

It will not be on the President's desk before the end of February, if we do not finish this bill in the Senate this week.

So for those who talk all the time about certainty for our farmers and for our bankers and for our lenders, and people who have to come in and get the money they need, I say to my friend from the South, you need it before we need it in the Midwest. Your farmers are in the field before ours. And their lenders and their bankers want to know, with certainty, what is out there.

I say to my friend from Nevada, if we do not finish the bill in the Senate before we leave here, and our staffs cannot work on it to get to conference, and work out all these things so that when we come back on the 23rd, the President will not have this bill, that means we will still be on the farm bill when we come back here on the 23rd, and then it is "Katie bar the door." You think you have amendments now? You wait until we come back here on the 23rd. We will have 200 amendments or more.

I will say it one more time so I am absolutely clear. If this bill is not passed in the Senate before we leave here, the President will not have it on his desk before the end of February. We will be lucky to have it by March.

Then, if that is not enough, we are going to have January estimates coming out of OMB. It is going to show that we are going to slide even further into deficit spending. And then guess what has happened to our \$73.5 billion that we have over the next 10 years. Kiss it good-bye.

Now go home and tell your farmers how you stopped this bill in the Senate, and now we have less money for our farmers and people in rural America because it was stopped before we could get out of here at the end of the year. That is what is at stake.

So I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle, who are slowing this down: You are playing a dangerous game. You may think you are getting me. You may think you are getting Majority Leader DASCHLE. But you are getting the farmers. You may be shooting at us, but the bullets are hitting the farmers and ranchers of America. They are not hitting us, not at all.

We have done our job. We pulled this bill together. This is a good bill. It is a good bill for America. It is a balanced bill. Am I saying it is perfect? Of course it is not perfect. If I could write the farm bill by myself, I would put it all in Iowa. Then it would be perfect.

It is a balanced bill.

I understand that my friend from Arkansas has just filed an amendment which is the House-passed farm bill. The House passed its bill. He wants to offer the House bill. That way we don't even need to have a conference. It just goes to the President. Of course, that is the bill the President said was unsatis-

factory. If the House bill were to pass, it means we don't have a conference. That is the end of it. It undoes all the hard work we did, all of the hours that the occupant of the Chair and I and Republicans working together, Senator LUGAR, his staff, all of us working together to bring a balanced bill together.

Why are we Senators? If all we want is what the House does, why are we Senators? Why do we spend this time?

As a Senate and as Senators, we do tend to look at things in a broader perspective. We have been Members of the House, most of us here. We tend to take a broader perspective. That is what this bill does, it is broader based. It is for all of the country.

The House bill doesn't do enough for conservation. There is no energy title in it. This is a bill we ought to be proud of. We have an energy title for the first time ever in a farm bill, we have an energy title to promote ethanol and soy diesel and biomass and wind, all of the different forms of energy—methane. That is in this bill. It is not in the House bill. So we just throw that out the window, too.

Farmers want different markets. They want an energy provision. They want to know that we are going to start promoting ethanol more than we ever have in the past. If you vote for the House bill, kiss it goodbye.

I say to my friends who are thinking of voting for the House bill, they ought to think again. Take a look—I say to every Senator here—add up, look at it first economically. Add up what happens to your State in the next 5 years under the committee-passed bill and under the House bill. I will wager that every single State represented in this Chamber will do better overall under the committee bill than under the House-passed bill economically, in terms of commodities and everything else. Add them all up, conservation payments, energy payments, all those things, add them all up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's 10 minutes have expired.

Mr. HARKIN. Hope springs eternal. I will not give up. I will not quit. I will never give up in trying to get the best deal possible for all the farmers of this country. I don't care how long we have to stay here, how late we have to stay here. I will fight to the last day, to the last breath to get this bill out of here and get it out of the Senate because it is best for America and it is best for our farmers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say to Senators here assembled, we have some matters we need to take care of to wrap up for tonight. I see Senator GRASSLEY is here, Senator

HUTCHINSON, and Senator SESSIONS. If I could ask through the Chair to each of them, if they wish to speak in morning business before we adjourn tonight, I will try to get some time for each of them to do that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I have to assume that after listening to you and after listening to Senator HARKIN, you don't want to hear another point of view on this issue in conformity.

Mr. REID. I didn't say that.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I would like to speak before you speak.

Mr. REID. What I would do, to inform the Senator, I will go through the wrap-up and then just indicate how much time each of you wish to speak tonight.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Then let's leave it this way. You are doing exactly what I said. I won't say anything, but I resent your saying that we are stalling on this side when I was here to offer an amendment even at this late date. You told me less than an hour ago, no more amendments. So have the record show that the Senator from Iowa, the senior Senator from Iowa, was ready to offer an amendment and go through a time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, who is the senior Senator from Iowa—and I have the greatest respect for him—we have been on this bill for a long time. People can go through all the machinations they want, saying they were ready to offer amendments. The fact is, we voted on cloture on two separate occasions. It has been opposed. We are going to do it again tomorrow. The fact is, we had other votes to do tonight.

I actually was contacted by the assistant minority leader, and he asked that we not have another vote. I agreed with that. I felt it was time to wrap things up. It was about 22-to-9 then.

As I told the Senator from Iowa, when we were not speaking publicly, but I will say this publicly, no one has ever questioned the work ethic of the Senator from Iowa. He has been, since I have been here, one of the first to get here and always one of the last to leave. No one questions the work ethic of the Senator from Iowa. I want to make sure the record is clear in that regard.

Does the Senator from Arkansas wish to speak tonight?

Mr. HUTCHINSON. If I could have 5 minutes.

Mr. REID. And the Senator from Alabama?

Mr. SESSIONS. Ten minutes.

SMALL BUSINESS PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I speak today in support of Senator