

that legislation before this Chamber next week.

I would like to discuss my and many others' beliefs that a great inequity exists in our farm policy that has been passed in the farm bill, and the fact that we have a chance to correct that inequity in this appropriations bill.

This is not a new topic in Congress and, as well, it is not a new topic on the floor of the House. As a farmer and a former administrator of farm programs at USDA, as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, I, like most of us, know the importance of providing help to our family farms. The inequity of farm subsidies, because there is no limit on price support subsidy guarantees, results in giving the very large farmers a greater advantage. That means they have price protection on all of the total acreage of the particular crops that they grow that were subsidized by the farm program. That means that we encourage more production and that means that the smaller farmers have a harder time surviving and that means that the larger farmers tend to buy out the smaller farmers.

While reasonable limits have been set for direct price support payments to farmers, these limits are meaningless to large or corporate farms. Why? Because of the creative use of generic certificates. Certs, as they were called, were introduced in 1999 as an amendment to the 1996 farm bill.

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They are negotiable certificates which CCC, the Commodity Credit Corporation, exchanges for a commodity owned or controlled by CCC. They were designed to let producers receive the price support subsidy rather than forfeit their crop to the government, but it gives that farmer a loophole, an end run, if Members will, to have the same price supports even though in the farm bill we were told that there are limits of \$75,000 on price support payments. But the fact is that there is no limit on that larger farm that owns whatever, 40, 50, 60,000 acres, because he can end up receiving certificates that end up giving that particular landowner the same value as the rest of the price support loans that are subject to the \$75,000 limitation.

Sadly, farmers quickly figure out the loophole in the use of certificates that allows these unlimited price supports on the crops that a farmer grows. The more land one farms, the more certificates one can purchase, bypassing any limits that are otherwise existing in the farm bill in current law. The availability of this creative mechanism to bypass limits encourages overproduction and, as I mentioned, the buying up of land from smaller farms.

This is the acquisition of as much land as possible to maximize payments from the government, and I think the bottom-line request is, why should 17 percent of the farms in America get over 80 percent of the commodity payments?

I understood this principle long ago. I understood how forfeitures and certificates became literally overnight methods to circumvent payment limits. I introduced the reform of farm subsidy payments during the House debate on the farm bill last October; however, our farm policy, driven by our agricultural committee leadership favors the certificates that can be used as the loophole or end run to those very large farms.

The Senate, however, successfully implemented reasonable payment limits and curtailed the unlimited use of generic certificates by a vote of 66 to 31.

Then the farm bill came to conference, and on April 18, after days of stonewalling and nonresolution, I introduced a successful motion to instruct farm bill conferees to accept real subsidy payment limitations like the Senate had and limit the unbridled use of generic certificates; and a bipartisan majority of the House overwhelmingly passed that motion by a vote of 265 to 158. It was ignored in conference, and I am still working with Senator GRASSLEY.

Tomorrow, when the Committee on Appropriations meets to discuss this bill, I hope they will look at the effects on the small farmers, the traditional family-size farms, and have some kind of a payment limitation when this bill comes to the floor next week.

#### CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, the strength of our United States economy is built on the honesty, integrity and transparency of our financial institutions. But right now the confidence of the American public and international investors is truly shaken.

We must restore confidence in our economy before it is rocked any further so we can continue to attract capital investment for the future health and prosperity of our economic system. The spate of deregulation over recent years has left us with a system that benefits the powerful and the wealthy above all others. We cannot allow this to continue.

Weakened Federal regulation of accounting practices has allowed corporate greed to run rampant and has led to failure of some of our very largest corporations and businesses. Enron, Global Crossing, Owens Corning, ImClone, Merrill Lynch, Arthur Andersen, Tyco, WorldCom, the list grows every single day. When these big businesses fail, thousands of employees lose their jobs and pensions while, undeservedly, many of the corporate executives become rich. They become not only millionaires, they become billionaires. These captains of industry do not stay with the sinking ship. They

jump off first and with all the treasures.

