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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK DAYTON, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, You have taught us, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."—Matthew 17:20.

Is Your promise applicable to us in our circumstances? Will You give us power to remove the mountainous differences that often divide us if we have faith in You—even as small as a mustard seed? We dare to claim that You will. Give us the gift of faith to trust You completely.

Therefore, we ask You to guide us to resolve our present concerns. Bring us together in unity around what is most creative for our Nation. We place our trust in You. Nothing is impossible for You. Help us Lord; we need You. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK DAYTON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 8, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK DAYTON, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. DAYTON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002—CONFERENCE REPORT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 2646, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2646, a bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 6 hours of debate on the conference report, to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

The Senator from Iowa is recognized. Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the conference report on the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act—the farm bill of 2002.

We must have a strong and solid commitment to our family farmers, and we must have a farm bill that provides this foundation. Simply put, through the miracle of modern day agriculture our farmers and ranchers provide significant and mostly unappreciated support for trade, jobs, our Nation's balance of payments; they serve as a catalyst for our Nation's economy and provide American consumers with the most plentiful, inexpensive, and safe food supply in the history of the world. So a good farm bill is essential to every American citizen. The authors of the pending bill have tried to do this with myriad commodity, conservation, nutrition, research, and many other programs. I thank them for their efforts.

Throughout my career as a Senator, Congressman, and congressional staffer, I have had the privilege to work on no less than six major farm bills and numerous pieces of smaller legislation. I must say that from a policy and process standpoint, this farm bill has certainly been unique.

I have always believed we should not play politics with a bill that directly affects the daily lives and pocketbooks of our farmers, ranchers, our consumers, and, yes, even the taxpayer, and those who are hungry and malnourished. That is why I have supported bills written by both Democrats and Republicans.

In my view, a farm bill should have two primary goals:

First, to provide assistance when needed to those who produce the food for our Nation and a troubled and hungry world. That assistance is needed now given the near revolutionary and dynamic changes we face in agriculture today. Put in Dodge City language, the farmer and rancher today are not in very good shape for the shape they are in. These are tough times in farm country.

Second, the bill should provide this assistance through a realistic, reasonable, and predictable farm program

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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