

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 155) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. LOTT. Good luck, Dave; you are going to need it. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. I rise today to voice my frustration about the events that unfolded today regarding the Agricultural Economic Assistance Act. I am disappointed for one reason. This legislation leaves my farmers behind. Of the \$5.5 billion in this bill, only a very small amount goes to Vermont or any of the farms in our area of the country. Only \$1.5 million out of the \$5.5 billion in this package will reach Vermonters. That amounts to only about \$1,000 per farm.

Mr. President, 50 percent of the money goes to 10 States. Our dairy farmers are the hardest working, most efficient. The compact has no Federal cost.

It is without question that the states in the Northeast are left out.

During the proceedings on this bill, there was much talk about the amount of the overall spending package. As we continue to wrestle with budget and spending concerns, I encourage my colleagues to take a look at a program that provides assistance and stability for farmers at no cost to the federal government, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

The Northeast Dairy Compact was established to restore the regulatory authority of the six New England states over the New England dairy marketplace. This authority, however, must be granted by Congress.

By gaining the consent of Congress in 1996, the Northeast Dairy Compact has allowed the compact commission to regulate milk pricing in the region.

Since July of 1997, when the compact commission first set the Class I over-order price at \$16.94, the Northeast Dairy Compact has proven to be a great success—providing farmers with a fair price for their milk, protecting consumers from price spikes, reducing market dependency upon milk from a single source, controlling excess supply, and helping to preserve rural landscapes by strengthening farm communities.

Farmers across our Nation face radically different conditions and factors of production.

Differences in climate, transportation, feed, energy, and land value validate the need for regional pricing. Compacts allow states to address these differences and create a price level that is appropriate for producers, processors, retailers and consumers.

The stability created by the compact pricing mechanism is important for several reasons. It guarantees farmers a fair price for their product and allows them to plan for the future. Farmers, knowing that they can count on a fair price, can allocate money to purchase and repair machinery, improve farming practices, and above all, stay in business.

Opponents of compacts argue that compacts leads to overproduction. These allegations, however, are unfounded. The Northeast Dairy Compact has not led to overproduction during its first 4 years. In fact, during 2000, the Northeast Dairy Compact states produced 4.7 billion pounds of milk, a 0.6 percent reduction from 1999. Since the Northeast Dairy Compact has been in effect, milk production in the region has risen by just 2.2 percent. Nationally, milk production rose 7.4 percent from 1997 to 2000. Over this same period, California, the largest milk producing state in the country, increased its milk production by 16.9 percent.

Originally created as a three-year pilot program, the Northeast Dairy Compact has been extremely successful in demonstrating the merits of compacts. We no longer need to speculate about the potential effects of compacts. We now have the hard evidence—they are good for farmers, good for consumers, and good for the environment.

As has been stated by several of my colleagues today, we, who represent the Northeast will do everything in our power to secure the survival of our family farms. We look forward to working throughout this year to make sure the dairy compact is, again, allowed to show the benefits to this Nation of effective farming which results in no cost to the Government.

It is certainly hard for me to understand why we get so much criticism. It is the only farm program that doesn't cost the Federal Government money, and it is one of the first on some people's lists of programs to get rid of. It is entirely unbelievable and incomprehensible.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF THE TWO HOUSES OVER THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 208, just received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate H. Con. Res. 208, which will be stated.

The bill clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 208

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, August 2, 2001, or Friday, August 3, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 208) was agreed to.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ELECTION REFORM

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to talk about election reform. I have talked about it on a number of occasions.

Yesterday, as chairman of the Rules Committee, we had a markup of one of the election reform bills. I say with a high degree of sadness—and I truly mean this—that our good friends on the Republican side of the aisle decided for whatever reasons not to show up; to sort of boycott the markup. I haven't had that experience in my 20 years in the Senate and 6 years in the House. I gather that it may have happened on other committees but never on ones on which I served.

Again, I understand there is disappointment sometimes when our amendments or our bills are not going to be marked up, or are not going to have the necessary votes to be marked up. I had scheduled the markup well in advance with full notice. There are some 16 election reform bills that I know of which have been introduced in the Senate. We didn't mark up all of them. We marked up one bill. It was open for amendment, or substitution, as is the normal process. As I have been both in the majority and minority, over the years that is how it has been done.

In the Rules Committee you cannot vote by proxy. You have to be there for the final vote. You can only vote by proxy on amendments.