

RELIEF FOR AMERICA'S
STRUGGLING FARMERS

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

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon I joined the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BOB SMITH) and the Speaker of the House in announcing a much needed relief package for America's struggling farmers. This \$3.9 billion package is a broad-based attempt to help all producers throughout this Nation who have suffered from both low prices and natural disasters.

The package includes \$2.25 billion that will be used to address crop disaster losses and \$1.65 billion that will go to farmers eligible for Freedom to Farm contracts.

I was thoroughly disappointed, though, in the lukewarm response our package received from our Nation's Secretary of Agriculture. His promotion of a more limited package that has failed in the Senate 4 times is alarming.

Mr. Secretary, please give our package a fair view. Take partisan gamesmanship out of the equation. Substance must take precedent over rhetoric. And by the way, I would urge you to use the Export Enhancement Program. In the last 3 years you have sat on over \$1 billion that should be used to open world markets to our producers. The time to act is now.

□ 1315

ELECTION YEAR DEMAGOGUERY

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

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, what a difference an election year makes. Just last year, most Democrats worked with Republicans to balance the budget and cut taxes. But how soon they forget.

Last summer, they voted to cut taxes while we had a budget deficit. Apparently, according to Democrats, cutting taxes when you have a deficit does not threaten Social Security, but when you cut taxes in times of a budget surplus, suddenly they say that threatens Social Security.

This is a classic, classic example of election year demagoguery. We see the Democrats embrace demagoguery over Social Security every election year as sure as night follows day.

It is hard to know whether the Democrats are exploiting Social Security because they oppose tax cuts or because they just cannot resist scaring seniors yet again about Social Security.

Lies about cuts in Medicare are now followed by absurd charges that what will happen to Social Security if people are allowed to keep a little bit more of what already belongs to them. What a difference an election makes year makes, Mr. Speaker.

DO NOT CENSOR GRAND JURY
TAPES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, some people want us to censor the tapes of the President's Grand Jury testimony. We should not be in the business of censoring things for partisan political purposes.

The same people who want us to censor the President's tapes would scream to high heavens if we had refused to release the Nixon tapes.

As U.S.A. Today, the Washington post, and many publications and columnists have pointed out, these difficulties were not brought on by enemies of the administration. We should not do anything to cover up perjury. We should not censor these tapes.

RECHARGE IMF

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

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, agriculture needs to have the International Monetary Fund recharged so that our markets in Asia and elsewhere can once again become stable trading partners.

Yet, we have heard some say Congress should not recharge the reserves because the IMF has not been successful in helping ailing currencies.

The causes of Asia's currency problems are far too complex to lay blame, entire blame with the IMF. However, there is a simple truth: When Asia's economies suffer, so do American exports and jobs.

We must redefine our relationship with the IMF so that we get a better accounting of how our limited tax dollars are used. Yet, reforming this relationship and recharging the IMF's reserves do not need to cancel each other. The House should follow the Senate's lead in approving IMF's recharge, while at the same time placing conditions on the use of these funds.

The sooner Asia's currency is rebound, the sooner agriculture can export our surpluses.

START HELPING OUR FARMERS

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

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, "if American agriculture does not grow, it dies." Those are the words of the current Secretary of Agriculture.

I represent a district with some of the richest farmland in America, the 5th district of Washington State. I know firsthand that the growth of world markets for Washington wheat and other commodities is essential to the survival of our farmers.

Secretary Glickman's words do not match the actions or, better said, the inactions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our government has failed miserably to aggressively address the increasingly aggressive trade policies of competing nations which are glad to help their farmers capture markets abroad. Yet our government does not use the tools Congress made available to this administration to allow our farmers to compete against other governments who help their farmers.

This administration cuts agriculture research funding, opposes free market farmer assistance, will not use the export enhancement program, resist tax relief for farmers, and slashes the Foreign Market Development Program.

Mr. Secretary, please start helping our farmers.

REDUCE THE BURDEN ON
AMERICAN FAMILIES

(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, the cog wheel of liberal logic has just a few teeth missing. It seems that my Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle are complaining because Republicans want to use one thin dime of each dollar of the budget surplus to reduce the burden on hard working middle class taxpayers.

Of course the liberal Democrats whine and complain because this means they cannot spend money to grow a more expensive, more intrusive Federal bureaucracy. Well because this is not salable to the American public, their latest claim is that they want to use the entire surplus to save Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it is these very same liberals who are the reason Social Security is going bankrupt. They are the ones that continually borrowed from the trust fund to promote their dying social agendas, only to replace the money with their favorite three letters, IOU.

Let us allow hard-working Americans to keep some of the money they have earned. Let us allow a couple to marry without being punished by the IRS. Let us allow the self-employed to finally afford health insurance by deducting 100 percent of the cost. Let us support our children, our families, our marriages. Let us support America's future.

Mr. Speaker, we can do all this and still save Social Security. No longer is it IOU, but it is our commitment to the future.

