can reshape Government so that we can provide rural Americans the tools they need to meet the challenges of our global marketplace.

I commend Senator DASCHLE for his work in the development of these bills. The priority that he has given to agriculture in introducing these bills as part of his leadership package is most welcome and most appropriate. I am proud to be part of his leadership team and a cosponsor of these two bills.

Both of these bills recognize that our Nation's family farmers and ranchers are the economic lifeblood of rural America. When they do well, rural America does well.

FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to make available to all my colleagues and their staff an article by Wernor Fornos, president of the Population Institute, which articulates the importance of a vote that Congress will cast in February. This vote will affect the lives of thousands of families worldwide. This vote will determine whether previously appropriated fiscal year 1997 funds for international family planning will be released only 5 months after the fiscal year for which they were provided has begun, or 9 months after it has begun. Releasing these funds in March as opposed to July is critical—international family planning programs have sustained massive cuts over the past year and a half. These reductions have been punitive and unprecedented. They are, quite literally, threatening the health of women and children.

I ask my colleagues to consider this article when they cast their vote in February. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 22, 1997]

NEEDED: FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS

(By Werner Fornos)

By Feb. 1, President Clinton is expected to present to the new Congress a finding that the current method of dispensing international population assistance is harmful and counterproductive to US program efforts, and unquestionably it is.

In an outrageous attempt to watch United States family planning efforts overseas die a slow death, Congress last year approved $385 million for these vital humanitarian programs in 1997. Congress further specified that the money could not be dispensed until July of this year, and even then at a rate of no more than 8 percent a month.

Since the 1997 fiscal year began on Oct. 1, 1996, and ends on Sept. 30, 1997, it is obvious that the legislation was calculated to undermine US efforts to assist developing countries with their family planning needs. The measure is an especially cruel hoax considering that some 500 million women need and want to regulate their fertility but lack access to contraceptives.

Moreover, 585,000 women die annually from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. The World Health Organization believes that the provision of family planning to those who need and want it will reduce maternal mortality by one-fifth.

Sources at the Office of Population in the US Agency for International Development (AID) say the funding restrictions and delays are adding up to millions of dollars in administrative costs. The result is that fewer family planning services are being provided, the health of a great number of women is jeopardized, and government funds are wasted because of unwarranted micromanagement by Congress.

Meanwhile, other development programs—such as child survival, championed by Rep. Chris Smith (R) of New Jersey, Congress's leading opponent of international family planning aid—will be adversely affected because their administrative costs are derived from AID's overall operations budget.

Perhaps the most reprehensible element of the Byzantine metering of international population funds is that it is expected to increase abortions in the world's poorest countries, though its principal architects, Congressman Smith and House Appropriations chairman Bob Livingston (R) of Louisiana, purport to be abortion opponents.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that reducing family planning funds is a sure-fire way to increase abortions. A 35 percent reduction of population spending last year was estimated to have caused 1.6 million additional abortions, and a nine-month moratorium plus metering may lead to an even greater number.

If both the US Senate and House of Representatives concur with Mr. Clinton's findings that the strange disbursement schedule for international population funds is detrimental to our family planning efforts overseas, the money can be released starting as early as March 1, rather than July 1.

Though it still will be squeezed out at the rate of 8 percent a month, at least the funds would be delayed five months rather than nine. Neither the federal budget nor the national deficit will be increased by the earlier release date. Congress has already agreed to spend the $385 million on family planning programs overseas. The question is when.

In a world where the population is climbing toward 5.9 billion and increasing by nearly 90 million annually, with 95 percent of the growth in the poorest countries, playing a legislative shell game with human lives is unworthy of a country that prides itself on its humanitarianism. Members of this Congress should take the opportunity to at least partially erase the shame perpetrated by the strident congressional henchmen of the antichoice movement in the last Congress.

TUNA-DOLPHIN BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, last week, Senators STEVENS and BREAUX introduced a bill S. 39, that would significantly weaken protections for dolphins in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean by rewriting—gutting—the ''dolphin safe'' tuna labeling law that Senator BIDEN and I wrote and urged into law in 1990.

Today, the $1 billion U.S. canned tuna market is a dolphin safe market. Consumers know that the dolphin safe label means that dolphins were not chased, harassed, captured, or killed.

Our definition of dolphin safe became law for all the right reasons. Those reasons are still valid today:

First, for the consumers, who were opposed to the encirclement of dolphins with purse seine nets and wanted guarantees that the tuna they consume did not result in harassment, capture, and killing of dolphins; second, for the U.S. tuna companies, who wanted a uniform definition that would not undercut their voluntary efforts to remain dolphin-safe; third, for the dolphins, to avoid harassment, injury and deaths by encirclement; and fourth, for truth in labeling.

Our law has been a huge success. Annual dolphin deaths have declined from 60,000 in 1990 to under 3,000 in 1995. Why mess with success?

The Stevens-Breaux bill would permit more dolphins to be killed than are killed now.

The bill promotes the chasing and encirclement of dolphins, a tuna fishing practice that is very dangerous to dolphins. It does so by gutting the meaning of dolphin safe, the label which must appear on all tuna sold in the United States. The ''dolphin safe'' label has worked: it doesn't need to be updated, as the bill's sponsors claim.

A number of arguments have been made in support of the Stevens-Breaux bill which I would like refute at this time.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT

Bill supporters claim that it is supported by the environmental community. In fact, only a few environmental groups support the Stevens-Breaux bill, while over 85 environmental, consumer, animal protection, labor, and trade groups oppose the Stevens-Breaux bill. I ask unanimous consent to insert a list of these groups in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks. The fact is that the vast majority of environmental organizations in this country and around the world oppose the Stevens-Breaux bill.

2. EMBARGO ON TUNA

The bill's supporters say that it is unreasonable for the United States to continue to impose a unilateral embargo on other fishing nations that wish to sell tuna in our country. I agree. It is time to lift the embargo. That is why Senator BIDEN and I, and a number of our colleagues, introduced legislation in the last session of Congress that would lift the country by country embargo against tuna that is caught by dolphin safe methods. Our bill would give all tuna fishermen the opportunity to export to the U.S. market as long as they use dolphin safe practices. In other words, we would open the U.S. market and comply with international trade agreements without gutting U.S. dolphin protection laws.

We have offered repeatedly over the past year to sit down and negotiate a compromise with the administration. We have stated repeatedly that we agree it is appropriate to lift the embargo. We want to reach a compromise that is in the best interest of the American consumer, dolphins, and our U.S. tuna processing industry.