

Mrs. LINCOLN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I reject the argument that we cannot stay here and fight for our American producers and our farmers.

Farmers themselves say that government is just waiting until they die away, that the family farmer is gone and we can just depend on corporate America to provide us what we need.

I look around at some of the fights I have been fighting this year on behalf of aquaculture and fish farmers in Arkansas. They are having to compete with misleading labeling from other countries that are claiming they are producing that kind of product which we produce here, a farm-raised, grain-fed product, when we know what is coming in the country from Vietnam is not that. It is raised on the Mekong River under unbelievable environmental conditions. Yet it has been sent to this country in misleading ways and sold to the consumers here.

We are dealing with a crisis in agricultural production. I come to the floor saddened. As I look around at this body, I realize that the Members of the Senate years ago used to travel here from their home farms in faraway States and spend the time that they did to debate the issues of this country, all the while still remembering where they came from, the heartland that they represented, the communities and the agricultural producers. In my home State of Arkansas, when that farmer is out in the field and he is bringing in his crop, he is picking cotton or he is combining beans or he is combining rice and gets to the end of a long hot day, and the Sun is setting and he sees a thunderstorm coming out of the west, do you know what. He doesn't pack it up and go home. He turns the lights on, on his combine, and he keeps going, because he believes in producing for the American people and the world the safest, most abundant and affordable food supply in this world, and he does no less.

I, for one, think the Senate could do better. I think we must.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes, and the following Senators be added to the current list of speakers: Senator KENNEDY for 20 minutes, Senator BYRD, Senator HOLLINGS, Senator CORZINE, and Senator SMITH of Oregon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know for me to speak on the floor

about agriculture raises some eyebrows, let's say. I have found that as I, along with others, have been trying to help my colleague from Vermont who has been fighting a lonely battle, for Northeast agriculture. When I spoke in the Democratic caucus, I heard someone sort of singing "Old McDonald," and other things. So people ask, why am I so interested in agriculture, coming from a State such as New York?

For one thing, people forget how much agriculture there is in the State of New York. We are a large agricultural producer. We rank third in dairy production. We rank second or third, depending on the year, in apple production. We are high up in onions and many kinds of specialty products. In fact—and these are numbers that even surprised me—New York has 38,000 farmers. That is 13,500 more farmers than Idaho; 10,400 more than Montana; 7,700 more than North Dakota; 5,500 more than South Dakota; and 28,800 more than Wyoming. So those States which are regarded as agricultural States have fewer farmers, many fewer, than my State of New York.

We do have a large city—we have several large cities. Thank God, we have lots of other kinds of industries. But agriculture is a vital industry.

The second reason I care about agriculture—and it has been new to me; 18 years in the House serving a district in a corner of Brooklyn and Queens, we didn't have any farmers—is meeting the people who do it. I met one family with a farm in their family in Suffolk County for 12 generations. You look into their eyes and see how hard-working they are and see how productive they are, and you see the land and God's beauty in a wonderful way give forth fruits and vegetables and crops. You see how hard they work and you feel for them.

They are on a frustrating treadmill. It seems they work harder and harder but survival in agriculture is even more difficult for them. You look into their eyes and you realize something else. These farmers are the breeder reactor, the place where American values grow and are nurtured. It has been so since the Republic was founded, and it still is. The values of hard work and teamwork and self-reliance and individuality, for which our country is known and blessed, have started on the farm.

So even if all the food could be produced somewhere else and it could be as good and as high quality, I do not think we would want to lose farmers from America and the American way of life because the two are so inextricably tied. So I care about agriculture. I care a great deal about our farmers in New York.

This farm bill, admittedly, does not do what we want. But I want to tell the farmers that we have gotten a pledge from our majority leader that the part of this bill that was cut out by the House will be debated in September. That includes the relief for the apple

farmers that many of us in the Northeast—my colleague, Senator CLINTON—and Senator LEVIN and Senator STABENOW and the two Senators from Washington worked hard to get in the bill. That will come back and have another chance. The provisions the Senator from Iowa put in the bill to deal with specialty crops and conservation, which affected the Northeast, will come back as well. I am glad about that.

When the farm bill comes up, we will make our fight for the dairy farmers, and it is going to be a royal fight because we really care about them.

What I would like my colleagues to know is, my good friend from Vermont, who has often been alone in this fight, is now being joined by many of us. As I mentioned, my colleagues Senator CLINTON and Senator TORRICELLI are in the fight; Senator JEFFORDS, of course, has always been in the fight, as have our Senators from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and other States as well. We are going to put Northeast agriculture on the legislative map.

It will not be good enough to have bills any longer that do not do a thing for us. I think we have persuaded our Democratic leadership here in the Senate to do so. We have a bit of work to do in the House. We have a bit of work to do in the White House. But we are going to do it.

In fact, as I look at this as somebody admittedly new to agriculture, I would like to make a point to my colleagues. I have never seen a place where we spend so much money and where there is so much unhappiness among the recipients. Something is dramatically wrong.

Mr. President, 50 percent or 47 percent of farm income is now Government. I do not know one other area in the country where that happens. I am willing to do it because, as I said, I believe in the family farm and the values that they bring. But can't we come up with a better way? Can't we come up with a way that makes the family wheat farmer in North Dakota and the family corn and hog farmers in Illinois happier than they are now? Can't we as we come up with that come up with something that includes the dairy farmer in New York or Vermont or the apple grower in New Jersey or Massachusetts? We have to come up with a better way because the present way isn't working.

More and more money—this is another \$5 billion—doesn't help our area. Our fights will come later in September and in October with the farm bill. But that \$5.5 billion isn't making many people happy, even though they are getting it, because they are still struggling.

Freedom to Farm is a problem. Everyone says it. I tend to agree. But you know that we had problems before Freedom to Farm, too. As long as I have been in the Congress, which is from 1981, we have seen more and more money going to agriculture and our