this poster illustrates, the average American family spent more on taxes last year than food, clothing, shelter, and transportation combined.

Once again, the average wage earner spends the first 3 hours of an 8-hour working day laboring just to pay his taxes. Once again, the equivalent of every paycheck from January to the middle of May goes just to pay taxes.

Mr. Speaker, last year we joined the President in passing much-needed tax relief for the American people. But because of opposition from the big spenders in the other body, there is a sunset clause in the law. In other words, unless we vote to make the tax cuts permanent, everyone will get a big tax hike, the marriage penalty tax will come back, the death tax will come back, the child tax credit will be cut in half, IRAs will be cut by \$3,000, and the economy will suffer.

This week we will vote on a bill to prevent this from happening. I urge my colleagues to support the effort to make the tax relief permanent for the American people.

EQUAL PAY DAY: CLOSING THE WAGE GAP

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pass legislation that will guarantee equal pay for equal work for women. Equal pay for equal work should not even be a question in the year 2002. Yet women earn only 73 percent of wages earned by men for doing the same work with the same qualifications. For African American women, it is only 64 cents on a dollar; and for Hispanic women, 52 cents for every dollar earned by men. The time for pay equity is now. Let us do the right thing: pass equal pay for women.

TRAFICANT EXPULSION RESOLUTION INTRODUCED

(Mr. SENSENBRENNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced a resolution expelling the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) from the House of Representatives. Last week, a Federal court jury in Cleveland found the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) guilty on all 10 felony counts of a criminal indictment. Regretfully, this resolution is necessary because Mr. TRAFICANT foolishly rejected the call of the minority leader to resign. Felons belong in jail and not in Congress. He has broken the public trust by breaking the law; and if he will not voluntarily leave this House, our duty is to remove him.

Throughout my tenure in the House, I have consistently taken the position that Members who have been convicted of felonies should be expelled if they do not resign. In 1980, the House expelled Michael Meyers of Pennsylvania after he refused to resign following conviction of Abscam-related felonies. In 1995, Walter Tucker of California was convicted, initially refused to resign, and changed his mind after I introduced an expulsion resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that Mr. TRAFICANT will follow the example of Mr. Tucker and save the House the need to debate once again whether felons should continue to serve in Congress.

BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Good Book teaches us that the perseverance of a faithful few can touch the lives of many for the better. During the late 1800s in New Brookland, South Carolina, a small group of men and women met together for prayer and worship. By 1902, the group had grown and the Brookland Baptist Church was founded.

For decades, the church has been a refuge of hope, and the church began a new chapter in 1971 when Rev. Charles B. Jackson, Sr., became their ninth pastor at the age of 18. Attracting large crowds of over 4,000 members, the church bought and renovated a nearby shopping center. I am honored that Earl Brown, a deacon, is my special assistant.

Today, the church serves the community through HIV-AIDS program, homeless outreach, the Black Male Conference, scouting programs, recreational and tutorial programs, and has even organized a full-service credit union. The church is one of South Carolina's largest African American congregations.

This year, as Brookland Baptist Church celebrates its 100th anniversary, it is very easy to see how this once-small group of believers has grown to make the lives of those around them immeasurably improved for the better.

DOE HAS IGNORED GEOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I joined with hundreds of Americans opposed to the idea of shipping high-level nuclear waste across the entire country to a geologically unstable site in a Nevada desert.

Scientific evidence continues to mount showing that Yucca Mountain is not a safe or sound location for nuclear waste, and evidence also shows that the Department of Energy has ignored its geologic problems.

Even former DOE officials have agreed that the DOE has not held Yucca Mountain to high scientific standards. Dr. Victor Gilinsky, former commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, asserted in a sworn affidavit that the DOE's site suitability standard is so lax that it could be met in the basement of the DOE headquarters here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve better. The site suitability of a nuclear repository should be based on science, not politics. Yucca Mountain is not a suitable site for the storage of the deadliest substance known to man. I urge Members to oppose the DOE Yucca Mountain lie.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 6:30 p.m. today.

JOSEPH W. WESTMORELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3960) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the "Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3960

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JOSEPH W. WESTMORELAND POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building".