

Ms. Molly Walsh
June 22, 1986
page 2

* →
↓
Now, Molly, you should be aware that our Democrat opponents are very critical of the Farm Bill and Steve's support of it. They assert that Steve "sold his constituents down the river" by supporting anything but mandatory quotas and higher prices (and allege that if he had more influence, we would have higher, not lower milk prices right now). They prove this point by noting that "even Bob Kasten voted against the bill."

Obviously, they're not living in the real world. Nevertheless, it would be helpful for the Senator, if he is so inclined, to point out:

1. Steve's steadfast support for voluntary supply management (such as the dairy diversion program) rather than permanent price cuts as the proper method for reducing the dairy surplus;

2. The recognition of Steve as a leader in dairy policy in Congress--i.e., one of the principal spokesmen, if not the principal spokesman for dairy, in the House;

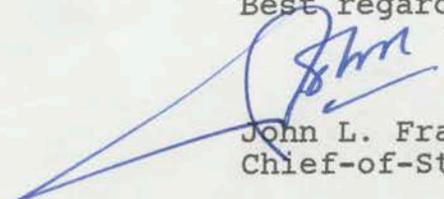
3. The fact that a referendum for mandatory supply management for dairy received but 36 of 435 votes in the House (that's only 19 votes outside of the Wisconsin and Minnesota);

4. Steve's role in negotiating dairy policy in the Farm Bill--i.e., but for Steve and the Senator, dairy farmers would have already received immediate and permanent cuts in the support price for milk;

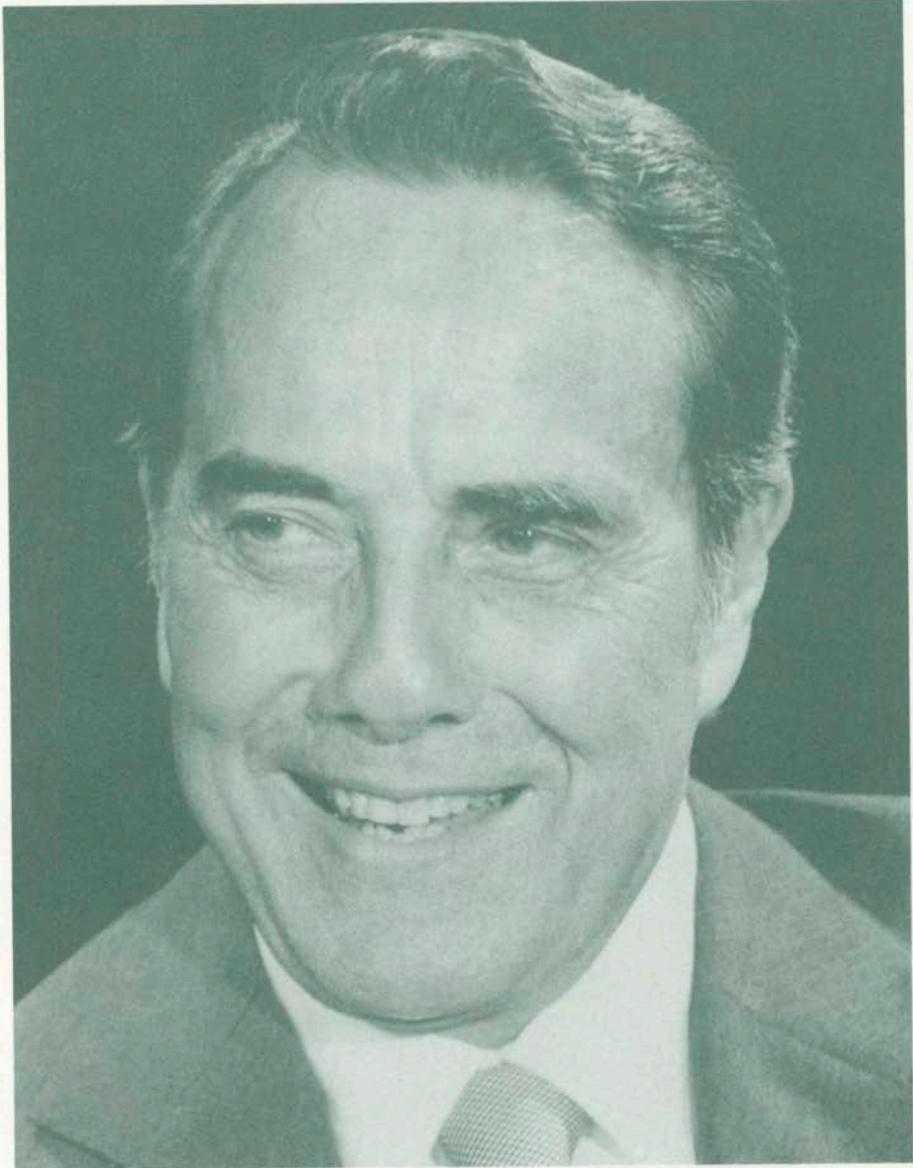
5. That, in Washington, you have basically two choices--be a politician and pose for holy pictures or be a statesman and work the best deal you can for your people even though, by your own definition, it's not perfect.

