

**PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION,
AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998**

June 23, 1998

Today the President will sign into law the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. This law will (1) restore Food Stamp benefits for 250,000 legal immigrants, including children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and refugees and asylees; (2) provide full funding for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) authorize funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, which supports new and existing agricultural research, education and extension programs, and (4) extend and authorize additional funding for the Fund for Rural America. Under the President's leadership, a broad coalition of individual and groups, including legal immigrants, farmers, agricultural groups, and religious leaders, came together to help ensure that this Nation's farmers are secure when disaster strikes; that rural communities are strengthened economically; that American agricultural research is second to none; and that legal immigrants in need receive benefits to help feed their families. The main provisions of this legislation include:

Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The food stamp provisions will restore benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. This restoration builds on the President's success last year in restoring SSI and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This bill and last year's Balanced Budget Act go a long way toward reversing the unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that the President criticized when he signed the 1996 welfare reform law, and that he committed to work with Congress to overturn.

This law will restore Food Stamp benefits to legal immigrants who lawfully resided in the United States as of August 22, 1996, and are: (1) disabled or become disabled after that date; (2) elderly; or (3) children under 18 years of age. It also restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. We will continue to work to ensure that, in this great country, those who honor our laws and contribute to our society can be free from hunger.

Federal Crop Insurance. This legislation will provide the authority to ensure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program to help strengthen the farm safety net. When the President signs this bill into law, our Nation's farmers will know that crop insurance will be fully funded for the next five years and will be there for them if disaster strikes. Without the funding provided in this legislation, it was possible that crop insurance policies would have had to be canceled, creating significant problems for many of our Nation's farmers, including preventing many of them from securing annual farm operating loans.

Fund for Rural America. \$300 million (of which \$100 million is new funding) will be provided over the next five years, for the Fund for Rural America which provides loans and grants for rural economic and community development to strengthen rural communities, and innovative applied research and extension programs to improve food safety, human nutrition, and agricultural productivity.

Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Initiatives. This legislation would reauthorize through Fiscal Year 2002 the various USDA programs that support the Nation's land-grant colleges and universities. In addition, this legislation would fund additional research programs. Most notably, this legislation would channel \$120 million a year over the next five years, for a total of \$600 million, to the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grants program that would support activities in critical emerging areas including: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: FEEDING AMERICA'S FAMILIES

June 23, 1998

"America has come a long way from the days when Thomas Jefferson believed that every American should be a farmer, but what he said then is still true today: 'The cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interest by the most lasting bonds.' Today, we have an opportunity to strengthen those bonds, and I am very happy to do so."

President Bill Clinton
June 23, 1998

Today, at a Rose Garden event, President Clinton is joined by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman and a bipartisan group of Congressional members, as he signs the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, a law that restores food stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants, including the elderly and children, and supports our farmers and agricultural community.

A PRESIDENTIAL PLAN TO HELP AMERICAN FARMERS AS WE MOVE INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.

Agriculture is an integral part of our nation and its economy. With the signing of the Agricultural Research bill, President Clinton and those in Congress who supported this legislation, are ensuring that the agricultural community and the hard working Americans who farm the land are given the tools they need to move ahead into the 21st Century. This bill also remedies a shortcoming in the 1996 welfare reform law by restoring benefits to certain legal immigrants, mostly children and the elderly.

RESTORING BENEFITS FOR THOSE IN NEED. This law will restore food stamp benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. This restoration builds on the President's success last year in restoring Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated under the welfare reform law.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR FARMERS. Crop insurance is an important protection for farmers when disaster strikes. This legislation provides the authority to ensure that crop insurance is fully funded for the next five years.

EXTENDING THE FUND FOR RURAL AMERICA. The Fund for Rural America provides loans and grants for rural economic and community development and innovative agricultural research. Today's bill signing extends this program for five years and increases funding to strengthen rural communities, and continue innovative applied research and extension programs to improve food safety, human nutrition, and agricultural productivity.

SUPPORT FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION. This legislation reauthorizes various programs that support our nation's land-grant colleges and universities. In addition, grant programs will be extended on a competitive basis for research into emerging areas of agriculture, including: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability.

 Mary L. Smith
06/23/98 01:55:44 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: 6-23-98 Remarks by the President: Ag Research Bill Signing Ceremony

----- Forwarded by Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP on 06/23/98 01:59 PM -----

 Elizabeth R. Newman
06/23/98 01:38:26 PM

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Subject: 6-23-98 Remarks by the President: Ag Research Bill Signing Ceremony

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 23, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
At The Signing Of Agricultural Research, Extension and
Education Reform Act of 1998

The Rose Garden

11:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you Mr. Carlson for your very eloquent and enlightening statement and for the work you do every day as a farmer, both with your crops and with the bison. When Dan Glickman said you had bison I saw a lot of people's eyebrows go up. We've come a long way since Teddy Roosevelt saved the buffalo with the national park. We went from millions of head in the West and the high plains down to only 20 known head of buffalo when Teddy Roosevelt actually established that national preserve. Now we've got enough that we know they'll be there, with folks like you farming and we appreciate that.

