

\$2.00 per bushel. Prices normally decline at harvest time, but they are unusually low this year because of the record 1994 crop, projected at 9.6 billion bushels. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been criticized in some corners for setting the 1994 Acreage Reduction Program (ARP) at zero percent.

Soybean prices have also declined, from an average of \$6.72 per bushel in June to \$5.31 per bushel in September—and less than \$5.00 per bushel at some local elevators. This decrease was fueled by the highest-ever national soybean yields, producing a record crop of between 2.3 billion and 2.5 billion bushels. Demand is expected to increase next year from greater exports and more livestock feeding, but not enough to compensate for the record crop. Low soybean prices are particularly damaging for Hoosier farmers because Indiana is the only major soybean state where the crop is projected to be lower than 1993.

OPTIONS FOR RAISING PRICES

I have urged the Department of Agriculture to consider a number of options to boost corn and soybean prices. Possibilities include:

Increase corn ARP: USDA recently announced a preliminary 1995 corn Acreage Reduction Program of 7.5% below the established base. This would take land out of production and improve corn prices for the coming year.

Raise corn support loan rate: Some farm groups have called for an increase in the 1994 Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan rate from the current, \$1.89/bushel to as high as \$2.40/bushel. They claim this would have a direct impact on prices in the near future. USDA is considering an increase in the loan rate for 1995.

Allow 1994 corn crop entry into Farmer-Owned Reserve: The President has allowed farmers to place 1994 corn in the Reserve when their CCC loans mature after 9 months. It is unclear what impact this would have on short-term prices.

Soybeans on "flex" acres: If USDA determines that the price of soybeans next year will be below 105% of the loan level, it can prohibit program participants from planting soybeans on their optional flex acres. This would reduce production and increase prices.

Export Enhancement Program (EEP): EEP has been used in the past to help export soybean oil. If world prices continue to fall, USDA could increase EEP support of soybean oil to maintain America's competitive position.

Ethanol and other alternative products: As of January 1, about 30% of the U.S. gasoline market will be required to use ethanol in reformulated gasoline. Over time, corn prices may rise as much as 20 cents per bushel because of this rule. Congress is also examining ways to encourage the use of soy ink and other non-food uses for American agricultural products.

THE 1995 FARM BILL

The effectiveness of these measures to support prices will also be addressed in the 1995 farm bill. Government commodity support programs must be reauthorized next year. The 1990 farm act made farm programs more market-oriented, giving farmers more flexibility in choosing which crops to plant. A provision known as the Madigan amendment gave the Secretary of Agriculture more flexibility in setting loan rates and set-asides to maintain competitiveness in world markets. I expect this trend towards market flexibility to continue in the 1995 farm bill. Program flexibility puts more decisions in the hands of farmers rather than government bureaucrats, but it can also lead to greater price fluctuations for farmers.

The farm bill should also address the hidden costs of farming. First, participating in crop support programs should be less complicated. The paperwork for program participation should not be a burden to farmers. Second, government regulations should be flexible at the local level. It is not possible to set detailed and comprehensive guidelines from the top, and major regulations should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, using risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis.

Some of the biggest issues in the 1995 farm bill will be environmental issues, including wetlands policy, and renewing the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Current wetlands policy that restricts farming on wetlands makes no distinction between wetlands that are environmentally important and those that are not. I am supportive of efforts to narrow the definition of wetlands.

CRP has been successful at boosting prices and preserving valuable resources. Because of our terrain, the average Southern Indiana farmer receives even more in CRP payments than in deficiency payments, and I support the full reauthorization of CRP. In addition, the 1995 farm bill should make CRP flexible enough to distinguish between more and less environmentally important lands. The program should remain completely voluntary.

CONCLUSION

I recognize the great risks in the farming business. The risks involved in farming are greater than in most industries, and Congress should continue to provide some stability to agriculture and assure that farmers can maintain a decent living and have a reasonable return on their investments. The 1995 farm bill is an opportunity to improve farm support programs and reduce the regulatory burden on farmers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TAX CREDIT

HON. BILL EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation that I believe to be an integral part of the official English movement. As you may know, I am the author of H.R. 123, the Language of Government Act which seeks to make English the official language of the United States Government. This legislation is the perfect complement to the Language of Government Act. It recognizes the need for a highly skilled labor force and provides a tax credit to employers for the cost of providing English language instruction to their limited-English-proficient employees.