I will be back in the District by the time this letter gets to you. If you would need anything further, please give Kristine Deininger (Steve's Executive Assistant) a call at 225-5506. She will either be able to help you directly or will find me out in the District. Thanks again for all your help!!!

Best regards,


John L. Frank
Chief-of-Staff

**FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
OF STEVE GUNDERSON
WELCOME**



SENATOR ROBERT DOLE

Monday, June 30, 1986 La Crosse Center - La Crosse, Wisconsin

PROGRAM

- CO-CHAIRMEN Dr. Adolf Gundersen, Stanton Jorgens
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES Don Haldeman
President of Wisconsin Farm Bureau
- INVOCATION Pastor Roger Benrud
Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church
- PRESENTATION OF COLORS Holmen F.F.A.
Herbert Krause, Jr., Jan Nelson, JoAnne Nelson, Andrew Sobkowiak
- INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER Congressman Steve Gunderson
- GUEST SPEAKER The Hon. Robert Dole
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate

DINNER

- WELCOME Mayor Patrick Zielke
- VIDEO PRESENTATION
- REMARKS Congressman Steve Gunderson
- BENEDICTION

Printed by Union Labor





STEVE
GUNDERTSON

For Immediate Release
June 30, 1986

Contact Jennifer Vickery
(715) 597-3155

Representative Steve Gunderson Announcement Statement

During the past six years, this district has given me a privilege and an honor experienced by few -- to represent the hopes and dreams of its citizens in the United States Congress. During this time, I have challenged my energies and my staff to provide everyone with the best service possible to western Wisconsin.

The past two years have been especially challenging. No one can sit on the House Agriculture Committee without feeling the pain and the agony of each farm foreclosure, or the loss of optimism among America's heartland. No member of Congress can represent a rural area without feeling the impact of the change now occurring across the country's farm belt. There are no quick fixes, nor temporary solutions. Yet, as Wisconsin's only member on the House Agriculture Committee, I can stand before you today with confidence in knowing that had I not been there, the alternatives for our farmers would have been much more painful.

As we look back on these past two years, we do so with confidence in our actions on behalf of the people of our district. While the 1985 Farm Bill is not perfect, it is a far better product than submitted to Congress by the Administration. Within the constraints of money and few farm votes in Congress, it is probably the best bill that could get passed. And I would submit that the dairy section of the bill is a proper response when put in its proper context. The whole herd buyout is not meant to be a long term solution, rather an attempt to get a supply-demand balance before allowing market forces to work.

Our work on behalf of Wisconsin's farmers has been our top priority. Representing the largest dairy district in the country, it properly should be. And such efforts are an ongoing and constant process. In five of the last six years Congress has passed major dairy legislation. This year, everything from implementation of the Farm Bill, to Georgia dairies, to bovine growth have requested our attention. And agriculture includes so many other essential elements. Our efforts on the re-organization of the Farm Credit System, the conservation titles of the Farm Bill, and re-authorization of Ag pesticide laws are just some examples.

