

12-12-66

THE 90TH CONGRESS ON AGRICULTURE LEGISLATION

THE 90TH CONGRESS WILL BE A NEW BALL GAME. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT REPUBLICANS HAVE NOW MOVED OFF OF THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE AND ONTO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS FAR AS THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS CONCERNED. AS MY COLLEAGUE FROM OKLAHOMA, MR. BELCHER, QUIPPED DURING THE 89TH CONGRESS: "THIS REMINDS ME OF A FOOTBALL TEAM I ONCE PLAYED FOR; THE LARGEST GAIN WE MADE ALL DAY WAS A FIVE YARD LOSS".

YET, ANY EXUBERANCE WE MAY HAVE STILL CANNOT CHANGE THE BASIC ARITHMETIC THAT IS BEFORE US. THE LINE-UP IN THE HOUSE IS STILL 248 TO 187, THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN THE SENATE IS STILL 2-1 AND THE ADMINISTRATION STILL HAS WITHIN ITS POWER THE CAPACITY TO STOP ANY BILL THAT CONGRESS MIGHT BE INCLINED TO PASS.

IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION, I FORESEE ACTION FORTHCOMING ON AN REA FINANCING BILL. AS YOU MAY RECALL, I WORKED ON THE LEGISLATION AT LENGTH LAST YEAR AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION AND CREDIT SUBCOMMITTEE, UNDER CONGRESS-
MAN POAGE WHO, IN JANUARY, WILL BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE FULL COMMITTEE, AS A RESULT OF CHAIRMAN COOLEY'S DEFEAT IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THIS AREA IF A MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE BILL IS TO BE ENACTED.

ANOTHER SUBJECT THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MOST CERTAINLY WILL TAKE UP, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM IS EXPIRING, IS THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM WAS ENACTED IN 1964 AS A PROGRAM TO REMOVE SURPLUSES AND TO UPGRADE THE NUTRITIONAL LEVEL OF CERTAIN LOW INCOME PEOPLE. IN 1964 THE POINT WAS MADE THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS SUBSTANTIALLY A WELFARE PROGRAM AND AS SUCH SHOULD REQUIRE THE STATES TO SHARE IN ITS COST. UNFORTUNATELY, AN AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE STATE SHARING, THOUGH ADOPTED BY OUR AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, WAS REJECTED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THIS SUBJECT IS AGAIN BROUGHT UP IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, WHICH EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 1967.

ANOTHER MATTER THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CERTAINLY, IN MY OPINION, WILL BE UNITED ON IS THE "SMALL WATERSHED" PROGRAM. LAST YEAR THE ADMINISTRATION CAME UP WITH A RIDICULOUS OPINION THAT THE 12 YEAR OLD STATUTE WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL BECAUSE IT CALLED FOR CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. OUR COMMITTEE REFUSED TO YIELD, AND THE WHITE HOUSE FINALLY RELENTED AND SENT SOME 70 PROJECTS TO THE CONGRESS, 50 OF WHICH WERE APPROVED PRIOR TO THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS. THOSE NOT APPROVED PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT INCLUDE TWO IN KANSAS; THE LOWER WAKARUSA AND SPILLMAN CREEK. FRANKLY, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ON WHAT BASIS THE WHITE HOUSE REASONED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARGUMENTS AND HOW IT EXPECTS TO MAKE THEM STICK IN THE 90TH CONGRESS.

LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR WAS LEGISLATION DEALING WITH FUTURES TRADING, MOST OF WHICH WAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY THE COMMODITY EXCHANGES AND THE PRIVATE TRADE. IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT INTERMINGLED IN THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, THERE MAY BE SOME ITEMS OF MERIT THAT DESERVE THE ATTENTION OF THE NEW CONGRESS. IN PARTICULAR, I AM REFERRING TO THE IDEA THAT COVERAGE OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT SHOULD APPLY UNIFORMLY TO ALL ~~COMMODITIES~~ ^{CONTRACTS} UPON WHICH FUTURES ARE TRADED. IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO SAY THAT SOME COMMODITIES SHOULD BE COVERED AND THE CONTRACTS THAT ARE MADE ON THEM AND THE "FAIR PLAY" AND "PUBLIC DISCLOSURE" REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW, BUT THAT OTHER COMMODITIES NEED NOT BE SO COVERED: FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE ACT WAS LAST AMENDED, HOG BELLIES WERE NOT BEING TRADED ON THE FUTURES MARKET, TODAY THEY ARE. NOW IT WOULD SEEM CONTRACTS FOR HOG BELLIES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE ACT AS MUCH AS CONTRACTS FOR SOYBEANS OR WHEAT.

IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS, PUBLIC LAW 480 (FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM) WILL BE UP FOR AN EXTENSION AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, THE COMMITTEE IS GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN HOW THE NEW CHANGES IN THE LAW ARE BEING ADMINISTERED. IN THIS REGARD, I LEAVE TOMORROW FOR A ONE WEEK TRIP TO INDIA TO EXAMINE, FIRST HAND, THE PROBLEMS IN REGARD TO THE PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTRY.

IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MAJOR FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS RUN THROUGH 1969, THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES WILL BE MADE DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THIS MEANS THAT EXCEPT FOR MODIFICATIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS, THE WHEAT, FEED GRAINS, COTTON, WOOL AND CROPLANDS ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS ARE GOING TO REMAIN PRETTY MUCH AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

THE NEW COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE MOST LIKELY WILL BE SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN THE PRESENT 35 MEMBER UNIT. A COMMITTEE SIZE OF SOME 27-30 MEMBERS IS MOST LIKELY. IT IS INTERESTING TO LOOK AT THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE RETURNING MEMBERS. VISUALIZE, IF YOU CAN, A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEN DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE DOWN THE CENTER AND CALL IT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THE RETURNING REPUBLICANS ARE FROM WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. FURTHER VISUALIZE THIS MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, AND DRAW A LINE HORIZONTALLY AND CALL IT THE MASON-DIXON LINE; YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL BUT 3 OF THE RETURNING DEMOCRATS ARE FROM SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE, ACTUALLY 8 SOUTHERNERS AND 3 TEXANS MAKE UP THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF RETURNING DEMOCRATS. THIS GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE OF THE WEST AND THE SOUTH WILL, NO DOUBT, BE CHANGED WHEN NEW MEMBERS ARE ADDED TO THE COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER STATISTIC WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU IS THAT 9 OF THE RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE DISTRICTS WITH 20% OR MORE FARMERS IN THEM. FIVE OF THESE RETURNING 9 MEMBERS ARE FROM THE SOUTH AND 4, INCLUDING MY DISTRICT, ARE FROM THE MIDWEST. THIS REFLECTS THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE NUMBER OF FARM DISTRICTS HAVING 20% OR MORE FARM POPULATION NOW STANDS AT ONLY 47. THIS COMPARES WITH 53 SUCH DISTRICTS TWO YEARS AGO; 165 DISTRICTS TWELVE YEAR AGO; and 251 SUCH DISTRICTS 42 YEARS AGO.

*Speech before the Ks. Farm Bureau
12-12-66*

THE 90TH CONGRESS ON AGRICULTURE LEGISLATION

THE 90TH CONGRESS WILL BE A NEW BALL GAME. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT REPUBLICANS HAVE NOW MOVED OFF OF THE ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE AND ONTO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS FAR AS THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS IS CONCERNED. AS MY COLLEAGUE FROM OKLAHOMA, MR. BELCHER, QUIPPED DURING THE 89TH CONGRESS: "THIS REMINDS ME OF A FOOTBALL TEAM I ONCE PLAYED FOR; THE LARGEST GAIN WE MADE ALL DAY WAS A FIVE YARD LOSS".

YET, ANY EXHUBERANCE WE MAY HAVE STILL CANNOT CHANGE THE BASIC ARITHMETIC THAT IS BEFORE US. THE LINE-UP IN THE HOUSE IS STILL 248 TO 187, THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN THE SENATE IS STILL 2-1 AND THE ADMINISTRATION STILL HAS WITHIN ITS POWER THE CAPACITY TO STOP ANY BILL THAT CONGRESS MIGHT BE INCLINED TO PASS.

IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION, I FORESEE ACTION FORTHCOMING ON AN REA FINANCING BILL. AS YOU MAY RECALL, I WORKED ON THE LEGISLATION AT LENGTH LAST YEAR AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION AND CREDIT SUBCOMMITTEE, UNDER CONGRESSMAN POAGE WHO, IN JANUARY, WILL BECOME CHAIRMAN OF THE FULL COMMITTEE, AS A RESULT OF CHAIRMAN COOLEY'S DEFEAT IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION. THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THIS AREA IF A MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE BILL IS TO BE ENACTED.

ANOTHER SUBJECT THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MOST CERTAINLY WILL TAKE UP, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PROGRAM IS EXPIRING, IS THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM WAS ENACTED IN 1964 AS A PROGRAM TO REMOVE SURPLUSES AND TO UPGRADE THE NUTRITIONAL LEVEL OF CERTAIN LOW INCOME PEOPLE. IN 1964 THE POINT WAS MADE THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS SUBSTANTIALLY A WELFARE PROGRAM AND AS SUCH SHOULD REQUIRE THE STATES TO SHARE IN ITS COST. UNFORTUNATELY, AN AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE STATE SHARING, THOUGH ADOPTED BY OUR AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, WAS REJECTED ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE. I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THIS SUBJECT IS AGAIN BROUGHT UP IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, WHICH EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 1967.

