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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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DOLE URGES WORLD FOOD STUDY

Congressman Bob Dole, a member of the Republican Task Force on Agriculture and the House Committee on Agriculture, joined approximately 80 Republicans in recommending the establishment of a bi-partisan U. S. World Food Study Commission to plan the future U. S. role in the approaching world food crisis. Dole stated, "This could be a real opportunity for American agriculture to realize its great potential if plans are wisely made and laid and, in my opinion, a bi-partisan commission could very well prove to be the spark needed to help bring food to the hungry mouths of the world and a new health and economic vitality to all segments of U. S. agriculture."

"There is sufficient evidence," Dole noted, "to raise serious question whether past U. S. agricultural assistance and give-away programs have not sometimes brought more harm than good both to the recipient countries and to U. S. farmers. We must not rush blindly into a gigantic 'feed the hungry world' project which would accomplish just the opposite of its objective by magnifying old mistakes and compounding past failures."

"It was the unanimous opinion of the eight members of the Task Force on Agriculture -- Odin Langen of Minnesota, Paul Dague of Pennsylvania, Delbert Latta of Ohio, Alexander Pirnie of New York, James F. Battin of Montana, Burt L. Talcott of California, George V. Hansen of Idaho, and Dole -- that we should tap the best minds in this whole field and put them together in a concentrated bi-partisan effort to grapple with these problems and come up with some sound, workable recommendations."

The World Food Study Commission would be composed of 18 members. Eight would be Members of Congress and 10 other members would be appointed by the President. Of the ten appointed by the President, one each would come from the Departments of State and Agriculture and the remaining eight from universities and various agricultural interest groups, including the grain trade.

Dole stated the legislation would set up a fifteen point program for the Commission to study, including such things as world food needs and population trends, U. S. agricultural production potential, necessary reserves, and coordination of foreign assistance programs. "We are hopeful Congress will seriously consider this recommendation during the next session, as there is an urgent need for such a study. If the legislation should be enacted in its present form, the Commission would be required to submit its final recommendations by January 2, 1967.

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON AGRICULTURE UPON INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGISLATION

The House Republican Task Force on Agriculture recommends the establishment of a bi-partisan U. S. World Food Study and Coordinating Commission to evaluate present and future food needs of the United States and of the world. This Commission would recommend ways and means by which the total complex of American agriculture might be coordinated and implemented toward the end of helping to meet these needs.

CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY

The impending world food crisis presents this Nation with both a challenge and an opportunity - a challenge for us to assume the leadership required to meet

(more)

October 25, 1965 (cont)

-2-

a world problem of possible epic proportions, and a potential opportunity for American agriculture to achieve a new economic vitality and income stability.

Although this complex world food and population problem has long been foreseen, only recently has it begun to receive the greater public attention it so urgently requires. Unfortunately, however, much of this attention remains entirely superficial in character, limiting itself to loud announcements that there is a problem, and that we "ought to do something about it."

CAREFUL PLANNING

It is imperative that U. S. response to this major world problem be well-considered and carefully planned. There is sufficient evidence to raise serious questions whether past U. S. agricultural assistance and give-away programs have not sometimes brought more harm than good both to the recipient countries and to U. S. farmers. We must not rush blindly into a gigantic "feed the hungry world" project which would accomplish just the opposite of its objective by magnifying old mistakes and compounding past failures.

FARM OPPORTUNITY

Although we are presented with a potential opportunity for American agriculture, it is an opportunity for good or ill. Hastily planned and executed programs could further endanger the precarious economic position of the U. S. farmer.

On the other hand, effective and sound planning can sow the seed for a new health and vitality for American agriculture - for expanded markets and income, and a brighter future potential. Current problems of inadequate farm income, prices and markets must be of major consideration in any programs this Nation may devise to meet world food needs.