-- more --

A LOCAL CONGRESSMAN • A NATIONAL VOICE

Friends and Neighbors of Steve Gunderson • P.O.Box 1986 • Osseo, Wis. 54758

Paid for by Friends and Neighbors of Steve Gunderson, Dick Dean, Eau Claire, Treasurer

Similar pride exists with our work in the Education Committee. With over 80,000 post-secondary students in our district, their education and their future must be a top priority. This session of Congress, when completed, will include a re-authorization of the Higher Education Act. Numerous provisions are included in that legislation aimed at making our post-secondary education responsive to the needs of a high-tech society requiring constant training and re-training of our population.

Similar efforts, with results, have been focused on the preservation of our Mississippi River. At the conclusion of this Congress, we will have put into law the most comprehensive management program for the Mississippi River in our Country's history. It is with a great deal of pride that I look upon this commitment to a multi-use river, having been the primary author of the legislation.

All of these actions, and others in this Congress have been completed with a sensitivity to their costs. The citizens of our district and the country have long believed that deficit reduction is the most important problem facing the country. This is a priority with which I concur. It is for this reason that I look back upon this Congress, and its decision to deal with the deficit through the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation with satisfaction. The methods are flexible, but the goal is obvious. Future generations will appreciate our commitment.

These are the highlights of the past two years. A commitment to government and its people working together to solve problems. A commitment to progress, not without mistakes, not without faults, but a commitment to a new direction for our country, and its people, especially those of western Wisconsin. While these actions are not permanent solutions, they do lay the foundation. And in so doing they allow us to look to the future with faith. It is now our task to continue framing that future. To do so will require a continuing partnership between government and its citizens. But let us frame our future with the highest standards and ideals. Let's keep Wisconsin number one. Number one in dairy agriculture. Number one in education. And number one in our way of life.

Agricultural policy - and specifically, dairy policy - will demand our constant attention over the next two years. Both the House and the Senate budget resolutions assume the enactment of some type of credit restructuring or interest buydown program in 1987. The National Dairy Policy Commission, which was created as a result of legislation I introduced in 1985, is also due to report back to Congress in 1987 with recommendations on what future Federal dairy policy will best prevent surplus dairy production while maintaining the small and a mid-sized family farm structure of dairy agriculture. New technology will continue to demand our close attention as will the need for better marketing and distribution of our milk products. These are just some of the challenges we face as we continue our efforts to keep Wisconsin the number one dairy state in the country.

-- more --

The country is quickly coming to recognize that literacy is our major national challenge in education as we develop a high technology workforce. New and constant effort must be initiated to co-ordinate the education and training programs to achieve these almost monumental goals. Some experts have given us only until 1993 to train our workforce and eliminate illiteracy without it becoming an insolvable problem.

While the past six years have focused on passage of legislation to protect our Mississippi River, the real work now begins -- guiding the funding process and the bureaucracy in implementing our goals.

These and many other challenges facing our society must be addressed. And they must be resolved within the confines of deficit reduction. For it does no good to save the farm, save the school, save the river, and lose the country through fiscal bankruptcy.

These challenges await answers. I have no misconceptions about government's ability to operate without me. And yet, if I am not on the House Agriculture Committee, Wisconsin has no voice in setting national farm policy. If I am not the ranking member on our employment opportunities subcommittee, will the needs of rural America be met in our training and retraining programs? If I am not there to lead the implementation of our River preservation legislation, who will pick up that task?

It is for these reasons that I today announce my candidacy for re-election. And in so doing I seek out the continued faith and support of our many friends and neighbors across the district.

During the upcoming weeks and months, we will do everything possible to earn your support. Yet we will do so in a way that properly separates my official capacity as a Member of Congress and that of a candidate for re-election. We seek your active support in our campaign. We seek your confidence at the polls in November. But most of all, we seek your partnership in building the future; of our resources, of our youth, of our agriculture, of our communities, and of our country.