

House by voice vote on June 4. The Senate unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 on June 5. The Senate resolution is identical to the House resolution, as amended.

With this action today, we will officially send to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman our desire for him to immediately release the 45 million bushels of feed grains held in reserve. The release of this grain will not solve the current crisis for cattlefeeders, but it will help and possibly be enough to get some through an extremely severe drought and save their operations.

Farmers who own livestock are being severely hard hit with the drought conditions, when coupled with a low point in the cattle cycle, and record high grain prices.

The grain in this disaster reserve, nearly 45 million bushels, is worth an estimated \$200 million and would provide for all the cattle on feed in the affected States enough feed grain for over 2 weeks.

Passage of the resolution not only makes sense, it saves money. The Federal Government is currently spending \$10 million a year to store this grain.

The Government should not be paying huge storage fees and holding grain from the marketplace when the United States is experiencing record low grain supplies.

This is an important concurrent resolution and I thank the leadership for providing for its swift consideration.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his explanation.

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 63, which is nearly identical to the legislation passed by this body last week, House Concurrent Resolution 181, introduced by my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee, Mr. BARRETT and Mr. EMERSON, and cosponsored by a number of other Members.

As was noted last week, the Clinton administration has been working on a similar effort to make Government-owned feed grain stocks available to hard-pressed livestock producers. Secretary Glickman transmitted to the President a request last week for the declaration of a state of emergency to allow the Department of Agriculture to dispose of the feed grain stocks under USDA's control.

There is no doubt that there is a need to alleviate the stress facing producers in many parts of this country due to the severe drought in the Southern Plains and flooding and excessive rainfall in the Northern Plains and eastern Corn Belt. These natural disasters come at a time when grain stocks are at their lowest levels in decades causing record market prices and cattle producers are receiving even less for their animals than during the Great Depression based on inflation-adjusted dollars.

The release of this grain would be in addition to the actions already taken by the Clinton administration to help alleviate the stress in the livestock sector. These actions include: Release of Conservation Reserve Program

acres for haying and grazing, extension of noninsured crop disaster assistance program coverage, extension of the Livestock Feed Program, the release of additional funds for emergency loans, advance purchases of beef for the school lunch program, and export credit guarantees for meat.

In my own State of Texas we are facing losses in the livestock and crop sectors in the billions of dollars. Sixty-two percent of our rangeland is rated as being in poor to very poor condition and dairy producers in Texas are facing a possible doubling of their normal feed costs due to the increases in the cost of feed and hay they must utilize to produce milk each day.

I would encourage my colleagues to support this resolution. The livestock sector in our country contributes billions of dollars to our economy and if we do not take actions to help stem the liquidation of herds now, we will pay the price later for rebuilding that infrastructure.

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAZIO of New York). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 63

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF DISASTER RESERVE FOR ASSISTANCE TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.

In light of the prolonged drought and other adverse weather conditions existing in certain areas of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture should promptly dispose of all commodities in the disaster reserve maintained under section 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a) to relieve the distress of livestock producers whose ability to maintain livestock is adversely affected by disaster conditions, such as prolonged drought or flooding.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 Senate Concurrent Resolution 63.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on further consideration of H.R. 3603, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 451 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3603.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. LINDER, Chairman pro tempore, in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Tuesday, June 11, 1996, the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Mexico [Mr. SKEEN] had been disposed of and page 58, line 1 through page 68 line 22 was open for amendment at any point.

Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill?

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I want to enter into a brief colloquy with the gentlewoman from Ohio, if that would be possible.

Being a farmer-rancher by trade back in Oklahoma, I am particularly sensitive about the nature of the farm bill and appropriation bills or any other pieces of legislation that might have an impact on rural American production in agriculture. If I could, I would ask of the gentlewoman, it is my understanding that her provision in this appropriation bill does not impose any new requirements or provisions beyond those in the farm bill; is that correct?

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I would simply state to the gentleman that that is correct. The amount that was included in our bill was passed unanimously by our subcommittee. It was also passed in full committee and its intention is that the transition subsidy payments would require that farmers be engaged in the production of commodities or conserving purposes in order to receive assistance.

So the answer to the gentleman's question is yes.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for her reassurance that her language or provision does not impose any new requirement on producers beyond those in the farm bill.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?