AGRICULTURE RELIEF PACKAGE

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, American farmers are facing the hardest times they have had in years, and

the President has shown a complete lack of leadership in helping them.

With the Clinton administration sitting on the sidelines as our family farmers struggle, Congress is taking swift action to protect our family farmers for many years to come, also with respect to the current disaster situation.

Yesterday, I was pleased to join members of the House leadership in announcing the \$3.9 billion agriculture relief package to address crop disaster losses. Also on yesterday, the House Committee on Ways and Means passed a tax package that is going to be very beneficial from a long range perspective for all small business people including farmers.

These relief measures will place real money into our farmers' hands in a time of great need. It is incumbent upon the Clinton administration to get off the sidelines and join Congress in swiftly approving this much needed disaster package.

HELP THE AMERICAN FARMER

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

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the actions that the administration has taken in their budget proposal this year with the farm crisis going on.

I spoke yesterday about the \$573 million tax increase that they propose to put on our livestock farmers who are dying out there today. Also, I would like to point out what they are doing to help the grain farmer and the person trying to do conservation work.

In their budget proposal, they want to tax people for the information to find out how to comply with the programs. So when you go into the NRCS office or you go to the FSA office, bring your checkbook because the administration says they are going to charge you to get information from you. It is outrageous.

I would just like to tell the Secretary of Agriculture and this administration, they have taken enough out of the hide of the American farmer, and they better go to work and try to help them rather than to continue to tax them and put them out of business.

MEDI-SCARE ALL OVER AGAIN

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, how destructive it is to honest debate to hear our liberal friends one after another claim that tax relief for farmers and ranchers will threaten Social Security. How incredibly dishonest, misleading and, yes, typical to be hearing those accusations.

Can someone on the other side please explain to me how it is that spending does not threaten Social Security but tax relief does?

How ironic that the party that does not bat an eyelash about spending billions and billions of dollars in failed welfare programs and wasteful bureaucracies, without uttering a peep about its impact on Social Security, now claims the tax relief for farmers and ranchers and families is going to threaten Social Security.

How ironic that the party that did not put one dime aside for 40 years to save Social Security now claims that they are interested in protecting the Social Security Trust Fund.

It is pure politics. It is a perfect example of how the other side plays the game.

Mislead seniors, again; oppose tax cuts, nothing new there; and accuse Republicans of undermining the very system that they are trying to reform. It is Medi-scare all over again. How sad.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. LANTOS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. COBURN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MINGE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

THE STEEL IMPORT CRISIS

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a concurrent resolution today, along with 76 of my colleagues as original cosponsors, which calls on the Administration to take all necessary measures to respond to the surge of steel imports resulting from the financial crises occurring in Asia, Russia and in other areas of the world.

In two briefings held last Thursday and today, the Congressional Steel Caucus heard from top executives of the large integrated steel companies, from the President of the United Steelworkers of America and top ex-

ecutives of other steel industry sectors. The news is not good. Steel imports are pouring into the United States at very low prices and are threatening the existence of the U.S. steel industry and the jobs of persons working in this important industry. And I should remind everyone that every job in the steel industry also supports numerous jobs in terms of suppliers and downstream industries.

We should not be faced with this situation—the U.S. steel industry and its workers have sacrificed over the last decade and have invested heavily to make this industry the most competitive in the world. Demand for steel is high and the industry is lean and competitive. But the industry and the jobs of its workers are being threatened by unfairly priced and unfairly traded steel imports.

Between June of 1997 and June of 1998, steel imports to the U.S. from Russia increased 45.8 percent; from Korea, 89.5 percent; from Japan, 113 percent; and from Indonesia, 308 percent. There are indications that these import figures will grow even larger in the third quarter of 1998.

We are asking that the Administration take the following immediate actions to help stem these injurious imports: (1) to pursue enhanced enforcement of U.S. trade laws to protect the domestic steel industry and its jobs; (2) to pursue all available remedies to ensure a more equitable sharing by other nations of the burden of accepting these imports; (3) to establish a task force to closely monitor steel imports into the U.S.; and (4) to report to Congress by January 5, 1999 on a comprehensive plan for responding to this import crisis.

We cannot stand by and lose this vital U.S. industry and these important jobs as foreign nations attempt to export their way out of their own economic woes.

TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis in rural America. Yesterday, we announced a \$3.9 billion relief package, which I hope will start us down the path toward recovery. Next week, the House will vote on important tax relief legislation for America's farmers and ranchers.

Now, I just want to warn the American people about one thing, because these are some of the ploys that are going to be used by our liberal friends. The argument is going to be made over and over again, by an endless parade of folks from the other side, that the Republicans are raiding Social Security to give tax cuts to their rich friends. I have got to admit, the other side is not creative but they are predictable: Try and scare older Americans.

The fact of the matter is, and make no mistake about it, that these are the same folks who ran the House for 40 years and did not put one dime into the Social Security trust fund. On the other hand, our leadership has committed that 90 percent of the surplus, or \$1.4 trillion, will be walled off and put aside for Social Security.