Many Americans lack the language skills and literacy necessary to take full advantage of roles as responsible citizens and productive workers. While many employers acknowledge the need to educate their workers and have demonstrated an interest in establishing on-site training programs for their employees, the high cost of doing so often prevents them from taking any concrete action. This legislation will provide them with an incentive to offer this crucial instruction to their employees and make the workplace a friendlier, and less daunting environment for non-English-proficient employees.

NATIONAL SECURITY REVITALIZATION ACT

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on the opening day of this historic Congress, I take great pleasure in introducing the National Security Revitalization Act which implements the foreign affairs and the national defense provisions in the Contract With America.

It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as the chairman of the newly named International Relations Committee and I intend to ensure that our highest priority will be the consideration of this important and long overdue legislation which will ensure that we maintain a strong defense capability around the world and imposes serious limitations on the subordination of American troops to foreign command in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In addition, the bill will strengthen critically important regional institutions, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and will ensure that our participation in any future U.N. mission directly serves our national interests.

Together with my good friend and colleague, FLOYD SPENCE, the chairman of the National Security Committee, we will bring the National Security Revitalization Act back to the House floor to restore American credibility around the world and to ensure that Congress plays an enhanced role in the foreign policy making process.

In the second session of the 103d Congress, Republican members of the Foreign Affairs Committee laid a solid foundation for the attainment of these objectives by championing key provisions in the Foreign Relations Act for fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 1995 and the NATO Participation Act which I introduced in March of last year.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this vitally important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE LEGISLATION

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish a Rapid Deployment Force as an added resource of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This force would be temporarily deployed by the FBI, to assist local authorities in investigating an increasing of crime in a particular municipality, due to an increase of drug or gang related activity. The Rapid Deployment Force would represent a partnership between the Federal, State, and local crime fighting entities.

This past weekend in my hometown of Hartford, CT, a rash of crime broke out leaving four dead, another critically wounded, and three others injured from gunshot wounds. This final criminal outbreak of 1994 brought the number of homicides in the city to 58, an increase of over 400 percent in the past 2 years. As the spread of drugs, and the city's

gang problem continues to grow, the need for additional resources is evident. I am thankful that the recently enacted crime bill is bringing more cops on the beat into our Nation's cities and towns. I commend the Attorney General and the Department of Justice for their work in ensuring the rapid appropriation of funds for the Cops on the Beat Program.

However, it is not enough to just deploy more police officers on the street. A Federal Rapid Response team would bring with it resources and expertise that State and local governments cannot be expected to supply. I believe that a Rapid Deployment Force is essential in investigating and combating crime in towns and cities when drug and gang related activities escalate. And I urge my colleagues to support this important crime fighting legislation.

THE STUTTGART FISH FARMING EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORY

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to transfer the Stuttgart Fish Farming Experimental Laboratory to the Department of Agriculture.

The lab was established in 1958 under the Interior Department and charged with conducting research and experimentation to solve problems relating to the commercial production of warmwater fish. Located in the heart of the Nation's catfish and baitfish production region, the lab and its staff have become nationally renowned for their work on behalf of the aquaculture industry.

In the years since the laboratory was established aquaculture has progressed rapidly, becoming the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture, accounting for nearly 300,000 domestic jobs. My home State is the largest producer of commercial baitfish and the second largest producer of catfish—accounting for nearly \$100 billion in annual revenue.

Mr. Speaker this simple bill will transfer the laboratory from the Interior Department to USDA. I believe that this move makes sense because the people who do business with this laboratory are farmers, and are best served by USDA. The bill also changes the laboratory's name to the Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center to better reflect the excellent work that the lab produces. I look forward to passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO SADIE HARVEY ODOM

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, every so often in life, if we are fortunate enough, someone comes along whose grace and wisdom enriches our own experience. Someone whose capacity to serve others inspires us to move beyond the limits we impose on ourselves, even as we wonder if we can ever match such a gift for giving.

Sadie Harvey Odom, a 41-year resident of Akron, OH, was such a human being. Every

person whose life she touched—from her family, to her friends, to the broader community in which she lived—marveled at her generosity of spirit, force of intellect, and strength of character.