Thank you, Secretary Glickman, for the truly outstanding job you do as Secretary of Agriculture. I would like to thank Senators Lugar and Harkin and Congressmen Smith and Stenholm. And I would also like to thank Congressman Becerra, the head of the Hispanic Caucus for the work he did and all the other members of Congress who are here.

We are joined by a number of local officials who had great interest in this legislation including, but I'm sure not limited to, L.A. county supervisor Gloria Molina, Chicago City Treasurer Miriam Santos, Virginia State Delegate Karen Darner. I would also like to thank all the representatives of our country's farmers and ranchers who are here, the religious leaders, our immigrant and anti-hunger advocates.

This is a very good day for me personally for two reasons. First of all, you heard Secretary Glickman give you the official population of the town in which I was born, it's about 50 percent larger then it was when I was born there; but all my mother's people came from a little town called Bodcaw, which still has only 50 people in it. And I have on my desk upstairs a picture of my grandfather with his family in 1907. Just about all of them were farmers and when they were forced to leave the land and come into the large city of Hope most of them kept little plots of land out in the country for decades where they kept there hand in and they continued to grow their crops and harvest them even when they could no longer themselves make a living on the land.

And when I was a boy it was part of the ritual of every summer that I would go out and help them work the land when I wasn't in school. And in the fall help them to bring in everything from vegetables to watermelon. I don't know if watermelon is a fruit or vegetable. I think it's something in between.

Also, when I was governor I governed a state which had a lot of people who didn't have enough to eat. And I saw this remarkable coalition of people following the moral tradition of virtually every religion which consistently admonishes us to take care of the poor and the hungry. So this is a remarkable day and something that all of you can be proud of. And those of you who worked on this bill know that you can be especially proud of it because you had some very powerful opponents of what we attempted to do.

We are carrying on here a long and proud tradition of bipartisan commitment; a coalition that was first forged by Hubert Humphrey, Robert Dole and George McGovern a generation ago. By standing together in that tradition we have ensured that America keeps its contract with our farmers and ranchers and with people in need.

We all know that our nation's core values in many ways have their deepest roots in rural America, in its commitment to community and mutual responsibility, to strong families and individual initiative. Direct, trusting interaction among neighbors so hard to find in some places in our country and throughout the world, still have very strong roots in rural towns. Every American has a stake, therefore, in making sure that rural America stays strong into the 21st Century, not only because they feed us but because in many ways they feed our spirit and help us to forge our character as a nation.

This Bill, as has already been said, does a lot of very good things for America. First, it rights a wrong. When I signed the Welfare Reform Bill in 1996 I said the cuts in nutritional programs were too deep and had nothing whatever to do with welfare reform. Last year we restored Medicaid and SSI benefits to 420,000 legal immigrants. Today we reinstate food stamp benefits to 250,000 legal immigrants, including seniors, persons with disabilities and 75,000 children. In addition, the Hmong immigrants from Laos who heroically fought for our nation during the Vietnam war will again receive their full food benefits, overdue, high time and I appreciate the fact that they were included in this Bill.

None of these benefit cuts had the first thing to do with welfare reform. Reinstating them is the right thing to do and will have nothing to do with the success we've enjoyed which has brought welfare rates in America down to a 29 year low now.

Beyond that, this Bill extends opportunity for all Americans, especially for farmers and ranchers. Today I think it's worth noting again, as I prepare to leave for China, American agriculture is one of our most powerful

export engines. Products from one of every three acres planted in America are sold abroad. As this strong growth continues in the new century our farmers and ranchers will need to feed millions and millions of more people around the world. They will need to do their work in a more sustainable way to protect our water and fragile soil. They will need to continue improving food safety by investing in cutting-edge agricultural research, funding rural development and bolstering crop insurance. This Bill will help our farmers meet the needs of tomorrow's world.

We are channeling an additional \$120 million a year, over the next five years to vital investments in food and agriculture genome research, food safety and technology, human nutrition and agricultural biotechnology. We're allocating \$60 million a year over the next five years to give grants and loans to underserved rural communities where people must diversify their economy on an available, attainable scale in order to preserve the fabric of life there.

These grants will ensure, I hope and believe, that more and more of our rural communities can finally share in this remarkable national economic prosperity that we are enjoying. We are also providing our farmers with peace of mind because crop insurance will be there for them should disaster strike. In certain parts of the country farmers are hurting now.

And it is clear, that in addition, we need to strengthen the farm safety net for the future. The legislation that we signed today is a very good start but there are some more things I believe we should do.

