

Let me add this additional encouragement. We are not going to let this just languish. If we have to go to third reading—I have always had this real desire to go to third reading and end it. There are some 200 amendments pending out here. At some hour, some Thursday night, we are going to be scrambling around here trying to get an agreement on a list of 50 amendments which we will then have to vote on after 5 minutes of debate, or 2 minutes. That's ridiculous.

It has been a nice 3 months, but it's time to go to work. I am going to be counting on some amendments very soon. If we do not have them by the middle of next week, I am going to start doing everything I can to cut off amendments. Because if they are serious, you will come to the floor and offer them.

With that cheery note, Mr. President, observing no Senator anxious to speak, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair notes that, under the previous order, the Senate is in a period for the transaction of morning business. The Senator has 10 minutes.

Mr. ASHCROFT. The Senator from Missouri thanks the Chair.

IRAQ

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, the latest confrontation with Iraq shines a harsh light on an important truth. The collapse of the Soviet Union consigned to the ash heap of history has not created a world safe for democracy. The "Evil Empire" may have vanished but, alas, the world remains a dangerous and unpredictable place.

In Iraq, we are confronted with a dictator as evil as Hitler. Saddam has killed thousands of his own citizens, licensed acts of terrorism, and produced and stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. It is a reign of terror unmatched in the post-cold war era.

And how has this administration responded? Rather than draw a bright line in the sand, the President has been relegated to the role of spectator.

The Commander in Chief has surrendered his moral authority at home and found himself ill-equipped to defend American interests abroad.

At the moment of truth, America's acting Secretary of State—Kofi Annan—cut a deal with the devil and, tragically, a weakened, uncertain President endorsed the settlement before the ink had even dried.

Today, we hear reports that there is no final consensus on what to do if Iraq

violates the settlement. Have we known Saddam to keep his promises? What if he does not adhere to the agreement as in previous cases? The United Nations apparently cannot come to an agreement on what to do about it.

The President's failure to lead has handed America's foreign policy to a cast of functionaries at the United Nations. Mr. President, U.S. foreign policy should not be subcontracted to Kofi Annan or written at the United Nations. America should not sacrifice one ounce—any other ounce—of her sovereignty to the architect and acolytes of one world government.

This ill-conceived transfer of sovereignty has left America and her allies with an emboldened Saddam. In Iraq today, Saddam has a firmer grip on power, carries more regional prestige and can sell more oil. Some dare call this a triumph of diplomacy.

As I indicated to Secretary Albright this week: "Preservation of the status quo is not a diplomatic triumph, Madam Secretary, it's a tragedy. The clear winner of this round is Saddam Hussein."

Instead of being penalized for his defiance, Saddam is winning bonus points: more oil sales, heightened standing, and new momentum to end the sanctioned regime. Ironically, in agreeing to agree, Saddam has committed to do nothing more than he was obliged to do all along.

Mr. President, by the grace of God, America won the cold war. We triumphed over the "Evil Empire" of Lenin and Stalin. It is time for us to stand again for liberty and freedom.

Saddam is a brutal dictator, a tyrant whose actions at home betray his intentions abroad.

Let us sound a certain trumpet for America's vital national interests—in the Middle East and around the world. Let us not be governed by the whims and the will of Kofi Annan and the United Nations. Let America lead the world by the force of our principles and the power of our ideas, with the hope that one day the long tug of memory might look favorably upon us as we look approvingly on those who answered freedom's call in decades past.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a column which appeared in the Washington Post, Friday, the 27th of February, by Charles Krauthammer be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A DEAL THAT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS— PEACE IN OUR TIME—AGAIN

Two days before Kofi Annan made his "breakthrough" in Baghdad, the U.N. Security Council, with U.S. approval, authorized a huge increase in the amount of oil that Iraq can sell. In a stroke, this "humanitarian" gesture doubled Iraq's oil income to \$10.5 billion a year. Iraq can now sell nearly 2 million barrels a day—about two-thirds of the oil it was selling when producing at peak capacity before the embargo. And that number does not even count the oil that we know

Saddam is illegally smuggling through Iranian coastal waters.

At this U.N.- and U.S.-authorized level, Iraq—under sanctions!—becomes the eighth-largest oil exporter in the world.

