

The shortage of grain on a worldwide basis has heightened the already disastrous situation for ranchers affected by the drought. Because of a lack of grain, producers in my district are being forced to sit back and watch their cattle starve.

This legislation will allow the USDA to release 46 million bushels of feed grain that is being held in reserves.

Although this resolution is not amendable I would like to urge the USDA to make this grain available directly to the ranchers in the drought affected States who are in need.

New Mexico ranchers need this relief now. Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 181, which directs the Department of Agriculture to release the national grain reserve. This action is necessary because of the severe drought conditions being experienced in the Plains and Southwest portions of this country.

Severe drought conditions have stunted the growing season for Texas cotton, wheat, and grain farmers. Soil erosion is becoming a critical issue as the dry season is beginning and summer winds will literally scour fields clean of nutrient rich topsoil.

Texas cattle producers are also being devastated by the drought because it requires them to buy more feed at a time when prices are extraordinarily high. Livestock producers in general are suffering tremendous losses because the natural forage withered due to lack of measurable rainfall.

This resolution allows the release of the reserve only if the President declares a natural disaster in the region, which President Clinton has done, or if we pass this concurrent resolution declaring that such reserves should be released.

Without immediate assistance, ranchers will continue to cull their herds, which will result in higher beef prices for consumers once the supply is exhausted. Mr. Speaker, this is not simply a rural issue. If prices of feed grain and beef are allowed to fluctuate wildly, all of us will feel the impact at the supermarket. We need stable food prices, and this resolution can help achieve that goal. I urge the Department of Agriculture to release this reserve directly to the cattle producers and not through the Commodity Credit Corporation to speed the aid directly to where it is needed.

Banks should also be allowed to extend nonperforming loans without increasing reserves. Allowing banks the flexibility to assist farmers will ensure my State's farmers can survive through this drought.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BARRETT] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 181, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution expressing the

Sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should dispose of all remaining commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under the Agricultural Act of 1970 to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, such as prolonged drought or flooding."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 181.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska? There was no objection.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY LAPSE OF EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-225)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order No. 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 4, 1996.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from North Carolina [Mr. JONES] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DISCUSSION OF 1997 BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mr. ABERCROMBIE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say it was a pleasure to be here today, but I intend to discuss the 1997 budget today.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that I analyzed the 1996 budget activity in the context of an extended debate that took place on this floor, and in the other body, and you may recall, Mr. Speaker, that I invoked Members from the other body, like Mr. HOLLINGS and Mr. DORGAN, covering the full range of opinions certainly in the Democratic Party. I indicated in that discussion that I had in conjunction with the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in 1996 that there was no such thing as a balanced budget being prepared, let alone put forward in 1996, and we have the same situation today.

Mr. Speaker, I do not doubt that it is very important for Mr. DOLE to resign from the Senate to run as citizen and/or candidate DOLE, because I do not think that in his role as Senator, let alone majority leader, that he would have the opportunity to have much credibility in the way of putting forward a balanced budget amendment, let alone putting forward a balanced budget for 1997.

My fundamental point, Mr. Speaker, is that the budget that will be presented to us shortly, possibly this week, and be dispatched as quickly as possible, as opposed to 1996, dispatched as quickly as possible because it is not a balanced budget.

Now, my good friend, my good and dear friend I would say, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. KASICH], will come down, and he is an engaging individual. When I state my affection and friendship for him, Mr. Speaker, you know that it is a feeling that is genuine on my part. I value his friendship and I have genuine affection for him as an individual, but he has an impossible task. I grant he is probably the best one to try to put it forward.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, he is an avuncular person, even as yourself, and he will come down on the floor, and with his engaging smile and his wit and rhetoric, we will put the best possible face on the fact that this is not a balanced budget document. It is not balanced for 1997, it most certainly is not going to be balanced for the year 2002.

The reason I am taking the special order time, Mr. Speaker, with the budget, is that given the rules of the House it is virtually impossible to have any kind of lengthy discussion that