

the United States. I have seen several examples in Alabama and in the congressional district I represent, the Fourth District of Alabama.

One such example is in the northeastern part of the fourth congressional district in DeKalb County. A family there heard a firefighter tell of a need that was so simple, that many may not have even thought about it, the need for clean, dry socks. It should be noted that this area of the district is the "sock capital" of the world.

After a few phone calls to numerous sock mills in the Fort Payne area, those in Alabama's hosiery industry were there to help, offering socks made in America, from American materials, finished in America, packaged in America and, most importantly, for American heroes in their time of need.

The hosiery industry in Fort Payne and DeKalb County was presented with a need and answered the call within 24 hours. More than 5,000 pairs of socks were delivered to both New York City and the Pentagon.

I want to express my thanks for the actions of the people of the Fort Payne area and the thousands of other families in Alabama's Fourth District who work in these sock mills. I am proud to represent this community, Fort Payne, even though it may not have been in the headlines of the New York Times, they stood up in an important way to help their fellow Americans.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COMBEST. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 248 and rule XVIII, 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. 2646.

□ 1026

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. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, October 3, 2001, Amendment Number 52, printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) had been disposed of

and the amendment in the nature of a substitute was open to amendment at any point.

Are there further amendments?

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. TIERNEY

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 61 offered by Mr. TIERNEY: At the end of the bill, insert the following new section:

SEC. 932. REPORT REGARDING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the National Academy of Sciences, shall complete and transmit to Congress a report that includes recommendations for the following:

(1) DATA AND TESTS.—The type of data and tests that are needed to sufficiently assess and evaluate human health risks from the consumption of genetically engineered foods.

(2) MONITORING SYSTEM.—The type of Federal monitoring system that should be created to assess any future human health consequences from long-term consumption of genetically engineered foods.

(3) REGULATIONS.—A Federal regulatory structure to approve genetically engineered foods that are safe for human consumption.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Agriculture \$500,000 to carry out this section.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, the safety of our food supply is one of our Nation's top priorities obviously, but increasingly, Americans are becoming concerned about the genetically engineered ingredients that are in their food. Because of that concern, I have introduced this reasonable amendment that provides for a National Academy of Sciences study to examine three important health-related aspects of genetically engineered foods.

First, that the tests being performed on genetically engineered foods to ensure their health safety are adequate and relevant.

Second, what type of monitoring system is needed to assess future health consequences from genetically engineered foods.

And third, what type of regulatory structure should be in place to approve genetically engineered foods for humans to eat.

Genetically engineered crops can be found in many of the foods we eat every day. Potato chips, soda, baby food, they all contain genetically engineered ingredients. Last year, many Americans became aware of the pervasiveness of these ingredients in our food when Starlink corn that was genetically engineered wound up in human food, and not just the animal feed for which it was approved.

We need to address this issue before we have more unexpected incidents like this.

Mr. Chairman, this issue is not going to be resolved on its own. Several States, including my home State of

Massachusetts, are considering legislation that would impose a moratorium on the planting of genetically engineered crops. In the meantime, the number of genetically engineered crops planted by farmers is continuing to grow.

In the year 2000, more than 100 million acres of land around the world were planted with genetically engineered crops. This is 25 times as much as was planted just 4 years before. If we do not make an effort to ensure the best testing, monitoring and regulatory structures are in place now, our farmers are going to suffer the consequences of any future lack of public confidence in genetically engineered foods.

This effort has been endorsed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, an organization devoted to improving the safety and nutritional quality of our food supply, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this common sense amendment to protect our farmers and our families.

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

Mr. TIERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's offering the amendment, and I know that this is of great concern. I wanted to mention that numerous studies have been undertaken by private scientific societies, public universities, regulatory agencies and the National Academy of Sciences, which have addressed and dismissed this question.

While the initial reaction to this amendment may be to question the duplicative nature of yet another study, I recognize there is value in continued education, evaluation of the ability to oversee the application of new technologies to our food production and processing systems, and I would like to indicate to the gentleman from Massachusetts that the committee would be happy to accept the amendment.

□ 1030

Mr. TIERNEY. I thank the chairman.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

It is generally agreed that the 21st century brings with it a new era of biological sciences, with the advances in molecular biology and biotechnology that promises longer, healthier lives and the effective control, perhaps elimination of a host of acute and chronic diseases. Right now we have the best safeguards in the world in testing any new food product.

The biotechnological development of new plants that is achieved through this new technology is more safe (according to witnesses testifying at five hearings I have had now in my Subcommittee on Research) more safe than the traditional cross-breeding or hybrid breeding of plants. Most everything that we eat now, and buy at the grocery store, has been genetically modified. The genetic modification has