In addition to strengthening the safety net for farmers we must protect our exports by passing the legislation sponsored by Senators Murray and Roberts, and Representative Pomeroy to allow our farmers to continue to export wheat to Pakistan and India. It was never intended, I don't believe, to use food as a weapon in foreign policy even in this extreme circumstance. And I strongly support that legislation and believe we have big bipartisan support for doing something about it immediately. And it's important that it be done immediately because of the necessity of getting those contracts out and making sure the shipments are there if they're going to be there. I feel that we will be successful.

Congress must also give the IMF the resources it needs to help to stabilize the economies of Asia, in part because they are huge markets for United States farm products. Finally, we must protect the many advances we're making in the Bill I'm just about to sign. Believe it or not, the Bill I'm just about to sign already has some provisions which are in jeopardy.

There are some in Congress who are working to undue the progress embodied in this Bill. The Appropriations Committees have taken steps to cut the funding next year for the research and rural development programs I just mentioned, limit our food safety efforts and cut as many as 100,000 women and children from the WIC program at a time when our economy is doing well and we can clearly afford to continue these things. This Bill is the example of how we should work together.

Let me just mention one other issue before I sign the Bill -- an example of how the country does well when we put progress ahead of partisanship. In the bipartisan balanced budget agreement I was proud to sign into law last year we gave Medicare patients new choices, enabled them to enroll in private health plans and extended the life of the Medicare Trust Fund for a decade. Building on that new bipartisan law I instructed our Administration to implement a Patient's Bill of Rights for the one-third of Americans who receive Federal health care benefits.

Beginning this week we are putting those protections into effect. From now on, for example, Medicare patients will have the right to see a specialist in a broad range of areas. Women will have a right to see women's health specialists. Medicare patients will have a right to privacy for their medical records.

This marks the most significant change in Medicare in three decades. It shows what we can do when we put progress over partisanship. That's why I also strongly support the bipartisan effort being launched today in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Dingle and Ganske to extend the Patient's Bill of Rights to all

Americans.

Today we mark another milestone in this kind of bipartisan cooperation. We've come along way from the days when Thomas Jefferson thought every American should be a farmer, even the farmers are glad that's not true. But what he said then is still true in many ways: "The cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens, the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interest by the most lasting bonds."

Today we strengthened those bonds. And we strengthened those bonds to those whose hold on the American dream is still fragile. In so doing we do our part to do what Mr. Jefferson wanted us to do, to always be about the business of forming a more perfect Union.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: I would like to ask all the members of Congress to come up here while we sign the Bill. Come on up.

(Signing of the Bill.)

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you.

(Applause.)

Q (Inaudible) VX (inaudible) despite reports by U.N. weapons inspectors that they found fragments on SCUD missiles. What do you think this says about Iraq, and what should you do?

PRESIDENT CLINTON: You asked me about the report about the U.N. weapons inspectors, that there were traces of VX found in a missile head?

Q Well, it proves that the United -- let me just say. It proves that the United States has been accurate and correct in our insistence all along that we support the U.N. inspections in Iraq. And it proves that our decision to oppose relaxing the sanctions until all the U.N. resolutions have been complied with is an accurate one.

Mr. Butler is doing his job and we need to wait until we hear the report. There is a news report to this effect, but it just proves that -- you know, our job in the world is to try to reduce the danger that our people and others in the world face from nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. And sometimes we have to do it even when our friends and neighbors don't think it is as important as we do. It is very important.

If this report is true, it will just show that our insistence over these last many years on the U.N. inspection system is the right thing to do for the safety of America and the safety of the rest of the world. And we'll stay with the position we've always had. Let the inspections go forward and don't lift the sanctions until the resolutions are complied with.

Q Sir, China has refused visas to three Radio Free Asia journalists. What would you plan to do about that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I am aware of the Chinese refusal. I think it is a highly objectionable decision. We will protest it. We hope they'll reconsider it. And it is actually rather ironic because this decision to deny the visa to the Radio Free Asia journalists is depriving China of the credit that it otherwise would have gotten for giving more visas to a more diverse group of journalists and allowing more different kinds of people in there than they've ever done before.

And the fact that they denied the visa for the Radio Free Asia people will actually undercut the credit which otherwise would have come their way because of that.

Thank you, very much.

END 11:18 P.M. EST

Message Sent To: _____

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BILL SIGNING
June 23, 1998**

Q: What did the President do today?

A: Today the President signed into law the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. This law will (1) restore Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; (2) provide a needed authorization for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) establish and authorize several new and existing agricultural research, extension, and education programs; and (4) extend and authorize additional funding for the Fund for Rural America. Under the President's leadership, a broad coalition of individual and groups, including legal immigrants, farmers, agricultural groups, land-grant universities and religious leaders, were brought together to help ensure that this Nation's farmers are secure when disaster strikes; that rural communities are strengthened economically; that American agricultural research is second to none and that legal immigrants in need receive benefits to help feed their families.

Q: What are the main provisions of the legislation?