This embargo-buster passed with little fanfare. It barely made the back pages of the newspapers. All hands pretended, moreover, that there was no linkage between this bonanza and the subsequent Saddam-Annan deal in Baghdad.

But remember that last November, when the administration was desperately looking for a way out of the last Iraq crisis, the State Department said we'd be willing to offer Saddam a "carrot" to get him to be nice. Such as? Such as a sharp increase in the amount of "humanitarian" oil that Iraq could sell.

So last time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and kicked out U.S. arms inspectors, the carrot was offered. This time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and stymied all the arms inspectors, the carrot was delivered.

Last time, President Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the Russian foreign minister brokered a "compromise." This time, Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the U.N. secretary general brokered a new "compromise."

Last time, Clinton's U.N. ambassador crowed that Saddam had "blinked." This time, Madeleine Albright's spokesman deemed the deal "win-win" for us.

Last time, the deal turned out to be completely worthless, giving Saddam four more months to hide his nasty stuff. This time, the deal is worse than worthless, giving Saddam crucial victories on the two issues he cares most about: economic sanctions and weapons inspections.

1. Sanctions. Not only did Saddam incur no penalty for his open defiance of the United Nations and open provocation of the United States, he was treated by Annan with a deference and flattery that bordered on the indecent. Moreover, the Annan-Saddam Memorandum of Understanding breathes not a word of criticism about Iraq's violating previous agreements, nor about its creating this crisis. On the contrary, Annan trashed his own arms inspectors (UNSCOM) as unruly "cowboys" and undertook, in writing, to bring Saddam's ultimate objective, the lifting of sanctions, "to the full attention of the members of the Security Council."

Sure enough, upon his return to New York, Annan began emphasizing the need to show Iraq "the light at the end of the tunnel," the Iraqi code phrase for ending sanctions. Like Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who brokered the first nonagreement in November, Annan has become Saddam's sanctions-lifting advocate to the world. Unlike Saddam buddy and ex-KGB biggie Primakov, however, Annan is an effective shill.

2. Inspections. The United States had demanded no retreat from free and full access and no tampering by Iraq with the composition and authority of UNSCOM teams. Annan came back with a radical change in the composition of the inspection teams and a serious erosion of their authority. Inspection of "presidential sites," those huge complexes with hundreds of buildings where Saddam could be hiding anything, is taken away from control of UNSCOM, the tough inspectors whose probity we can rely on.

These sites are instead entrusted to a new body, headed by an Annan appointee. It will comprise political appointees, including diplomat-spies from Iraq-friendly France, Russia and China, as well as inspectors who presumably possess the requisite delicacy and sensitivity to Iraqi feelings. Iraqis can be so

touchy about their stores of poison gas and anthrax.

How do you carry out a spot inspection—the only kind that has any hope of finding anything—when you first have to notify and await the arrival of, say, the Russian appointee, who has a hot line to the very Iraqi regime he is supposed to inspect? Inspector Clouseau has a better chance of finding concealed nerve gas than this polyglot outfit of compromised politicians and handpicked inspectors.

So tote it up. For Saddam: No penalty. Annan shilling for his demand to end all sanctions. UNSCOW undermined. Presidential palaces secure for storing anthrax and such. And his oil output doubled.

Another triumph of Clinton diplomacy.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1997

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 1150) to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG) laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1150) entitled "An Act to ensure that federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education address high-priority concerns with national or multistate significance, to reform, extend, and eliminate certain agricultural research programs, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reauthorization Act of 1997".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND DEFINITIONS REGARDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION

Sec. 101. Priorities and management principles for federally supported and conducted agricultural research, education, and extension.

Sec. 102. Principal definitions regarding agricultural research, education, and extension.

Sec. 103. Consultation with National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Sec. 104. Relevance and merit of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.

Sec. 105. Expansion of authority to enter into cost-reimbursable agreements.

Sec. 106. Evaluation and assessment of agricultural research, extension, and education programs.

TITLE II—REFORM OF EXISTING RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION AUTHORITIES

Subtitle A—Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887

Sec. 201. Adoption of short titles for Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887.

Sec. 202. Consistent matching funds requirements under Hatch Act of 1887 and Smith-Lever Act.