DEC 1 2 1966

ANOTHER MATTER THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CERTAINLY, IN MY OPINION, WILL BE UNITED ON IS THE "SMALL WATERSHED" PROGRAM. LAST YEAR THE ADMINISTRATION CAME UP WITH A RIDICULOUS OPINION THAT THE 12 YEAR OLD STATUTE WAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL BECAUSE IT CALLED FOR CONGRESSIONAL DETERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. OUR COMMITTEE REFUSED TO YIELD, AND THE WHITE HOUSE FINALLY RELENTED AND SENT SOME 70 PROJECTS TO THE CONGRESS, 50 OF WHICH WERE APPROVED PRIOR TO THE ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS. THOSE NOT APPROVED PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT INCLUDE TWO IN KANSAS; THE LOWER WAKARUSA AND SPILLMAN CREEK. FRANKLY, I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ON WHAT BASIS THE WHITE HOUSE REASONED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL ARGUMENTS AND HOW IT EXPECTS TO MAKE THEM STICK IN THE 90TH CONGRESS.

LEFT OVER FROM LAST YEAR WAS LEGISLATION DEALING WITH FUTURES TRADING, MOST OF WHICH WAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED BY THE COMMODITY EXCHANGES AND THE PRIVATE TRADE. IT SEEMS, HOWEVER, THAT INTERMINGLED IN THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, THERE MAY BE SOME ITEMS OF MERIT THAT DESERVE THE ATTENTION OF THE NEW CONGRESS. IN PARTICULAR, I AM REFERRING TO THE IDEA THAT COVERAGE OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT SHOULD APPLY UNIFORMLY TO ALL ^{Contracts} ~~COMMODITIES~~ ^{upon} WHICH FUTURES ARE TRADED. IT MAKES LITTLE SENSE TO SAY THAT SOME COMMODITIES SHOULD BE COVERED AND THE CONTRACTS THAT ARE MADE ON THEM AND THE "FAIR PLAY" AND "PUBLIC DISCLOSURE" REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW, BUT THAT OTHER COMMODITIES NEED NOT BE SO COVERED: FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN THE ACT WAS LAST AMENDED, HOG BELLIES WERE NOT BEING TRADED ON THE FUTURES MARKET, TODAY THEY ARE. NOW IT WOULD SEEM CONTRACTS FOR HOG BELLIES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE ACT AS MUCH AS CONTRACTS FOR SOYBEANS OR WHEAT.

IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 90TH CONGRESS, PUBLIC LAW 480 (FOOD FOR PEACE PROGRAM) WILL BE UP FOR AN EXTENSION AGAIN. IN THE MEANTIME, THE COMMITTEE IS GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN HOW THE NEW CHANGES IN THE LAW ARE BEING ADMINISTERED. IN THIS REGARD, I LEAVE TOMORROW FOR A ONE WEEK TRIP TO INDIA TO EXAMINE, FIRST HAND, THE PROBLEMS IN REGARD TO THE PROGRAM IN THAT COUNTRY.

DEC 12 1966

IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MAJOR FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS RUN THROUGH 1969, THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES WILL BE MADE DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THIS MEANS THAT EXCEPT FOR MODIFICATIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS, THE WHEAT, FEED GRAINS, COTTON, WOOL AND CROPLAND ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS ARE GOING TO REMAIN PRETTY MUCH AS THEY HAVE BEEN FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS.

THE NEW COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE MOST LIKELY WILL BE SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN THE PRESENT 35 MEMBER UNIT. A COMMITTEE SIZE OF SOME 27-30 MEMBERS IS MOST LIKELY. IT IS INTERESTING TO LOOK AT THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE RETURNING MEMBERS. VISUALIZE, IF YOU CAN, A MAP OF THE UNITED STATES AND THEN DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE DOWN THE CENTER AND CALL IT THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL BUT ONE OF THE RETURNING REPUBLICANS ARE FROM WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI. FURTHER VISUALIZE THIS MAP OF THE UNITED STATES, AND DRAW A LINE HORIZONTALLY AND CALL IT THE MASON-DIXON LINE; YOU WILL FIND THAT ALL BUT 3 OF THE RETURNING DEMOCRATS ARE FROM SOUTH OF THE MASON-DIXON LINE, ACTUALLY 8 SOUTHERNERS AND 3 TEXANS MAKE UP THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF RETURNING DEMOCRATS. THIS GEOGRAPHICAL BALANCE OF THE WEST AND THE SOUTH WILL, NO DOUBT, BE CHANGED WHEN NEW MEMBERS ARE ADDED TO THE COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER STATISTIC WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU IS THAT 9 OF THE RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE DISTRICTS WITH 20% OR MORE FARMERS IN THEM. FIVE OF THESE RETURNING 9 MEMBERS ARE FROM THE SOUTH AND 4, INCLUDING MY DISTRICT, ARE FROM THE MIDWEST. THIS REFLECTS THE CHANGING NATURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. THE NUMBER OF FARM DISTRICTS HAVING 20% OR MORE FARM POPULATION NOW STANDS AT ONLY 47. THIS COMPARES WITH 53 SUCH DISTRICTS TWO YEARS AGO; 165 DISTRICTS TWELVE YEAR AGO; and 251 SUCH DISTRICTS 42 YEARS AGO.