

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4101,
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to express his concerns about the inadequacy of the emergency farm relief package in the conference report for H.R. 4101. This Member would like to begin by expressing his appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. SKEEN) and the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for their diligent work in crafting this legislation.

Although this legislation includes important emergency aid provisions for farmers, this Member believes that it is inadequate to address the enormous needs of agricultural producers who are reeling from depressed commodity prices across the board. Most of the assistance available under this agriculture relief package is targeted toward farmers who have suffered natural disaster and multi-year losses. As a result, it will offer little help to farmers in most agricultural states, such as Nebraska, who are harvesting good crops but encountering drastically lower prices.

Unfortunately, this Member does not believe that the \$1.65 billion in the package for market loss assistance is adequate to compensate producers. Since it represents a 29 percent increase over the AMTA payment received by producers in FY98, it is a good first step. However, the 1996 Farm Act was based on the premise of expanding international markets for the commodities produced by our nation's farmers. This clearly has not happened. Certainly, one of the root causes of the current low commodity prices is the recent economic down-turn. Nobody could predict the Asian financial crisis or the contagion effect which is still being felt. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is now forecasting that FY98 exports will be \$2.3 billion lower than FY97 sales and \$4.8 billion below the FY96 record of \$59.8 billion.

Also, because of the strength of our national economy relative to most other countries, the value of our currency relative to others now makes our exports less price-competitive in Asian markets than our competitor exporters like Canada, Australia, Brazil, or the nations of the European Union. Thus, there is not only a dramatically reduced agricultural export market in Asia, we are also getting a reduced portion of the remaining Asian import business.

This Member continues to support the flexibility offered by the 1996 Agriculture Market Transition Act and does not want to see a return to the policies of the past. Farmers certainly appreciate the freedom to plant what they want and for the most part do not want to encounter unnecessary restrictions and bureaucracy. However, proposed changes, such as removing the loan rate caps would likely cause intermediate and long-term problems. A recent study prepared by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at the University of Missouri and Iowa State University concluded that such a change would lead to larger supplies and lower prices in the future.

This Member supports the Pomeroy motion to recommit with instructions which proposed that the conferees should "increase the assistance available to family farmers suffering economic loss as a result of record low prices, deteriorating market conditions and/or natural disasters."

In addition, this Member is supportive of recent actions which are designed to assist farmers during these difficult times. For example, this Member was supportive of the legislation which makes \$5.5 billion in current FY99 Farm Act payments to farmers available at an earlier date on October 1, 1998. This action will significantly expedite these much needed payments.

More must be done for our nation's farmers and this Member believes it almost certainly now will be necessary to approve an emergency supplemental appropriation to assist farmers early next year, because the emergency assistance to farmers is not sufficient given the wholly unexpected export conditions in Asia and world markets and very low commodity prices they face.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4101,
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND BELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 2, 1998

Mrs. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and to commend Chairman SKEEN for his dedication and commitment to the Agriculture Appropriations process.

He and Senate Subcommittee Chairman, Mr. COCHRAN, along with the full committee chairmen, Mr. LIVINGSTON in the House and Mr. STEVENS in the Senate have worked tirelessly throughout the entire process and, specifically, during conference proceedings.

The conferees did not succumb to outside pressures and stood firm against terrorist countries and parish states. They understood the tremendous differences between dealings with democratically elected governments versus attempts to negotiate with and support terrorist states such as the Castro regime in Cuba—that is what the provision by Senator DODD would have done.

The conferees understood that reality and eliminated the Dodd provision. The House and Senate conferees heard the rhetoric used by supporters of the Dodd provision but, when they heard the facts, they did what was right for the American people and for their security.

The conferees were clear on what they were dealing with when talking about Fidel Castro. They knew that Castro had recently rejected a U.S. proposal to provide donated aid to needy Cubans because it was coming from the United States. Even the North Korean dictatorship could not bring itself to deny aid for its people.

The conferees were fully aware of the fact that U.S. policy does not deny food and medicine to the Cuban people; that U.S. policy supports the Cuban people while punishing the dictator that enslaves them.

From a practical standpoint, the conferees understood that Castro does not have the

money to purchase food because Castro's socialist economy is a dismal failure.

As far as "credits", the conferees were aware of the fact that Castro has the highest per capita debt in Latin America, rendering Cuba unworthy of credit from any country or international lender in the world. The Dodd provision would have made the U.S. the laughing stock of the world. It would have turned the U.S. into the only country in the world offering to extend credits to Fidel Castro.

The conferees recalled the fact that just a few weeks ago, the FBI rounded up 10 Cuban spies working to obtain intelligence from three U.S. military bases in South Florida.