This is not a simple problem about a few bad apples. The problems are systemic, and the accounting practices of America must be changed so we will be able to restore our economic health. We must support legislation like that in Senator SARBANES' bill, legislation that will provide real corporate responsibility. His bill calls for a strong, independent board to oversee the auditing of public companies, assures the independence of auditors, and provides for reform that will protect investors.

And in the House we must support the gentleman from New York's (Mr. LAFALCE) bill, H.R. 4083, the Corporate Responsibility Act of the Year 2002. His bill deals directly with the conduct of company officers and restores corporate credibility. Business executives must aspire to a higher business ethic because investors and employees are entrusting them with, oftentimes, their entire life savings; and business executives who break the rules must be punished.

The first step in restoring our Nation's confidence would be for the President, the President himself, to release records of the SEC's 1992 investigation of his trading in Harken Energy shares. In fact, we can talk about markets, economies, capital, and financial systems until we are blue in the face, but what is important to remember is that when a corporation fails, workers lose their jobs, families hit hard times, and children suffer.

The American economy is built on confidence and an expectation of fairness. If one works hard and plays by the rules, they deserve to share in a secure future. Unregulated business practices have allowed private-sector titans to act irresponsibly, and personal gain has tarnished the reputation of the American market as well as the confidence in our economy.

There must be zero tolerance for corporate corruption.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO BISHOP VICTOR CURRY, PASTOR OF NEW BIRTH BAPTIST CHURCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in the well of the Congress of the United States to pay distinct honor and tribute to one of Miami's young great leaders, Bishop Victor T. Curry.

Victor T. Curry is now pastor of a New Birth Baptist Church in Miami. I want to evoke the same sentiments of joy and gratitude that the 10,000 members of the New Birth Baptist Church in Miami lifted up to Almighty God this past weekend at the inauguration of the New Birth Cathedral.

Mr. Speaker, Bishop Curry truly represents the best and noblest of our community. As a bishop, pastor, and teacher, he exudes a remarkable wisdom in leading his congregation in the ways of God, and has tirelessly worked to enlighten our community on the agenda of spiritual wisdom and good governance impacting our duties and responsibilities.

It is indeed fitting for those of us who subscribe to the Judeo-Christian faith to acknowledge the important role that Bishop Victor Curry plays in the day-to-day affairs of our community.

I want to commend his tremendous work in guiding not only the members of his church, but also the residents of our entire community. He has exemplified the example of Christ as the Good Shepherd and has led his flock of believers by sharing with them the words of God's wisdom and the good news emanating from the gospel.

Bishop Curry's motto is from vision to victory. This motto has positively impacted the lives of countless people. Along with many others in our community, I am indeed a fortunate beneficiary of Bishop Curry's televised teachings and radio ministry through the church-owned radio station, WMBM 1490 AM.

He is especially effective in demonstrating both by way of word and example and unconditional love for and commitment to the children and the elderly, the poor and the disenfranchised. He reaffirms the centrality of God in our daily lives, conscious of the fact that the mandate of our faith must characterize our attitudes toward those who could least fend for themselves.

Our weekly paper, the Miami Times aptly describes Bishop Curry as a forceful, courageous and visionary leader not only of the religious community, but also of our wider society, with the recognition that our churches are a part of larger network of institutions that are the pillars of our community.

Bishop Curry is fully living up to his vocation as a caring and effective pastor. His standard for learning, sharing and achieving has won the accolades of our ecumenical community. Public and private agencies have often cited Bishop Curry for his untiring consecration to the truth and his uncompromising stance on simple justice and equal opportunity for all.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, Bishop Curry's mission in teaching many a wayward youth has become legendary. He has gained the confidence of countless parents and teachers who see him as a no-nonsense motivator. They are willing to entrust him with the future of

their children, fully cognizant and genuinely confident that they would learn from him the pursuit of academic scholarship and the desire for personal excellence under the tenor of a faith-based, conscientious commitment and rigorous discipline.

