

Mr. Speaker, he is exactly right. We in the Committee on Agriculture have been involved in trying to rewrite every single title of the agriculture programs in preparation for the 1995 farm bill, which is, without a doubt, going to be the most crucial farm bill that we have ever written in Congress. The reason it is going to be so crucial is that it is going to dictate how our agriculture community operates from now into the 21st century.

Irrespective of what any segment of our country thinks, the agriculture community is still the backbone of the economy of this country. The reason they are is that we feed more people in this country than anybody else in the world does. We not only feed folks in this country, we feed folks all over the world. We grow the finest quality agricultural products of anybody in the world.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I think the average American farmer feeds something like 187 people, and 126 people outside of America, so the production is unbelievable. I did not want to break down the gentleman's train of thought there.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. The gentleman is exactly right. Let me tell the Members what we have been thinking about in the Committee on Agriculture, as far as the 1995 farm bill is concerned. We have in place now two agreements, the GATT agreement as well as the NAFTA agreements. Those two agreements are going to dictate certain requirements on the agriculture community from a subsidy standpoint.

We know that when NAFTA and GATT are fully implemented, that we are going to have to transition into a true free world market, and we in the Committee on Agriculture are preparing to do that. We are working very diligently towards modifying and changing programs to ensure that our folks involved in agriculture are able to compete in the world market when those treaties are fully implemented.

Mr. KINGSTON. I would ask the gentleman, Mr. Speaker, is it not true that France subsidizes their farmers? Most European countries subsidize their farmers. Is it not true that American farmers cannot even sell rice in Japan because of the tariff agreement?

So even as we look at GATT, and look at NAFTA, it is not a perfect world. We are not going out there on a free world basis, because of still existing trade barriers and still existing subsidies by foreign governments to their farmers who are competing with our American farmers. Is that not the case?

Mr. CHAMBLISS. If the gentleman will yield, he is absolutely right. Not only France but countries like Spain highly subsidize their farmers. They compete against us in the world market. We simply cannot do that and be able to make a profit in our agriculture community.

A NEW FARM POLICY

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

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, we will continue the same dialog with the gentleman from the First District of Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON].

Mr. Speaker, one way that we look at the farm programs is not from the standpoint of is it a subsidy, because it really is not. The United States government makes an investment into our agriculture community, and a good example of it is with the peanut program.

The peanut program is a highly criticized program, but the reason it is criticized is because most folks just do not understand it. What we do in the United States is we have invested over the last 10 years an average of \$15 million a year into the peanut program. That program in Georgia alone last year was a \$2.5 billion industry. I do not know how many jobs it created, just in the State of Georgia alone. Peanuts are grown from Texas all the way to Georgia, up the seaboard, all the way into Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, really what our farm programs are are investments by the U.S. Government into our agriculture community, into our States, that create jobs, they provide an income for people, and we get a significant return off of those programs from the standpoint of income to our farmers, as well as providing crops.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, one of the things we are telling farmers from the gentleman's district and my district and all over the country is despite the fact that we have gone from \$26 billion in a government investment to \$10 billion over a net year period of time, they are still going to have to change if we are going to have a program. We are moving these programs into no net cost programs. We are transforming them. If people want status quo, they lose out in 1995. That is not what the taxpayers want. They want a balanced budget, which means we are going to have to all do more.

What we try to do, Mr. Speaker, is measure agriculture with the same yardstick that we measure social programs. When we are looking at social programs, if we are going to vote to cut them, then we need to be able to say we are going to do the same thing to agriculture.

What the farmers are saying to us is "We realize that, as long as you are fair and across the board, and do not balance the budget on the back of farmers." In fact, we could not, because even if we eliminate all farm spending, it constitutes three-fifths of 1 percent of the entire budget. It will not balance the budget if we eliminate it completely.

What we are trying to get across to folks, Mr. Speaker, even still, we have to change the program in order to be in

this game. I am glad to say that most of the farmers I have talked to, and I think Mr. CHAMBLISS as well, are saying "Do what you can to balance the budget. Make that the number one priority, but remember, you have to feed people and you have to have farmers to do that, so do not eliminate all your agricultural investments."