With the enemy at our doorstep; with Castro agents gnawing at U.S. domestic security; there were those who actually wanted to appease the oppressive Castro regime by supporting the Dodd provision.

But again, the majority of the conferees could not, would not be fooled. They dropped the Dodd provision from the Agriculture Appropriations bill.

I appreciate their cooperation throughout the last couple of months, and praise them for their commitment to what is right and just. On behalf of the Cuban people and the people of the terrorist and oppressive regimes around the world, thank you.

SALUTING THE MEMORY OF
SANDY ANDREWS

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 1991, a young woman in my district, Sandy Andrews, was tragically killed when a train struck her vehicle at a railroad crossing.

But sometimes, out of such tragedies, come good things.

Sandy Andrews was active in youth sports in North Cove, North Carolina, where she lived with her husband and three sons. So to honor her memory, her family donated approximately 10 acres along U.S. Highway 221 for building a park. With the involvement of the McDowell County government, many volunteers, and local grant monies, that park was built.

On Saturday, September 12, 1998, the Sandy Andrews Memorial Park was opened, providing a ball field with dugouts, a playground, basketball court, and a volleyball court.

In this day when so many senseless tragedies occur, the building of this park is a tribute to both the memory of Sandy Andrews, and the resolution of her family and her community to honor her memory.

It is an honor to share the story of that tribute with my colleagues today.

[From the McDowell News, Sept. 14, 1998]
FAMILY HOPES MEMORIAL PARK WILL BENEFIT
COUNTY'S CHILDREN
(By Ragan Robinson)

A host of North Cove residents and county officials were on hand for the dedications of the Sandy Andrews Memorial Park Saturday morning.

Approximately 10 acres of land located on U.S. 221 North was donated for the park by Roger, Tom and Louis Andrews.

The county put up funds, enlisted volunteer and inmate labor and received grant money to add the ballfield, dugout, playground, basketball court and volleyball court.

It was named after Roger Andrews' late wife, Sandy, who was killed in 1991 when a train hit her vehicle at a nearby railroad crossing.

"This could not have happened without the generosity of the Andrews family," said Commission Chairman Butch Hogan during the dedication.

Sandy Andrews would have been very excited to see the park finished, according to her family.

She was involved in youth sports in the North Cove community, where she and her husband lived.

"It's a great tribute to a great woman," said Hogan.

Ben McCall, president of North Cove Youth Activities, spoke to the group, saying that area residents are proud of their community and of their children.

"America will hopefully return to a lot of the things North Cove never left," he noted. "Ours are good kids and they're worth our effort. This is only a portion of what we should do for them."

He also praised the hard work many in the community had put into making the park a reality, adding that Roger Andrews had spent many long, hot days laboring to get it finished.

Roger Andrews acknowledged the effort so many had made and said watching the park benefit local children would be all the reward he and his family wanted for their investment.

After introducing Sandy Andrews' three sons, Benji, Brian and Lee, he read a chapter from Corinthians which he said had been his late wife's favorite.

She always had tremendous amount of patience, he said, and possessed the ability to endure ad great deal without complaint.

"Charity, which Sandy possessed such a great measure of, is the only thing that exists beyond the grave," he said. "We got this done with the inspiration she left with us."

After the dedication, organizers held a potato sack race, a three-legged race, a wheelbarrow race and an egg and spoon race.

There was also youth softball, volleyball, soccer, basketball and softball for the visitors.

[From the McDowell News, Sept. 15, 1998]
PARK A TRIBUTE TO BOTH ANDREWS AND
COMMUNITY

The Sandy Andrews Memorial Park in North Cove is a triumph born of tragedy.

Sandy Andrews, a wife and mother who was active in her community, died in 1991 when a train struck her vehicle at a railroad crossing. The Andrews family donated 10 acres of land off U.S. 221 for a recreation park that would help keep Sandy's memory alive and provide a much needed place in North Cove for people to come together for fun and fellowship.

On Saturday, county officials, community leaders, members of the Andrews family and residents of North Cove helped dedicate that park.

"This could not have happened without the generosity of the Andrews family," said County Commission Chairman Butch Hogan.

And it could not have happened without a joint effort between the community and local government.

The park is an example of what can be done through cooperation. While the red tape and bureaucracy inherent to government can often be frustrating, this is one time when all the pieces came together.

The county earmarked money for the park, secured grants to help with its development and coordinated with the state to provide inmate labor for the project. Roger Andrews, husband of Sandy, spent a great deal of time along with many other members of the community helping with its development.

The park is an asset to North Cove and it stands as a tribute to a good woman, a generous family and a caring community.