With the recent inauguration of the New Birth Cathedral, our community is deeply touched and will benefit greatly by his undaunted leadership and perseverance. As head of one of the fastest growing churches in Florida, Bishop Curry preaches and lives by the adage that under God's providence our quest for personal integrity and spiritual growth is not beyond the reach of those willing to dare the impossible.

As a man of God and as an indomitable leader, he has indeed earned our deepest respect and genuine admiration.

This is a magnificent legacy, Mr. Speaker, of Bishop Victor T. Curry. I am truly privileged to enjoy his friendship and confidence, and I am grateful that he continues to teach us to live by the noble ethic of loving God by serving our fellow man. Bishop Curry has lived by the adage that service is a price we pay for the space which God has let us occupy.

#### TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE E. LIGHTNER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT), to call attention to my colleagues to the passing of a most distinguished North Carolinian, really one of the most prominent North Carolinians as it relates to the civil rights and a pioneer in that area.

Clarence E. Lightner, 80 years of age, died on July 8 of heart failure. He was the first and only African American to serve as mayor of our capital city in Raleigh. In a quiet and yet determined way he brokered the hundreds of compromises that moved Raleigh from a small segregated southern city to the growing metropolitan city that it is today. We have truly lost a giant in North Carolina.

As the son of an achiever, Clarence Lightner proved to be an achiever himself from the beginning. He graduated from a segregated school in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he went on to what is now North Carolina Central, to get a degree. And Clarence was an outstanding quarterback; most of us who knew him, he never talked about athletics, but he was an outstanding quarterback in his day on the football team.

□ 1715

After that he served in World War II, went on to get a degree in mortuary service in Philadelphia, and then re-

turned to Raleigh, opened a business, his family business, and started to get involved in politics.

He was one of the leaders in that area. As I said, he was quiet spoken, always well dressed, of a courtly manner, and keenly intelligent. Clarence was a man for his time. He understood what needed to be done. He was a man of good will who attracted other people of good will in that very trying time that we found ourselves in.

He spoke softly and listened well. The issues of the day called for vision, hard work, determination, negotiation and compromise; and he proved to be great at all those. He followed his father in the Lightner funeral home business and he ran it successfully. He then became a Raleigh city councilman in those trying days. He saw his business grow and followed his footsteps and became a city council member in 1967.

He served in that post for 6 years, during which time Raleigh moved forward with equality for all of its citizens in a fair and, what many thought were, a justifiable way. But Clarence Lightner said it was time to move forward to the next level, and so Clarence Lightner was elected mayor in 1972, having put together a coalition of suburban precincts with African American precincts to capture city hall, being the first African American and the only African American to serve as mayor of the city of Raleigh. His election as mayor really became national news immediately. His election was a precursor to what would happen across the South in later years.

As the son of an achiever, Clarence Lightner proved to be an achiever from the beginning. He graduated from a segregated Raleigh High School, then from what is now North Carolina Central University, where he was an outstanding quarterback. After service in World War II, he completed a course at Echols College of Mortuary Science in Philadelphia and returned to Raleigh to take over the family funeral business. He immediately became involved in the political questions of the day in a period that marked the Civil Rights Movement in the segregated South.

Quiet spoken, always well dressed, courtly, keenly intelligent, Lightner was the quintessential man for the times in which he found himself. He was a man of good will who attracted other people of good will in that most trying of times. He spoke softly and listened well. The issues of the day called for vision, hard work, determination, negotiation and compromise. Lightner proved to be adept at all.

Lightner, whose father established Lightner Funeral Home, had run unsuccessfully for the Raleigh City Commission in 1919 in the tightly segregated city. Calvin Lightner then saw his businesses suffer because of a white backlash. Clarence Lightner, following in the footsteps of his father, ran successfully for the Raleigh City Council in 1967. He served in that post for 6 years, during which Raleigh moved toward equality for all its citizens. It is fair, perhaps, to say that Lightner was the "go to" person on any question that involved racial equality during that period. The Raleigh of today is testimony that his decisions were good ones.