A: There are four main provisions in the bill: (1) the restoration of Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; (2) funding for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) funding for agricultural research, extension, and education programs; and (4) the extension and funding of the Fund for Rural America. Below are some highlights of the provisions:

Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The food stamp provisions will restore benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance as the result of harsh cuts contained in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. This bill and last year's Balanced Budget Act go a long way toward fulfilling the President's commitment to reversing the unfair treatment of legal immigrants contained in the 1996 Welfare Reform bill. The Food Stamp provisions build on the Administration's success last year in restoring Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law will restore Food Stamp benefits to "qualified aliens" who lawfully resided in the United States as of August 22, 1996, and are: (1) disabled or become disabled after that date; (2) 65 years of age or older; or (3) children under 18 years of age. It also restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship.

Federal Crop Insurance. This legislation will provide the authority to ensure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program to help strengthen the farm safety net.

When the President signs this bill into law, our Nation's farmers will know that crop insurance, which is fully funded for the next five years, will be there for them if disaster strikes. Without the funding provided in this legislation, it was possible that crop insurance policies would have had to be canceled, creating significant problems for many of our Nation's farmers, including preventing many of them from securing annual farm operating loans.

Fund for Rural America. This legislation will provide \$300 million (of which \$100 million is new) over the next five years for the Fund for Rural America which funds innovative, applied research, and extension programs to strengthen rural communities, as well as providing funding for rural development programs to diversify the rural economy and finance needed rural community facilities.

Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Initiatives. This legislation would reauthorize through Fiscal Year 2002 the various USDA programs that support the Nation's land-grant colleges and universities. In addition, this legislation would fund additional research programs. Most notably, this legislation would channel \$120 million a year over the next five years to the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grants program that would support activities in critical emerging areas including: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability.

Q: What is the total spending contained in this legislation?

A: This legislation would provide new appropriations or spending totaling more than \$2 billion during FY1999-2003. This includes approximately \$600 million for agricultural research, extension, and education programs; a net total of nearly \$500 million for elements of the crop insurance program; \$830 million for food stamp benefits; and an additional \$100 million for the Fund for Rural America. This funding is fully offset, with the main savings from reduced payments to the States for administering the food stamp program.

Q: Where does the money to fund this bill come from?

A: The bill's savings come from a few sources: (1) food stamp administrative costs, which are projected to rise because of a problem in welfare reform, (2) work money for 18-50s in the food stamp program; and (3) computer spending for USDA.

Q: Aren't there problems with appropriations for some of the programs authorized in this legislation?

A: Appropriations actions in both the House and Senate would block any funds

from being used for the Fund for Rural America in FY 1999. In addition, the House bill would also block all research funding making up the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. The President's food safety initiative has received very little funding in committees in both the House and Senate.

In addition, in another vital nutrition program, Women, Infants and Children would have its funding frozen at 1998 levels -- which could result in 100,00 fewer women and children receiving food under the program. (WIC is not in this legislation, but is like the other examples, is being steam rolled in the appropriations process.)

We must not allow Congress to undo the progress made by this legislation, which provides food to legal immigrants in need and improves farmers' ability to provide agricultural products to the nation and the world. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that these food and economic programs receive the necessary funding to provide food for this Nation's citizens whether they live in cities or in rural areas.

More on Food Stamps:

Q: Are you trying to undo the 1996 welfare law by restoring food stamps to legal immigrants? Shouldn't those who come here be expected to support themselves?

A: The President believes that legal immigrants should have the same opportunity, and bear the same responsibility, as other members of society. Upon signing the 1996 welfare law, he pledged to work toward reversing the unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing to do with moving people from welfare to work. As part of last year's Balanced Budget Act (BBA), the President worked with Congress to restore Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to hundreds of thousands of disabled and elderly legal immigrants. Now, with the upcoming signing of the Ag Research bill, the President and Congress will act to restore Food Stamp benefits to vulnerable groups of legal immigrants.

Q: Why does the Ag Research bill cut \$145 million from funds the Administration fought for in the Balanced Budget Act that would provide work opportunities to unemployed single adults subject to time limits on Food Stamps?

A: As you know, the Agriculture Research bill balances a number of different competing priorities for funding -- Food Stamps for legal immigrants, crop insurance, the Fund for Rural America, and agriculture research. In order to ensure that we

could provide an adequate amount of Food Stamps for legal immigrants, the conferees needed to identify additional savings to offset the costs of the benefit restorations.

In roughly the year since the work funds were enacted in the BBA, we have seen that programs to serve unemployed adults in the Food Stamp program have been slower to start up than we originally anticipated. As a result, a lot of the funds for work activities are currently going unused. While the "18-50s" population remains a very high priority for the Administration, we believed it would be better to redirect some of the work funds toward restoring benefits to legal immigrants who are experiencing dire need rather than watch the work money go unused. It was a difficult choice, but, on balance, we believe it was the correct one to make given current circumstances.