Mr. CHAMBLISS. One interesting thing about agriculture, Mr. Speaker, is that our farmers are generally conservative individuals. They fully believe the main thing we need to do in this country is balance the budget. I have not met a single farmer in my district who does not give that a high priority.

At the same time, as the gentleman says, we simply cannot single out the agricultural community to balance the budget. One thing that our chairman of the Committee on Agriculture is committed to do is to ensure that all cuts that are made are taken in a proportionate, on an equal basis with other programs, and agriculture is not singled out.

Let me just address one other point that is very crucial, Mr. Speaker, and it is something that folks who are opposed to the farm programs continually point out. That is that there is a myth out there if agriculture programs are cut out, that the housewife will see a difference in the price at the retail store. That simply is not true.

We have had testimony after testimony in the Committee on Agriculture from individuals who are involved in manufacturing who will tell us that even if we take a price cut, or even if there is a price cut in the support price, there will not be a reflection of that cut in the retail price. They will use that money either to add to their bottom line, to show their stockholders that they have made more money, or they will take that money and put it in promotion to advertise their products. Therefore, there is not going to be a change in the price at the retail store if there are cuts in price supports. That myth simply does not exist.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman has summed it up.

A MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL O'CONNOR TO CONGRESS, REMEMBERING APRIL 16, 1995, AND CLARIFYING THE MEANING OF THE WORD "COVENANT"

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

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I hope an average C-SPAN audience is here for an exciting special order I guess to follow, but also because I have a message from a very important prelate of the Holy Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Speaker, when the Los Angeles Times wrote about my presidential announcement week in New Hampshire and New York, their traveling reporter left out the high point of our whole

trip. It happened on Easter, and it was absolutely the most moving moment for me, for my wife, and our five grown children, and for our nine grandchildren.

At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, the best-known clergyman in all of North and probably South America, John Cardinal O'Connor, from the pulpit, during the homily at Easter High Mass, his Mass, gave a U.S. Congressman the following assignment.

He said:

I noted during communion time the presence of Congressman Bob Dornan. Bob, you can tell the Congress, and through your radio and television programs, the people of the United States, that St. Patrick's Cathedral is not a tomb of dead dreams but a vibrant temple of hope; that the hearts of our Catholic people are by no means empty with dead faith, but are filled with living faith, a faith that will not be ignored, a faith that, however ridiculed, however derided by cynics, will continue to blaze forth through this land to radiate goodness and to bring hope to millions.

Those are stirring words, Mr. Speaker. I will do what Cardinal O'Connor asked of me, I have just done it, because his Christian conviction is my family's conviction, all 20 of us. I truly believe the Cardinal expresses the sentiments of all loyal and practicing Christians.

Easter Sunday, this last April 16, was my Sally's birthday and our 40th wedding anniversary, so, after Mass, to the left of the main altar, the altar where my parents were married June 27, 1929, Sally and I stood in front of the very baptismal font where I was christened in May 1933, and Sally and I renewed our sacred vows of matrimony. I wanted to share the special memories of this day with the L.A. Times, but they saw fit to ignore that any of that happened. I am still surprised.

April 16, Mr. Speaker, 1995, is a day the Dornan clan will remember with great fondness forever and ever. Amen.

Mr. Speaker, a word about that fascinating day following the State of the Union message, when in 1 minute, I made four points. One of those points was stricken from the record, and I was removed from my speaking privileges for the rest of the day. I refused to apologize because I believe everything I said was historical, and I will revisit this well at some point in the future to discuss point 3 that I was suppressed for, but I will at this point discuss point 1.

I said that Mr. Clinton had overstepped the bounds of decency to refer to his presidency as the New Covenant. At the moment of consecration at every Catholic Mass, when the wine is consecrated, the words are "the new and everlasting covenant." However, a week ago Sunday, the scriptural reading from the Gospel hit it right on the head. It is St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, 11:23 to 26. Here is what I took exception to. "In the same way after supper, he," meaning Jesus, "Took the cup saying 'This is the cup of the New Covenant in my blood. Do

this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.'"