Sec. 203. Plans of work to address critical research and extension issues and use of protocols to measure success of plans.

Subtitle B—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977

Sec. 211. Plans of work for 1890 land-grant colleges to address critical research and extension issues and use of protocols to measure success of plans.

Sec. 212. Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.

Sec. 213. International research, extension, and teaching.

Sec. 214. Task force on 10-year strategic plan for agricultural research facilities.

Subtitle C—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990

Sec. 231. Agricultural genome initiative.

Subtitle D—National Research Initiative

Sec. 241. Waiver of matching requirement for certain small colleges and universities.

Subtitle E—Other Existing Laws

Sec. 251. Findings, authorities, and competitive research grants under Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978.

TITLE III—EXTENSION OR REPEAL OF RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Extensions

Sec. 301. National Research Initiative under Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act.

Sec. 302. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

Sec. 303. Education grants programs for Hispanic-serving institutions.

Sec. 304. General authorization for agricultural research programs.

Sec. 305. General authorization for extension education.

Sec. 306. Grants and fellowships for food and agricultural sciences education.

Sec. 307. Grants for research on the production and marketing of alcohols and industrial hydrocarbons from agricultural commodities and forest products.

Sec. 308. Policy research centers.

Sec. 309. Human nutrition intervention and health promotion research program.

Sec. 310. Pilot research program to combine medical and agricultural research.

Sec. 311. Food and nutrition education program.

Sec. 312. Animal health and disease continuing research.

Sec. 313. Animal health and disease national or regional research.

Sec. 314. Grant program to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges.

Sec. 315. National research and training centennial centers.

Sec. 316. Supplemental and alternative crops research.

Sec. 317. Aquaculture research and extension.

Sec. 318. Rangeland research.

Sec. 319. Federal agricultural research facilities.

Sec. 320. Water quality research, education, and coordination.

Sec. 321. National genetics resources program.

Sec. 322. Agricultural telecommunications program.

Sec. 323. Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities.

Sec. 324. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.

Sec. 325. Critical Agricultural Materials Act.

Subtitle B—Repeals

Sec. 341. Aquaculture research facilities.

Sec. 342. Agricultural research program under National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1981.

Sec. 343. Livestock product safety and inspection program.

Sec. 344. Generic authorization of appropriations.

TITLE IV—NEW RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Subtitle A—Partnerships for High-Value Agricultural Product Quality Research.

Sec. 401. Definitions.

Sec. 402. Establishment and characteristics of partnerships.

Sec. 403. Elements of grant making process.

Sec. 404. Authorization of appropriations and related provisions.

Subtitle B—Precision Agriculture

Sec. 411. Definitions.

Sec. 412. Competitive grants to promote precision agriculture.

Sec. 413. Reservation of funds for education and information dissemination projects.

Sec. 414. Precision agriculture partnerships.

Sec. 415. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 416. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle C—Other Initiatives

Sec. 421. High-priority research and extension initiatives.

Sec. 422. Organic agriculture research and extension initiative.

Sec. 423. United States-Mexico joint agricultural research.

Sec. 424. Competitive grants for international agricultural science and education programs.

Sec. 425. Food animal residue avoidance database program.

Sec. 426. Development and commercialization of new biobased products.

Sec. 427. Thomas Jefferson Initiative for Crop Diversification.

Sec. 428. Integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

Sec. 429. Research grants under Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. Role of Secretary of Agriculture regarding food and agricultural sciences research, education, and extension.

Sec. 502. Office of Pest Management Policy.

Sec. 503. Food Safety Research Information Office and national conference.

Sec. 504. Nutrient composition data.

Sec. 505. Availability of funds received or collected on behalf of National Arboretum.

Sec. 506. Retention and use of Agricultural Research Service patent culture collection fees.

Sec. 507. Reimbursement of expenses incurred under Sheep Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1994.

Sec. 508. Designation of Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center, Weslaco, Texas.

Sec. 509. Sense of Congress regarding Agricultural Research Service emphasis on in field research regarding methyl bromide alternatives.

Sec. 510. Sense of Congress regarding importance of school-based agricultural education.

Sec. 511. Sense of Congress regarding designation of Department Crisis Management Team.