DETERMINE GOALS

It is obvious, then, that our first requirement in planning to meet this tremendous challenge and opportunity must be the bringing together of the best minds in the field to grapple with the basic questions concerning these world problems of population and food, and to emerge with some sound recommendations as to goals and courses of action open to this Nation.

The U. S. World Food Study and Coordinating Commission would be made up of the broadest possible membership. Of the eighteen proposed Commission members, four would be chosen from the House of Representatives and four from the Senate. Of the remaining ten to be appointed by the President, one each would come from the Departments of State and Agriculture, and eight from outside the Federal Government, to be representative of various farm organizations, private agricultural

(more)

October 25, 1965 (cont)

-3-

trade, United States land-grant and State colleges and universities, and other agricultural organizations.

COORDINATE AND RECOMMEND

It would be the responsibility of the proposed Commission to make a sound and detailed analysis of the world food and population problem, to draw some conclusions from this analysis, and finally to make recommendations to what role the U. S. can play in helping to solve these problems - that is, what our objectives should be and how our resources could be utilized.

In addition to this, as the Commission's study moves along, and the many problem areas in our present policies and programs of foreign agricultural assistance begin to receive some clarification, the Commission would be responsible for calling attention to these problems. It would be authorized to make specific recommendations to the President and the Congress for the correction and improvement of these programs.

FIFTEEN POINT STUDY

We as a Nation are presently faced with a large number of unanswered questions regarding this world food and population problem - questions which must be answered if the United States is to assume a useful and productive role in helping to find satisfactory solutions to these world problems.

The Agriculture Task Force legislation outlines a fifteen point study program for the proposed Commission, including many of the major questions which must be answered. The Commission study would include:

- (1) An examination of present and projected world food needs, related to present and projected world food supply and population levels. We need more explicit, detailed information as to what is actually happening in terms of food production and population expansion in individual countries of the food-deficit and food-surplus areas, thereby providing an adequate basis for U. S. decisions about using American resources to help meet future world food needs.
- (2) An evaluation of the internal agricultural complexes of food-deficit countries to determine the causes of their inability to meet domestic food needs.
- (3) A determination of the extent to which U. S. domestic agricultural production could be utilized to meet U. S. domestic needs, necessary reserves, and help meet world food needs as well.
- (4) An appraisal of the effects which such action could be expected to have on United States agricultural and total economy, and the probably effects of

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October 25, 1965 (cont)

-4-

such action on the economies of other countries of the world.

(5) A study of the total domestic and foreign dollar market potential for United States agriculture.

(6) An examination of the influence that agricultural commodities stored in U. S. bins has on world prices for these commodities.

(7) A study of the effects U. S. shipping rates have on the sale of agricultural commodities abroad.

(8) An analysis of the results of past operations under Public Law 480, 83rd Congress, as amended, with particular reference to agricultural production and utilization in recipient countries, effects on U. S. agricultural exports for dollars, and the projected development and operation of such programs in the future.

(9) An exploration of the possibilities for more effective use of the excess foreign currencies which have accumulated under past Public Law 480 programs.

(10) A study of the effectiveness of past and present U. S. agricultural aid and economic development assistance to foreign countries, with particular reference to its effects on recipient countries, the degree of coordination among participating U. S. agencies, and other related factors.

(11) A determination of the extent to which duplication and overlapping of programs exists among U. S. agencies involved in these foreign assistance activities.

(12) An exploration of alternative ways of financing possible United States programs designed to help meet world food needs.

(13) An analysis of the manifold technical, mechanical, diplomatic bureaucratic, political and other barriers to present and future United States programs designed to assist food-deficit areas of the world.

(14) A review of the potential of other food-surplus countries of the world for assistance in meeting world food needs, and a study of methods for coordinating such assistance.

(15) An investigation of any other areas which the Commission may find pertinent and related to United States and world food problems.

The object, then, of such a Commission is vividly clear. And there is every reason to hope that such a Commission could very well prove to be a catalytic agent that would not only help to bring food to the hungry mouths of the world, but also stability and a new vitality to American agriculture.