

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1157. A bill disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on August 11, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-34; to the Committee on Finance, pursuant to the order of for 7 days of session pursuant to section 1023 of Public Law 93-344.

DISAPPROVAL LEGISLATION

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I am introducing today a bill to disapprove the President's line-item veto of a provision providing tax relief when an agricultural production facility is sold to a farmer cooperative—a veto that has produced a cry of outrage from Idaho's farm families.

I am disappointed that the President vetoed this provision of the Tax Relief Act of 1997. This provision had strong bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House. This type of tax relief deserves to be debated on the merits and enacted into law.

Because of the large number of ultimate beneficiaries involved in this kind of tax provision, it is my opinion that this item was erroneously identified as a candidate for a line-item veto.

In Idaho, for example, in a single cop, there are 1,130 family farm members who have been interested in this kind of tax law change for a long time.

Changes in agricultural policy over recent years are intended to make American agriculture more market based. Prior changes in tax laws raised hurdles for agriculture at a time when world markets were becoming more competitive. Current tax law allows some advantages to corporations and other entities that are denied to farmer cooperatives.

To allow family farmers in Idaho and across America to remain productive and effective in this changing environment, our tax laws need further revision. The provision the President vetoed would have helped, by allowing farmer cooperatives, by expanding their operations and compete more fully and fairly.

I do not believe the President vetoed this provision without reservations. The White House has said publicly that the issue of ensuring the competitive ability of farmer cooperatives should be addressed. The administration had technical objections which, I believe, we should be able to work out.

It is my hope, and it is fully my intention in introducing this bill today, that Members of Congress, from both sides of the aisle, and the administration can now sit down and work out the details of similar legislation and produce a win-win solution—one that helps farm families and addresses technical concerns expressed by the administration.

I also want to address some important procedural matters.

I am optimistic that, ultimately, legislation providing relief to farmer cooperatives and making any necessary and reasonable technical changes, will move on a track totally separate from this bill. That is my hope and intent.

But we are constrained by procedure and timing in the introduction of this bill. Introduction of this bill, in this form, no later than today, is the only way to keep all procedural options open to the Congress.

The Line Item Veto Act prescribes the precise form and content of this type of bill. Therefore, this bill refers to one other vetoed item besides the farmer cooperative item I have addressed. It is my understanding that persons supporting that item already are working out its consideration on a separate track.

I hope and expect that the same will be true of the farmer cooperative item many in this body have supported. I stand ready to work with my colleagues and the administration on any reasonable, technical changes needed to enact such needed tax relief into law.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1157

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves of cancellations 97-1 and 97-2 as transmitted by the President in a special message on August 11, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-34.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 358

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY], and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 358, a bill to provide for compassionate payments with regard to individuals with blood-clotting disorders, such as hemophilia, who contracted human immunodeficiency virus due to contaminated blood products, and for other purposes.

S. 632

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 632, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the eligibility of veterans for mortgage revenue bond financing, and for other purposes.

S. 729

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. KYL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 729, a bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide new portability, participation, solvency, and other health insurance protections and freedoms for workers in a mobile workforce, to increase the purchasing power of employees and employers by removing barriers to the voluntary formation of association health plans, to increase health plan competition providing more affordable choice of cov-

erage, to expand access to health insurance coverage for employees of small employers through open markets, and for other purposes.

S. 1003

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah [Mr. BENNETT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, to require the development and implementation by the Secretary of the Treasury of a national money laundering and related financial crimes strategy to combat money laundering and related financial crimes, and for other purposes.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to require country of origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the United States and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, supra.

S. 1062

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] were added as cosponsors of S. 1062, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions toward religious understanding and peace, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a sound budgetary mechanism for financing health and death benefits of retired coal miners while ensuring the long-term fiscal health and solvency of such benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 1153, a bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 42, a concurrent resolution to authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a congressional ceremony honoring Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 50

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] and the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 50, a concurrent resolution condemning in the strongest possible terms the bombing in Jerusalem on September 4, 1997.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON] and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding elections for the legislature of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the names of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS], the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN], the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH], the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM], the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON], the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. KOHL], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 96, a resolution proclaiming the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998, as "National Safe Place Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 111

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 111, a resolution designating the week beginning September 14, 1997, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week," and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1078

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1078 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1085

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1085 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1086 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1095

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. JOHNSON], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1095 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1101

At the request of Mr. HARKIN the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1101 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1109

At the request of Mr. SPECTER the names of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. ROTH], and the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1109 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1117

At the request of Mr. FORD the names of the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. THOMPSON] and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1117 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1121

At the request of Mr. SPECTER the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1121 proposed to

S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1122

At the request of Mr. GORTON the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1122 proposed to S. 1061, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 119—
RELATIVE TO MILK PRODUCERS

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. WELLSTONE) SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION; WHICH WAS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY:

S. RES. 119

Whereas the basic formula price for milk established by the Secretary of Agriculture under Federal milk marketing orders fell to a 6-year low of \$10.70 in May 1997 following months of substantial price volatility and remained at similarly low levels throughout the summer of 1997;

Whereas the basic formula price for milk announced for each month since April 1997 has been below the cost of producing milk for milk producers in all regions of the United States, as calculated by the Department of Agriculture;

Whereas income losses to milk producers resulting from low milk prices have imposed economic hardship on milk producers in all regions of the United States;

Whereas lost income to milk producers may create economic losses to businesses and result in loss of jobs in rural communities;

Whereas milk producers, rural residents, and agribusinesses in rural areas have petitioned the Secretary of Agriculture to implement an emergency milk price floor to provide price relief to milk producers;

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has authority under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to establish minimum prices paid to milk producers covered by Federal milk marketing orders; and

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has authority under section 143 of the Agricultural Market Transition Act (7 U.S.C. 7253) to use informal rulemaking to reform Federal milk marketing orders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should immediately use the authority of the Secretary under the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to establish a temporary emergency minimum milk price that—

(1) is equitable to all producers nationwide; and

(2) provides price relief to economically distressed milk producers.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution which I hope all of my colleagues will support. Milk is