Anybody who has seen an Indiana Jones movie knows that the Old Covenant, the Ark of the Covenant, was between Abraham and God. The New Covenant is Jesus Christ, our Savior, who redeemed us with His death on the cross, redeemed us with His precious blood. The New Covenant is not Bill or Hillary Clinton, and I am sure Mother Teresa the other day, when she spent the better part of the day with the First Lady, would have made that very clear to Miss Hillary if she had asked "Mother Teresa, are we perchance the New Covenant?" I think that settles point 1. More about point 2, 4, and that infamous point 3, later.

SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to defend the right of every American to be safe and healthy at work. Americans who do the right thing and go to work every day should not have to pay for it with their health or their lives.

I have two photos with me this evening, and I hope the camera can catch them. The first shows a job which I am personally familiar with, working in a slaughterhouse, which I did when I was working my way through college. It is tough work, it is dangerous work. I have seen people literally mutilated and hurt on the job in this employment, and yet those of us who take for granted the meat in the grocery department do not realize how many men and women each day literally risk their own health and lives in their jobs.

Below this is another photo in which we cannot see the gentleman who is carrying it, but he appears to be a worker in some sort of a grocery outlet carrying a bag of bakery flour, which of course can be a challenge at times, depending on the size of it.

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These are just two, I guess, regular employment opportunities in America that we do not think much of. But the reason that I rise this evening and invite my colleagues to join me is to talk about the men and women who go to work each day in America and how safe it is in their workplace.

Unfortunately, for too many Americans in all kinds of jobs, they pay each day with their health and their lives. The numbers are absolutely staggering in America. Six thousand Americans are killed at work every single year, almost twice as many as are killed by fires in the home. Fifty thousand Americans die of occupational diseases every year, almost as many died in the entire Vietnam War. Sixty thousand Americans are permanently disabled

every year because of their jobs, more than all the newly reported AIDS cases reported in 1992. And more than 6 million workers suffer serious injuries and illnesses every year because of their work. That is more than twice the number of people who live in the city of Chicago. And it happens every single day.

On an average day, 16,000 Americans are injured at work. On an average day, 154 Americans are killed by job-related injuries and occupational diseases. We know how many people are killed and injured in auto crashes and we are horrified by it and we demand that the Government take action to make our highways safer. We know how many people are killed and injured in airplane accidents and we rightly demand safer airports and airplanes. The Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration has said that "if a plane crashed every day in this country, the hue and cry for action would be deafening." But when a plane full of Americans die at work each day, silence is all we hear. These are not just numbers. They are real people. Their only fault is they get up and go to work every day to provide for themselves and their family, and that is certainly no fault. They are our coworkers, our friends, our relatives, our family, our neighbors.

Darrell Drummer of Loves Park, IL. He was killed in a gravel pit when a cable came loose and struck him in the head. He was 41 years old. Janice Banks of Pulaski, TN, killed when the lumber stacker she was working on fell up against her. Lloyd Mills, who lost his hearing because of this job, and he said, "Had I had the right to wear hearing protection, I would have worn it because the longer I live, the longer I'm going to have to listen to that humming in my ears." Or the 25 workers who died in a poultry processing plant in Hamlet, NC, trapped in a raging fire because the emergency exits had been locked by their employers.

Unsafe workplaces are not limited to giant factories, meatpacking plants, and high elevation construction sites. Job hazards affect Americans who work in all kinds of jobs. They affect the employees of nursing homes who work in what has become one of the most dangerous jobs in America. They affect workers in grocery stores who work with band saws that can cut workers as quickly as they slice meat. They include locked exit doors that trap workers in fires, electrical hazards, toxic chemicals and noise that causes permanent hearing loss.

This special order tonight by my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle is a reminder to those who think it is time to turn back the clock on job safety and health in the workplace, a reminder that the job is not yet done and the victory is not yet won. With me are Members of Congress from across the country, and I might add from both sides of the aisle now, and I