Born in Atlanta in 1924, Sadie Harvey completed high school at the age of 15. She went on to graduate cum laude 4 years later from Morris Brown College, where she was a founding member of the school's Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority chapter. She had hoped to study medicine at the University of Georgia, but was denied admission because the school would not educate African-Americans. Always determined to forge ahead, Sadie Harvey worked in the aeronautical engineering lab at a U.S. Air Force base in Hampton, VA, during World War II. Upon returning to Atlanta after the war, she met and married Vernon Odom, with whom she would share the next 47 years of her life. The Odoms moved to Akron in 1953, intending to stay only for 3 years. Instead, they spent the rest of their lives together in Akron, raising a family and devoting themselves to community service and the betterment of African-Americans.

Vernon Odom headed the Akron Urban League and the Akron Community Service Center for nearly three decades. His beloved wife, Sadie, was beside him every step of the way. She was a guiding force behind local Urban League programs and volunteered with many other civic organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the United Negro College Fund, and the NAACP.

Even as she gave selflessly of her time and herself in support of her community, Mrs. Odom raised a superb family of her own and worked as a medical technologist at St. Thomas Hospital. She applied her biology training to her volunteer work, as well, helping to test Akron's schoolchildren for sickle cell anemia and elderly residents for diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, there are many people in this world who live full, honest, and caring lives. And then there are the Sadie Odoms, whose integrity and selflessness leave a mark that is indelible.

Sadie Harvey Odom passed away on October 20, 1994, after a long illness. An entire community mourns as it contemplates this loss. But we also share the gratitude that comes from knowing a person with a heart of grace and a soul of love—from knowing Sadie Odom.

THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND MILITARY READINESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, November 23, 1994, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND MILITARY READINESS

The commitment of U.S. forces to Haiti and Kuwait has raised concerns about the "thinning out" of the U.S. military since the end of the Cold War. Defense spending has declined by 11% since the 1989 peak of \$303 billion, following a decade of massive increases. The defense budget edged up this year to \$264 billion, and is projected to stay

near current levels over the next four years. The question now is whether defense spending is sufficient to meet the new and emerging threats to our interests here and abroad.

NEW GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

There is no doubt that the United States is more secure today than it was when thousands of Soviet nuclear warheads targeted American cities. Today there is no comparable direct military threat to the United States. The U.S. is the strongest military power in the world today, and has the best trained and equipped fighting force.

Yet, the world remains a dangerous place. The collapse of the Soviet empire has resulted in increasing instability in many parts of the world. Despite the desire of Americans to pay more attention to solving our own problems, we continue to have global interests that we must defend. Much of the world is threatened with chaos—full of civil wars, escalating ethnic and religious conflicts, and massive surges of refugees. Such instability can hurt the U.S. economy, limit our access to vital resources, including oil, and produce an international environment hostile to our interests and values.

The post Cold-War world is not peaceful, but the U.S. cannot afford to intervene everywhere. The challenge today is to identify the interests we are prepared to defend by force and ensure that our armed forces have the tools they need to do the job we ask of them. This challenge becomes even more critical as we plan for an uncertain future, since defense budget decisions we make today will determine the kind of armed forces we will have several years down the road.

THREAT-BASED DEFENSE

Our defense spending should be based on threats to our national security. During the Cold War, the threat was the Soviet Union, and our spending on defense was designed to meet that threat. Our task is to reorient our defense to respond to new threats in the post-Cold War world. Those threats include: the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; the threat of large-scale aggression by major regional powers such as Iraq; the threats to democracy and reform movements in the former Soviet Union, particularly Russia; and economic dangers to our security if we fail to build a competitive and growing economy here at home. The bottom line is that it will cost the U.S. less to respond to these new threats than it cost us to meet the Soviet threat.

The Pentagon has developed a defense plan that responds to the changed international environment. The so-called bottom-up review concludes that the U.S. must maintain a force capable of fighting and winning two nearly simultaneous regional wars, such as another Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and a North Korean invasion of South Korea. The Administration says that it has fully budgeted for its planned force structure, but that changes in inflation rates could change future funding needs. Others argue the budget crunch will be more severe as new procurement programs swell funding requirements. The Pentagon acknowledges it cannot fund all the new weapons programs now in development, and is assessing which programs to fund and which to cancel.

READINESS

After the end of the Vietnam War in the mid-1970s, rapid cuts in the defense budget and the loss of skilled personnel eroded the U.S. military's combat readiness. Some critics say that we are now facing a similar problem of a "hollow military." They say the costs of operations in Somalia, Rwanda and now in Haiti are placing an excessive