The 18-50s population remains a very high priority for the Administration. The Administration strongly believes that people who are unemployed should be given the opportunity to work rather than be subject to harsh Food Stamp cut-offs. States hold the key to running the work programs for 18-50s. While program start-up has been slow, USDA is working with States to identify issues and to improve their plans for serving 18-50s. We believe that coordinated efforts between the Department and the States will help fulfill our commitment to meet the goals of the work funds --ensuring that work is available for people who are willing to work.

Q: Has the President fulfilled his pledge to reverse these cuts, or are you seeking additional restorations of benefits to legal immigrants?

A: The bill provides benefits to individuals who were in the country as of the signing of the welfare bill in 1996, whereas the Administration also proposed to restore food stamps to legal immigrants who entered the country after the welfare law was enacted. The Administration will continue to press for enactment of its full proposal, so that legal immigrants who enter this country legally and honor this country's laws have access to a nutritional safety net in times of need.

(IF ASKED: This bill includes about one-third of the food stamp restorations to legal immigrants included in the Administration's budget proposal.)

Q: Governors complain that you are cutting their budgets to fund this bill. Is that true?

A: Because of an unintended consequence of welfare reform, States are now in a position to increase Federal costs by up to \$3 billion over the next five years simply by changing the way they do their accounting of State costs to administer welfare programs. That \$3 billion is a clear and simple windfall to the States at the expense of the Federal government. The agriculture research bill would prevent States from receiving part of this windfall through administrative expenditures in the Food Stamp

Program. States would be held to the level of funding they would otherwise receive through Food Stamps in the absence of the windfall. The Administration does not believe that funding level is unfair.

Before welfare reform, states were supposed to charge common administrative costs of AFDC and food stamps to their AFDC budget. Because the matching rate for these open-ended programs was the same, states would receive the same federal matching funds regardless of which program paid for these common costs. However, as an unintended consequence of welfare reform, states are now in a position to increase federal costs by shifting welfare administrative costs from the new capped welfare block grant (TANF) to the open-ended food stamp program. Such a cost-shift would give states a substantial windfall from the federal government because TANF grants already provide states with funding for welfare administrative costs. The National Governors' Association has recognized that States have the opportunity to "double-dip" on welfare administrative funds and believes that action is appropriate to prevent the cost increases --although they are not comfortable with the way the cut in the Ag Research bill was derived.

The Ag Research bill provision will prevent federal costs from rising as a result of the cost-shifting. It also addresses one of the Governors' main concerns by giving states the right to appeal the HHS Secretary's determination of the cost-shift amount.

June 22, 1998

Agricultural Research Bill Signing Ceremony

DATE: June 23, 1998
LOCATION: The Rose Garden
TIME: 10:35 pm - 11:05 pm
FROM: Larry Stein
 Janet Murguia

I. PURPOSE

To sign into law S. 1150, the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, also known as the "Ag Research Conference Report." This is an opportunity to bring together the diverse coalitions which have strong interests in this legislation including rural, nutrition and immigrant advocates.

II. BACKGROUND

On June 4th, the House passed S. 1150, the Agricultural, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. Essentially, the bill restores food stamps to 250,000 legal immigrants, expands agriculture research and makes up a \$1 billion shortfall in the federal crop insurance program. The overwhelming House vote, 364-50, for the bill gave little indication of its tortured journey to final passage. On June 9th, the Senate approved the measure, 92-8. Until June 3rd, it was unclear that the House Republican Leadership -- torn between conservatives who opposed the food stamp provisions and farm-state lawmakers pleading for crop insurance funding -- would even allow it to come to the floor. Less than two weeks earlier, before leaving for a week long Memorial Day recess on May 22nd, Republican leaders tried to consider the bill under a rule that would have automatically stripped the immigrant provisions. Nearly 100 Republicans voted against the proposal, which failed 120-289, handing the Republican Leadership an embarrassing defeat.

You had threatened to veto the bill unless the food stamp aid was included. The Administration supports broader restoration of food stamp benefits but called the bill a crucial first step. After the May 22nd rule defeat, the Republican House Leadership came under sharp

criticism from rural lawmakers, who were worried that crop insurance agents would stop underwriting policies at the end of the month unless Congress acted to make up a \$200 million annual shortfall in the program. Finally, the House Leadership yielded to allow a vote on the bill but not until another Republican effort to block the bill failed. Before final voting, the House defeated, 324-91, a point of order by Rules Committee Chairman Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-NY), to strike \$1.7 billion in spending offsets. The bill would be paid for by reducing federal payments to states to administer the food stamp program. Solomon said the change would impose an unfunded mandate on the states.