EULOGY FOR MEG DONOVAN

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, over the week-end Secretary of State Madeleine Albright delivered a eulogy for Meg Donovan, who departed this world on October 1. I ask that Secretary Albright's eulogy for Meg be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EULOGY FOR MEG

Father D'Silvo; Duffy, Colin, Emma, Liam, Mr. Daniel Donovan, Patrick, Paula, Mary Ellen, and other members of Meg Donovan's family; colleagues, friends and acquaintances of Meg:

There are times when it seems more fitting just to stammer with emotion than to speak with finely turned phrases.

It does not seem fair; it is not fair that Heaven, which already has so much, now has so much more. And that we here on Earth, who need so much, have lost someone who is irreplaceable in our hearts.

This we know. Meg could not pass from one world to the other without changing both.

We are crushed with grief. But the scriptures say that those who mourn are blessed for they shall be comforted; and we are comforted by the knowledge that, somewhere up above, God is getting an earful on human rights.

I did not become acquainted with Meg Donovan until I went to the State Department in 1993. Like her, I was a mother of three, including twins. I felt I understood better than some others might the choices and challenges she faced. But many of you knew her longer and more intimately than I. I cannot capture her personality or her career in full.

To me, if there is one word that sums up Meg, it is "completeness."

There are others in this town who are smart and good at their jobs; others with a commitment to causes that are right and just; others who bargain shrewdly and hard; others with a warm and wonderful sense of humor; others who understand the obligations of friendship; others who are devoted and loving to their families; others who have the discipline to live their faith.

There may even be others with Christmas sweaters that light up and play jingle bells. But rarely have the elements of true character been so artfully mixed as they were in Meg Donovan. Van Gogh is arriving in Washington; but a human masterpiece is gone.

When I was designated by President Clinton to serve as Secretary of State, I did what my predecessor, Warren Christopher, did. I turned to the person with the best instincts in Washington on how to deal with our friends on Capitol Hill. That was Meg. We began preparing in December.

Now, naturally, I thought the President had made a brilliant choice for the job, but I had to wonder, as we went along in practice, and Meg corrected and improved upon my every answer on every subject, whether

there was anyone more qualified to be Secretary of State than she.

Of course, that being December, the birthday of the twins came along. And naturally, Liam and Emma didn't understand why their mother couldn't promise to attend the party. Their proposal, passed on and advocated by Meg, was that we adjourn our practice session and re-convene at Chuck E. Cheese. It is typical that, when the hour of the party drew near, Meg excused herself, and did not ask but told her new boss, that she was heading for Chuck E. Cheese.

When he was Secretary of State, George Marshall used to tell his staff "don't fight the problem, decide it, then take action." I suspect he would have like Meg a lot because, all her life, Meg was a doer.

Like quite a few others, she came to Washington committed to the fight for tolerance and respect for basic human rights for all people. What set her apart is that she could still make that claim after having worked here 25 years.

Whether at the Helsinki Commission, or the House Committee on International Relations, or the Department of State, Meg was one of the good guys. She could out-talk anyone, but talk isn't what she was after. She wanted change.

She wanted Soviet Jews to be able to exercise their right to emigrate. She wanted Tibetans to be able to preserve their heritage. She wanted prisoners of conscience to breathe the air of freedom. She wanted women to have the power to make choices that would determine the course of their lives.

Above all, she wanted to draw on and draw out the best in America: the America that would use its resources and power to help others achieve the blessings we all too often take for granted.

There were her ideals, but Meg was more than a dreamer. No one was more effective than she at creating the coalitions, marshaling the arguments and devising the strategies that would yield concrete results.

One of Meg's big problems was that she knew the system better and played it better than anyone else. So, whenever we found ourselves in a real legislative mess, which was not more than three or four times a week, we turned to Meg to help get us out.

Around the Department and earlier in her years on Capitol Hill, Meg's energy and wisdom added sparkle to every meeting. When she spoke, people listened. When she listened, people chose their words with care. She was thoughtful and patient with those who, by virtue of experience or ability, needed her help. She brought out the best in others; just as she demanded the best from herself.

In our collective mind's eye, we can still see her striding purposefully down a hall with her arms full of folders, trailed by some hapless Ambassadorial nominee whose future had been entrusted to Meg's capable hands.

We see her, hugely pregnant, maneuvering around swivel chairs and outthrust elbows on the cramped dais of the House International Relations Committee.

We see her serious and firm, forearms chopping the air for emphasis, persuading us with eloquence and passion that doing the right thing is also the smart thing.

We see her relaxing at an office party, gold bracelets flashing, surrounded by flowers from her garden, a cherub's face aglow with health and life, 100 megawatt smile turned on full.

We see her where she most belonged, with Duffy, her partner of 24 years, and with their children.

And as we see her, we also hear that inimitable laugh, which was not exactly musical, but which conveyed a love and enjoyment of