

Texas' finest agricultural journalists, Mr. James Calvin Pigg, editor of the Southwest Farm Press magazine in Dallas, Texas. Calvin has served as editor since the magazine's founding in 1974, faithfully reporting agricultural news for Southwest Farm Press for 25 years. A native Texan, Calvin has practiced his craft on radio, television, and print coverage of agriculture in the Southwest since 1955. After more than 40 years on the Texas and Oklahoma agricultural scene, his hands-on reporting style keeps stories fresh and interesting. Reporting the dynamic and ever-changing events within the agriculture industry is an important duty since farmers and ranchers across the Southwest depend on this information.

In addition to his Farm Press duties, he has served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee for Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has received the college's prestigious Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturnists Award in 1985. His unsurpassed dedication and genuine concern for the South Plains agricultural industry is legendary. He also was honored for his distinguished service to Texas agriculture by the Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas in 1980. Calvin was the president of the Dallas Agricultural Club in 1989, and his active involvement in various professional and honor societies proves he truly is a friend of agriculturists.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. James Calvin Pigg on his commitment to the agricultural industry and his tireless dedication and service to Southwest Farm Press.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY NATIONWIDE

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced several pieces of legislation that I believe should be considered during the 106th Congress. These bills represent a broad array of policy initiatives that will benefit the agriculture community nationwide.

AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION ACT

Over the past few years I have read countless articles on the need to conserve water and the role federal government has with this mission. While discussing water conservation methods with farmers in my district, I found cost was their overriding concern. The outlays required to implement water conservation systems, (i.e., drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, ditch lining) are a tremendous burden on the agriculture industry. While I firmly believe most agriculture interests are genuinely concerned about conserving water, cost has crippled the ability to implement conservation methods on farms.

The Agricultural Water Conservation Act is not a mandate for expensive water conservation systems, it is a tool and an option for farmers. Specifically, it will allow farmers to receive up to a 30% tax credit for the cost of developing and implementing water conservation

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

plans on their farm land with a cap of \$500 per acre. The tax credit could be used primarily for the cost of materials and equipment. This legislation would not require them to change their irrigation practices. However, it would allow those farmers who want to move toward a more conservation approach of irrigation but cannot afford to do it during these tough economic times.

CANNED PEACH RESOLUTION

For almost two decades, the European Union (EU) has been heavily subsidizing its canned fruit industry to the detriment of California cling peach producers and processors. Despite a Section 301 investigation, a favorable GATT ruling against the EU, and a subsequent US/EU agreement intended to contain the problem, the EU canned fruit regime has in fact grown considerably more disruptive over time. In recent years, EU canned fruit subsidies have greatly increased (now totaling between \$160–\$213 million annually), as has injury to the California industry in every one of its markets.

The resolution I introduced today details the problem, identifies it to be of priority concern, and calls for corrective action. I hope by introducing this resolution we can highlight this dispute as a trade priority, underscore that relief is long-overdue and convey a message to the EU that its canned fruit subsidy excesses must be discounted.

LAND FOR YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

We are well aware of the migration away from rural areas in part due to the difficulty young people encounter to stay in farming. I believe providing young farmers the opportunity to discover, first-hand, the changing technologies agriculture presents and to keep them interested in agriculture is a vital role for Congress. This legislation will help advance young people's interest in farming much like the USDA's Beginning Farmer Program.

Specifically, this bill will allow education institutions and non-profit organizations that are involved in teaching farming to young people the ability to acquire land held by USDA. Currently this ability is available, however, these specific groups are put at the bottom of the list of people who are eligible to bid for the land. Under current law, these groups are bidding against interested parties such as real estate investors, land speculators, and business groups, all of which could easily increase the price of the land making it financially impossible for organizations interested in keeping the land in farming. My legislation will provide these nonprofits and educational institutions the same purchasing rights to USDA land as beginning farmers. Under the bill, these groups must be involved in teaching young people farming practices they can use to start their own farming practice. Given the current age of our farm and ranch population, I believe the ability for young people to start a farming or ranching operations remains a top priority of the agriculture community. This bill will continue to advance that priority.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States Federal Government Preservation Act. On the first day of the 106th Congress, I introduced H.R. 62 and H.R. 63. Both of these bills concern Executive Order 13107, which President Bill Clinton signed on December 10, 1998. Today I am introducing a redrafted version of this legislation. The two bills I am reintroducing today take the necessary steps to nullify the provisions of Executive Order 13107 and prevents the Federal Government from spending any money to implement this Executive Order.

Executive Order 13107 directs the Federal Government to take numerous steps to require our nation to comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In my legislation, I discussed the fact that these treaties were never given the advice and consent of the Senate. In clarification, these treaties did in fact pass the Senate by voice vote.

Our Constitution provides in Article II, section 2, clause 2, that "He [the President] shall have the Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur." Because these treaties were accepted by voice vote, we cannot be certain where each individual Senator stands on the particular treaties involved. I believe these concerns warrant a debate, and an individual vote in the Senate. Committing the American people to United Nations treaties is an endeavor that should be carefully scrutinized.

President Clinton claims this Executive Order was written to promote this Administration's human rights record. In actuality, it acts as a vehicle to commit the United States to a definition of human rights that is vastly different from the one contained in our Constitution. The United Nations defines human rights in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which addresses the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion, and expression. Article 29 of this document states that "These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

The founding documents of the United States make it clear that basic human rights are inalienable, meaning they descend from the ultimate Sovereign, the Creator, God. Therefore, no human authority, no government, no criminal, no individual can abrogate or abridge those rights. The United Nations has frequently shown only contempt for biblical values, American sovereignty, and the U.S. Constitution. If the government can bestow upon a people certain rights, it can just