S. 1150 reflects a delicate balance and compromise of commodity and nutrition interests. The bill would provide \$818 million over five years to restore food stamp benefits to elderly and disabled legal immigrants who were in the country when the welfare law was signed August 22, 1996, as well as 75,000 children under the age of 18. Refugees and those granted political asylum would be allowed to receive food stamps for seven years, up from the current five. The bill would also provide \$1 billion in mandatory crop insurance funding over five years. About half of the spending would be offset by cuts elsewhere in the crop insurance program. The money is needed to pay the commissions of agents who sell federally subsidized crop insurance policies. In addition, the bill includes \$600 million in mandatory funding for competitive grants for agriculture research into areas such as food safety, crop yields and genetic engineering.

It is important to acknowledge the four guardians of this bill, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Richard Lugar of Indiana and Ranking Member Tom Harkin of Iowa and House Agriculture Committee Chair Bob Smith of Oregon and Ranking Member Charles Stenholm of Texas. Special credit goes to USDA Secretary Glickman, Sen. Harkin and Rep. Stenholm who kept agriculture, nutrition, and immigrant groups united behind the bill at every critical juncture.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Pre-Brief

President

Secretary Glickman

Erskine Bowles

Larry Stein

Maria Echaveste

Jack Lew
Janet Murguia
Barbara Chow

Event

President

Secretary Glickman

Robert Carlson, Farmer, Gen Burn, ND

See attached list of Members of Congress.

See attached list of groups provided by OPL and IGA.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Legal -Secretary Glickman makes welcoming remarks and introduces TBD
Immigrant

-Robert Carlson makes remarks and introduces you

-You make remarks

-Following remarks you proceed to table to sign the bill

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriters

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- I. Members of Congress confirmed to attend
- II. OPL list of attendees
- III. Local elected officials

ATTACHMENT I

Members of Congress Confirmed to Attend

Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)
 Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)
 Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD)
 Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN)

Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
 Rep. Marion Berry (D-AR)
 Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)
 Rep. George Brown (D-CA)
 Rep. Eva Clayton (D-NC)
 Rep. Bud Cramer (D-AL)
 Rep. Cal Dooley (D-CA)
 Rep. Bob Etheridge (D-NC)
 Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
 Rep. Chris John (D-LA)
 Rep. Nick Lampson (D-TX)
 Rep. David Minge (D-MN)
 Rep. Patsy Mink (D-HI)
 Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC)
 Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND)
 Rep. Bob Smith (R-OR)
 Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
 Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-TX)
 Rep. Ted Strickland (D-OH)

ATTACHMENT II

OPL List of Attendees

Bill Lovelady

Chairman of the Board of Directors
National Cotton Council
Tornilla, TX

Mr. Brent Porteus

Chairman of Public Policy Team
National Corn Growers Association
Coshocton, OK

Ms. Margie Williams

Acting Chief Executive Officer
National Association of Wheat Growers
Washington, DC

Mr. Mark Berg

President
American Soy Bean Association
Tripp, South Dakota

Mr. Chuck Shroeder

National Cattleman's Beef Association
Denver, CO

Ms. Chung-Wha Hong

Executive Director
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Inc.
Flushing, NY

Mr. Ron Cruz

Executive Director
Portuguese American Leadership Council
Washington, DC

Ms. Cecilia Munoz

Vice President, Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation
National Council of La Raza
Detroit, MI

Ms. Diane Aviv

Associate Executive Vice President
 Council of Jewish Federations
Mr. Gary Cornelius
 Farmer of Boone County, Iowa/Representative
 Iowa State University
 Member, Black Farmers Agriculturists Association
 Member, Farm State Committee

ATTACHMENT III

Local Elected Officials Attending

Honorable Karen Darner
Virginia State Delegate

Honorable Gloria Molina (LA County, CA)
Supervisors

**PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION,
AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998**

June 23, 1998

Today the President will sign into law the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. This law will (1) restore Food Stamp benefits for 250,000 legal immigrants, including children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and refugees and asylees; (2) provide full funding for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) authorize funding for the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, which supports new and existing agricultural research, education and extension programs, and (4) extend and authorize additional funding for the Fund for Rural America. Under the President's leadership, a broad coalition of individual and groups, including legal immigrants, farmers, agricultural groups, and religious leaders, came together to help ensure that this Nation's farmers are secure when disaster strikes; that rural communities are strengthened economically; that American agricultural research is second to none; and that legal immigrants in need receive benefits to help feed their families. The main provisions of this legislation include:

Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The food stamp provisions will restore benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance as a result of cuts in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. This restoration builds on the President's success last year in restoring SSI and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This bill and last year's Balanced Budget Act go a long way toward reversing the unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that the President criticized when he signed the 1996 welfare reform law, and that he committed to work with Congress to overturn.

This law will restore Food Stamp benefits to legal immigrants who lawfully resided in the United States as of August 22, 1996, and are: (1) disabled or become disabled after that date; (2) elderly; or (3) children under 18 years of age. It also restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. We will continue to work to ensure that, in this great country, those who honor our laws and contribute to our society can be free from hunger.

