



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 148

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2002

No. 53

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Bransfield, Rector, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God, our Creator, You formed us in Your own image and likeness and call on us to act in righteousness and faith.

Bless our Nation and sustain it by Your grace.

Make it an example and promoter of harmony and goodwill.

Give the Members of this legislative body wisdom, prudence, and courage in conducting its affairs in service to the American people.

Let its actions today and always be inclined toward true justice and marked by diligent, noble initiative.

Preserve our troops at home and abroad, keep them safe from harm in their efforts to protect our freedom and welfare.

Grant peace and mutual respect to the peoples of the Middle East; may they enjoy both security in their lands and serenity in their hearts.

Finally, we thank You for Your merciful attention to the supplications offered throughout the United States on this national day of prayer.

We are grateful for Your continuing sustenance and desirous of fulfilling Your will for peace and prosperity in our Nation and the world. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BEREUTER 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.

WELCOMING CANADA'S PRIME MINISTER

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, America is blessed to have in Canada not only a neighbor but also a steadfast ally and true friend. While our geographic bonds are obvious, it is our deep cultural, political, and economic ties that will forever bind us. Therefore, it is my distinct honor to welcome to Washington today the Honorable Peter Milliken, the Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I remind Members that this past October, only 1 month after the fateful September day, parliamentarians from all NATO nations met in Ottawa, Canada, for the fall meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. At that meeting, the assembly endorsed the use of force responsible for the horrific attacks on America. Our Canadian hosts that day, as all parliamentarians, knew the significant risk associated with the endeavor.

So it is with great sadness that we stand here today following the deaths of four Canadian soldiers, killed while on a mission to fight terror in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Speaker Milliken and to all Canadians, we remain deeply saddened by their loss and America thanks them for their steadfast partnership.

EXPRESSING DEMOCRATIC WELCOME TO SPEAKER OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my good friend on the Republican side, Mr. BEREUTER, to express to the distinguished Speaker of the Canadian Parliament Democratic support and appreciation of the generations-long friendship and solidarity the Canadian people have shown to us.

There is no nation on the face of this planet which is a more dependable and a more solid and a more persistent ally and friend of the United States than is Canada. Through many wars we have stood together, and we have prevailed as we shall in this war on global terrorism.

War inevitably entails losses. No losses are more tragic and more heart rending than the ones we call losses related to "friendly fire." This means we kill our own by mistake, by error, through a tragedy. That is what happened, in Afghanistan, to four Canadian soldiers, and the American people are as one in expressing our heartfelt condolences to the families of these four heroes and to all of the Canadian people.

We want to assure Speaker Milliken that Canada and the United States will stand together forever on behalf of defending freedom, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, the right of civilized societies to live in peace and security. We appreciate the friendship of our Canadian friends, and we want to assure them of our solidarity and respect.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain further 1-minutes at the end of business today.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2021

FARM SECURITY AND RURAL
INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 403 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 403

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 403 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read.

Adopting this rule would allow the full House of Representatives to consider the conference report to accompany H.R. 2646, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee approved this rule, which is a standard rule governing consideration of the conference report.

Before closing, I want to acknowledge my friends and colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), the chairman, and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the subcommittee chairman, who have spent a considerable amount of time on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule on the conference report.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me the time.

This rule will waive all points of order against the conference report to accompany H.R. 2646. This is the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

I want to commend the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), and their staffs for their hard work on this bipartisan legislation. I also want to express my appreciation to Senators HARKIN and LUGAR, chairman and ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee for their tireless efforts as well.

I would also like to single out the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) and Senator LEAHY for their contributions to the bill and their steadfast work as champions of hungry people in this country and around the world.

This bill will increase farm program spending by \$73.5 billion over the next 10 years. The measure boosts government subsidies for major crops, while at the same time it directs more conservation payments to small farmers. The measure also provides funding for trade promotion, nutrition programs, for rural development, and agriculture research.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply grateful that this legislation includes the Bill Emerson-Mickey Leland Hunger Fellows Program. This is a fitting tribute to our late colleagues, and it honors their legacy by training leaders in the fight against hunger.

I am pleased that the measure provides \$100 million in fiscal year 2003 for the Global Food for Education initiative, and I am particularly gratified that this legislation authorizes the George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. This initiative, commonly known as the Global School Lunch Program, will continue and expand the good work of the Global Food for Education Initiative.

The Global School Lunch Program was inspired in a bipartisan fashion by former Senators George McGovern and Bob Dole, and it began as a pilot program in July of 2000. Under the bill we are considering today, this initiative will make a real difference in the lives of tens of millions of children all over the world. The program will feed not only hungry children, but it promotes education abroad, in addition to assisting American farmers.

This program is already doing a wonderful job encouraging children to attend school, especially girls. One example is in Pakistan, near the border with Afghanistan. Partnered with the World Food Programme, the Global School Lunch Program provides families with cooking oil if their daughters go to school. This is boosting attendance and improving performance; and important to our own national security, this program keeps the kids away from the madrahas, schools funded by radical Islamic militants where students are fed a diet of hate for America. Because of the Global School Lunch Program, the students learn that America cares about them.

Mr. Speaker, the conference report includes an amendment I offered on the House floor which was accepted by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and adopted by the House. The amendment allows greater flexibility to use assistance funds for transporting food where it is needed. This provision will remove a bottleneck which can hinder the abilities of both the World Food Programme and private charities to distribute food aid.

In our own country, this measure restores food stamps to legal immigrants who have lived in the United States for 5 years. This is a needed change from the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, and it was a top priority of the antihunger community.

The bill provides an overall increase of \$6.4 billion for domestic nutrition programs. This includes increases for the TEFAP program and the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program. These programs do help hungry people. They put food on the empty plates of Americans in need.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I do want to express my concern about the future of international food aid. This bill does increase slightly the Food for Progress program. However, if the administration follows through with its stated intentions to reduce surplus commodity donations through section 416(b), this will amount to a drastic cut in overall food assistance. This could result in a loss of almost \$1 billion to feed hungry people next year.

This is totally unacceptable anytime, but it is even more tragic when the serious threat of famine looms in southern Africa, and the situation in war-torn Afghanistan is still shaky at best. I hope the administration will use the flexibility it has to ensure food aid is not cut.

American farmers are the most productive in the world, and our compassion is second to none. We need to strengthen that bond between our generosity and abundance and the outstretched arms and empty stomachs of the world's hungry people.

This bill is a step in that direction. We have a long journey still ahead to end hunger in our world. Mr. Speaker, I support this rule and the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1015

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. With respect to this bill before us today, there is no doubt that the bill is imperfect. One could argue it spends too much. One could argue it should probably do more to reform some of our USDA programs. But let me say this: In the area of dairy, this is a historic win for dairy farmers all across America.

In my home area in Wisconsin, we are losing some 3 to 4 dairy farms each and every day. There are 3 reasons why this bill will help. Number 1, it creates a new countercyclical program for dairy; a program I hope never goes into effect. We all hope dairy prices remain strong. But in the event the dairy economy crashes, as it did a few years ago, this will give them a safety net. This is money they can take to the bank.

Number 2, this program is national, not regional. For years our policies