

Congress who has ever served with him will be proud to make that boast.

Mr. Speaker, I want to once again commend Mr. MFUME for his great service to this House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HOUSE FAILS TO PASS FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. CHAMBLISS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would certainly commend the gentlewoman from California for her kind words about Congressman MFUME. Members on both sides of the aisle are going to miss him. He spoke with a lot of emotion and from his heart and spoke with a lot of reason in a House that does not always exercise reasonableness, and he will be missed.

I have with me tonight my colleague and agriculture friend from Iowa, TOM LATHAM. We come here tonight out of a sense of terrible frustration for what is going on in the agriculture business in this House.

We made an attempt today to bring the 1995, and here we are in 1996, farm bill to the floor for a vote. The Committee on Agriculture has worked very diligently and very hard over the last 13 months trying to formulate and change the agricultural policy in this country to ensure that we have strong and viable agricultural programs moving into the 21st century. We met all day on Tuesday to discuss what is now the new form of the farm bill that is the second bill that has been passed by that committee, the first one having been a part of the Balanced Budget Act of 1995 that unfortunately was vetoed by President Clinton. Had that bill not been vetoed, our farmers would have had back in December the ability to plan and determine what they were going to be able to do with their farm operation for 1996. But that did not happen. So we came back to the table on Tuesday of this week. We again brought forth the bill that was contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, debated it thoroughly in the Committee on Agriculture on Tuesday and were in great hopes that it would come to the floor today. But, unfortunately, our friends on the other side of the aisle would not agree with us to bring this bill up today.

TOM, I know you share that same frustration and I know your folks in Iowa are as upset as I am and you are and as my farmers in Georgia are.

Mr. LATHAM. You are exactly right. I appreciate the chance to visit with you about it.

I do not know how to explain to my farmers in Iowa who last year were devastated by floods in southern Iowa going down into northeast Missouri, what to tell those people, why a group of people, led by the leadership on the minority side, would stop a farm bill that would finally give them some hope, give them some income next year. Just continuing what we have now would give them no income next year. These people are going to be asked to pay back their deficiency payments.

If you will remember just last week, we tried to put the farm bill on the continuing resolution and once again, because of the leadership of the minority party, they threatened a filibuster on the continuing resolution and thereby stopped the farm bill at that time.

I am very discouraged at this point, because even though we were promised cooperation so that we could advance a farm bill, it was not brought forth from the minority.

We will continue to work very hard and during the next few weeks to make sure that we do get an agreement, that we get a farm bill. It is needed very much for people who are in desperate straits at this time.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. We are leaving here today. We voted on and passed a bill to adjourn this House until the 26th day of February. So we know it is going to be then. You are going to have the same problem in going home to your farmers and saying, "Folks, you know, we're not even going to be able to take this bill up until the 26th of February," and it really will not make any difference whether we took it up in advance of that or not because the Senate is out until the 26th of February, they have already said that, and we are sort of going to be in limbo until then.

I am very frustrated, I am very upset about this, and I certainly hope that during these next 3 weeks as we are out of this House, that all Members on both sides of the aisle are going to take the opportunity to sit back and reflect on the fact that 2 percent of the population of this country feed 100 percent of the population of this country, as well as many, many other hundreds of thousands and millions of folks all across this world, because we grow not only the finest quality and most abundant agricultural products in the world but the cheapest agricultural products in the world.

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Our farmers need good, solid farm programs to ensure that they are able to get some sort of return on their investment to keep them going. That has been our goal in this farm bill from January 4, 1995, when we started last year. It is still our goal.

Mr. LATHAM. You are exactly right, and this farm bill is real reform, a way of getting our farmers to respond to the market rather than the government control, the centralized control that we have had in the past, and look-

ing at the floor here, I mean, there are three people on the floor here this evening. If it had not been for what happened this evening because of the minority's technical procedural glitch they put in, we could be having this farm bill debate right now and passing the farm bill for the people at home.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I thank the gentleman for joining me tonight. I know you have the same deep regret that I do that we do not right now have a farm bill in place that we could have had tonight. We will continue to work over the next 3 weeks and hopefully on February 26 we will come back in the frame of mind to get it done and get it done soon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. METCALF). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON 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 gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

HERE THE CONGRESS GOES AGAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia [Mr. WISE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I am going to follow up on the previous speakers a little bit.

Mr. Speaker, here the Congress goes again, quite literally goes right out that door, heads for the airport, heads for the trains, heads for the highway, heading home.

Of course, it has been a rough week that the Speaker's leadership has presented to the Congress. The Congress has been in session all of 2 days of which part of it was being here for a joint session to hear the President of France, Mr. Chirac. There was a well-known Republican Attorney General named John Mitchell who served under President Nixon who had a saying, I believe it was Attorney General Mitchell, that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. The Republican leadership had modified that a little bit to when the going gets tough, it is time to go, go home, go anywhere, get out of here, because the going is tough right now.