Federal Crop Insurance. This legislation will provide the authority to ensure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program to help strengthen the farm safety net. When the President signs this bill into law, our Nation's farmers will know that crop insurance will be fully funded for the next five years and will be

there for them if disaster strikes. Without the funding provided in this legislation, it was possible that crop insurance policies would have had to be canceled, creating significant problems for many of our Nation's farmers, including preventing many of them from securing annual farm operating loans.

Fund for Rural America. \$300 million (of which \$100 million is new funding) will be provided over the next five years, for the Fund for Rural America which provides loans and grants for rural economic and community development to strengthen rural communities, and innovative applied research and extension programs to improve food safety, human nutrition, and agricultural productivity.

Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Initiatives. This legislation would reauthorize through Fiscal Year 2002 the various USDA programs that support the Nation's land-grant colleges and universities. In addition, this legislation would fund additional research programs. Most notably, this legislation would channel \$120 million a year over the next five years, for a total of \$600 million, to the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grants program that would support activities in critical emerging areas including: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON
THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BILL SIGNING
June 23, 1998**

Q: What did the President do today?

A: Today the President signed into law the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998. This law will (1) restore Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; (2) provide a needed authorization for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) establish and authorize several new and existing agricultural research, extension, and education programs; and (4) extend and authorize additional funding for the Fund for Rural America. Under the President's leadership, a broad coalition of individual and groups, including legal immigrants, farmers, agricultural groups, land-grant universities and religious leaders, were brought together to help ensure that this Nation's farmers are secure when disaster strikes; that rural communities are strengthened economically; that American agricultural research is second to none and that legal immigrants in need receive benefits to help feed their families.

Q: What are the main provisions of the legislation?

A: There are four main provisions in the bill: (1) the restoration of Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; (2) funding for the Federal crop insurance program; (3) funding for agricultural research, extension, and education programs; and (4) the extension and funding of the Fund for Rural America. Below are some highlights of the provisions:

Food Stamp Benefits for Legal Immigrants. The food stamp provisions will restore benefits to 250,000 elderly, disabled, and other needy legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance as the result of harsh cuts contained in the 1996 welfare law that had nothing to do with welfare reform. This bill and last year's Balanced Budget Act go a long way toward fulfilling the President's commitment to reversing the unfair treatment of legal immigrants contained in the 1996 Welfare Reform bill. The Food Stamp provisions build on the Administration's success last year in restoring Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid to 420,000 legal immigrants whose benefits were also terminated in welfare reform. This law will restore Food Stamp benefits to "qualified aliens" who lawfully resided in the United States as of August 22, 1996, and are: (1) disabled or become disabled after that date; (2) 65 years of age or older; or (3) children under 18 years of age. It also restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War and extends the period during

which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship.

Federal Crop Insurance. This legislation will provide the authority to ensure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program to help strengthen the farm safety net. When the President signs this bill into law, our Nation's farmers will know that crop insurance, which is fully funded for the next five years, will be there for them if disaster strikes. Without the funding provided in this legislation, it was possible that crop insurance policies would have had to be canceled, creating significant problems for many of our Nation's farmers, including preventing many of them from securing annual farm operating loans.

Fund for Rural America. This legislation will provide \$300 million (of which \$100 million is new) over the next five years for the Fund for Rural America which funds innovative, applied research, and extension programs to strengthen rural communities, as well as providing funding for rural development programs to diversify the rural economy and finance needed rural community facilities.

Agriculture Research, Extension, and Education Initiatives. This legislation would reauthorize through Fiscal Year 2002 the various USDA programs that support the Nation's land-grant colleges and universities. In addition, this legislation would fund additional research programs. Most notably, this legislation would channel \$120 million a year over the next five years to the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grants program that would support activities in critical emerging areas including: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability.

Q: What is the total spending contained in this legislation?

A: This legislation would provide new appropriations or spending totaling more than \$2 billion during FY1999-2003. This includes approximately \$600 million for agricultural research, extension, and education programs; a net total of nearly \$500 million for elements of the crop insurance program; \$830 million for food stamp benefits; and an additional \$100 million for the Fund for Rural America. This funding is fully offset, with the main savings from reduced payments to the States for administering the food stamp program.

Q: Where does the money to fund this bill come from?

A: The bill's savings come from a few sources: (1) food stamp administrative costs, which are projected to rise because of a problem in welfare reform, (2) work money for 18-50s in the food stamp program; and (3) computer spending for USDA.

Q: Aren't there problems with appropriations for some of the programs authorized in this legislation?

A: Appropriations actions in both the House and Senate would block any funds from being used for the Fund for Rural America in FY 1999. In addition, the House bill would also block all research funding making up the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. The President's food safety initiative has received very little funding in committees in both the House and Senate.

In addition, in another vital nutrition program, Women, Infants and Children would have its funding frozen at 1998 levels -- which could result in 100,000 fewer women and children receiving food under the program. (WIC is not in this legislation, but is like the other examples, is being steam rolled in the appropriations process.)

