

Pressler said instead of rushing through legislation that he feels would be a detriment of the state's family farming heritage, he would rather see a continuing resolution that will extend the 1990 Farm Bill for another year if there's an impasse on farm bill legislation.

"Farm bills are always late because they are so controversial and they require so much work," he said, "this year in particular because of the severe budgetary crisis we are in.

"We have producers in South Dakota who are not in the farm program, such as many of our cow-calf operators. We have to think about them in terms of international trade and exports. But we also have to think about the impact the huge deficit has on farmers. If the deficit stays as high as it is, it will mean higher interest rates."

"While balancing the budget is a top priority for Pressler, he doesn't want the numbers game to take priority over the people he represents.

"I come from a family farm and I have seen how farm families struggle on the land," he said. "We have to be very careful, but on the other hand we have to be honest with people. There's a lot of stuff floating around this year from the inside-the-Beltway bureaucrats. Every time we have asked the bureaucrats to reorganize they have threatened to close some local offices or take away some local services."

Pressler said the new farm bill must help producers make a decent living and allow them flexibility about what and where they can plant without all the hassle of government rules and regulations.

But he said the most important thing lawmakers can do when writing the farm bill is to provide a framework that assists beginning farmers and provides opportunities for the next generation of South Dakota agricultural producers.

During the 20 years Pressler has been in Washington, the number of farms in South Dakota has dropped from 43,000 to 33,000 this year.

"When I was in 4-H there was a lot of young farmers who went into farming and that was their dream," he said. "But nowadays many of the young 4-H'ers I talk to don't go into farming or ranching. They go out of state in many cases to take jobs."

He said technological changes are a big factor, making it more expensive to get started in farming. But he said young people also don't have the opportunity to borrow the seed money they need.

"We have to be constantly tailoring some of these loan programs for young farmers, change the estate tax law (which I'm trying to do as a member of the Senate Finance Committee) and income averaging for farmers, so young producers can get started," Pressler said.

Getting the message about the needs of South Dakota farmers across to his colleagues is hard, especially when farmers only make up about 2 percent of the nation's population of 700,000 plus is a mere drop in the bucket to the country's 260 million people.

"It is very, very hard because people don't want to listen sometimes," Pressler said. "They think that our farmers are doing OK and they read about the subsidies they receive. There's a lot of disinformation out there that really makes my job a challenge."

THANKS TO THE STAFF

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last Thursday, the Senate passed the fiscal year 1996 foreign operations bill. The vote was 91 to 9. That is the largest number of Senators to vote for a for-

eign aid appropriations bill that I can recall. I want to congratulate Senator MCCONNELL for his efforts in getting the bill done, and for the overwhelming bipartisan vote. I think it shows that despite assertions to the contrary, the Senate and the American people do support foreign aid.

I also want to thank a number of other people who contributed greatly to putting this bill together, and getting it passed.

In the Congress, the majority clerk of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, Jim Bond, was indispensable. Jim has been around here a long time, and has gained the unqualified respect of both sides of the aisle. Senator HATFIELD could not have a more competent and dedicated adviser to the subcommittee. Jim was very ably assisted by Juanita Rilling, who has also gained an expertise in the foreign assistance programs.

On Senator MCCONNELL's personal staff, Robin Cleveland was instrumental in preparing the fiscal year 1996 bill, and in finding common ground with my staff in developing a product that Senator MCCONNELL and I could support and defend. Robin did a superb job in her first year as the subcommittee chairman's principal adviser on a wide range of foreign aid issues. Robin also had the very able and tireless assistance of Billy Piper.

On my side, Tim Rieser, who was a member of the subcommittee staff during my 6 years as chairman, gave me fine assistance throughout. Dick D'Amato, a member of the committee staff, expertly handled several important and difficult issues, including the compromise that was reached on the language concerning Korea and several amendments on the former Yugoslavia. I want to thank him and Senator BYRD for his contribution.

Janice O'Connell and Diana Olbaum of the Foreign Relations Committee staff helped resolve several difficult issues. Pam Norick on Senator MURRAY's staff and Robin Lieberman on Senator FEINGOLD's staff were very helpful in preparing for the contentious debate on international family planning.

There are many people in the administration who deserve mention. While I cannot name them all, I do want to recognize Wendy Sherman, the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs at the State Department. Wendy has been a tireless advocate for the Secretary, and for the American people. Her deputy, Will Davis, was an indispensable link between me and my staff, and the State Department. Will's good natured manner and willingness to search for the answer to any question we had was greatly appreciated.

At the Agency for International Development, Jill Buckley, Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs, with the assistance of Bob Boyer and Marianne O'Sullivan, and so many other people, made it possible for us to manage with a very difficult

budget situation. I also want to single out Bob Lester, whose extraordinary knowledge of the Foreign Assistance Act prevented us from making any egregious drafting errors. Without Bob, I hate to think what kind of laws we would pass.

At the Treasury Department, Robert Baker and Victor Rojas did their best to convince a skeptical Congress of the importance of maintaining U.S. leadership in the international financial institutions.

At the Defense Security Assistance Agency, Michael Friend and Vanessa Murray were always ready to help.

Mr. President, I am sure that I have left out people I should not have. For that I apologize. Let me simply conclude by saying that I have greatly appreciated the help of all these dedicated people in getting the foreign operations bill through the Senate. I often wish that critics of the Federal Government would come to Washington and see what people like those I have mentioned do every day. They would see that they are exceptionally intelligent, committed people who work extremely long hours at a fraction of the pay many of them could earn in the private sector. They deserve our respect, and our thanks.

THE PASSING OF CHRISTOPHER VAUGHN

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to remember Christopher Vaughn. A good man died on Sunday and he will be missed by his friends, family, and loved ones. Christopher Vaughn was a joyful, fun loving, and giving person. Every time I had the chance to be around him I felt lucky. I enjoyed our conversations and remember the laughter and smiles that always accompanied those occasions.

Christopher Vaughn was an incredible talent. He was a scholar in Renaissance history, and he had a natural flair for the world of entertainment. It is a great thing for a person to use a natural ability to its fullest, and that is what he did.

Chris began his career writing scholarly papers in Spain and then turned his literary skills to the entertainment industry when he joined the Hollywood Reporter in 1987. It is clear why he was such a success. He was smart, witty, and eloquent. His promotion to managing editor of special issues was a surprise to no one, I am sure. Working at Nickelodeon as the director of talent relations, he brought great talent to the network.

His work at Dolores Robinson Entertainment certainly paved the way. He and Delores were the team who adopted me in the early days of my effort to be elected to the U.S. Senate. Of course, it was Chris who attended to the details. He understood that history is written from the details, and that each person can make a difference in the way that challenges are resolved. Perhaps it was his appreciation for history that made