We must not allow Congress to undo the progress made by this legislation, which provides food to legal immigrants in need and improves farmers' ability to provide agricultural products to the nation and the world. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to ensure that these food and economic programs receive the necessary funding to provide food for this Nation's citizens whether they live in cities or in rural areas.

More on Food Stamps:

Q: Are you trying to undo the 1996 welfare law by restoring food stamps to legal immigrants? Shouldn't those who come here be expected to support themselves?

A: The President believes that legal immigrants should have the same opportunity, and bear the same responsibility, as other members of society. Upon signing the 1996 welfare law, he pledged to work toward reversing the unfair cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had nothing

to do with moving people from welfare to work. As part of last year's Balanced Budget Act (BBA), the President worked with Congress to restore Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to hundreds of thousands of disabled and elderly legal immigrants. Now, with the upcoming signing of the Ag Research bill, the President and Congress will act to restore Food Stamp benefits to vulnerable groups of legal immigrants.

Q: Why does the Ag Research bill cut \$145 million from funds the Administration fought for in the Balanced Budget Act that would provide work opportunities to unemployed single adults subject to time limits on Food Stamps?

A: As you know, the Agriculture Research bill balances a number of different competing priorities for funding --Food Stamps for legal immigrants, crop insurance, the Fund for Rural America, and agriculture research. In order to ensure that we could provide an adequate amount of Food Stamps for legal immigrants, the conferees needed to identify additional savings to offset the costs of the benefit restorations.

In roughly the year since the work funds were enacted in the BBA, we have seen that programs to serve unemployed adults in the Food Stamp program have been slower to start up than we originally anticipated. As a result, a lot of the funds for work activities are currently going unused. While the "18-50s" population remains a very high priority for the Administration, we believed it would be better to redirect some of the work funds toward restoring benefits to legal immigrants who are experiencing dire need rather than watch the work money go unused. It was a difficult choice, but, on balance, we believe it was the correct one to make given current circumstances.

The 18-50s population remains a very high priority for the Administration. The Administration strongly believes that people who are unemployed should be given the opportunity to work rather than be subject to harsh Food Stamp cut-offs. States hold the key to running the work programs for 18-50s. While program start-up has been slow, USDA is working with States to identify issues and to improve their plans for serving 18-50s. We believe that coordinated efforts between the Department and the States will help fulfill our commitment to meet the goals of the work funds --ensuring that work is available for people who are willing to work.

Q: Has the President fulfilled his pledge to reverse these cuts, or are you

seeking additional restorations of benefits to legal immigrants?

- A:** The bill provides benefits to individuals who were in the country as of the signing of the welfare bill in 1996, whereas the Administration also proposed to restore food stamps to legal immigrants who entered the country after the welfare law was enacted. The Administration will continue to press for enactment of its full proposal, so that legal immigrants who enter this country legally and honor this country's laws have access to a nutritional safety net in times of need.

(IF ASKED: This bill includes about one-third of the food stamp restorations to legal immigrants included in the Administration's budget proposal.)

- Q:** **Governors complain that you are cutting their budgets to fund this bill. Is that true?**

- A:** Because of an unintended consequence of welfare reform, States are now in a position to increase Federal costs by up to \$3 billion over the next five years simply by changing the way they do their accounting of State costs to administer welfare programs. That \$3 billion is a clear and simple windfall to the States at the expense of the Federal government. The agriculture research bill would prevent States from receiving part of this windfall through administrative expenditures in the Food Stamp Program. States would be held to the level of funding they would otherwise receive through Food Stamps in the absence of the windfall. The Administration does not believe that funding level is unfair.

Before welfare reform, states were supposed to charge common administrative costs of AFDC and food stamps to their AFDC budget. Because the matching rate for these open-ended programs was the same, states would receive the same federal matching funds regardless of which program paid for these common costs. However, as an unintended consequence of welfare reform, states are now in a position to increase federal costs by shifting welfare administrative costs from the new capped welfare block grant (TANF) to the open-ended food stamp program. Such a cost-shift would give states a substantial windfall from the federal government because TANF grants already provide states with funding for welfare administrative costs. The National Governors' Association has recognized that States have the opportunity to "double-dip" on welfare administrative funds and believes that action is appropriate to prevent the cost increases --although they are not comfortable with the way the cut in the Ag Research bill was derived.

The Ag Research bill provision will prevent federal costs from rising as a result of the cost-shifting. It also addresses one of the Governors' main concerns by giving states the right to appeal the HHS Secretary's determination of the cost-shift amount.

Total Pages: 6

LRM ID: MLG124

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503-0001**

Monday, June 15, 1998

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer - See Distribution below

FROM: E. Holly Fitter (for) Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

OMB CONTACT: Michael L. Goad

PHONE: (202)395-3857 **FAX:** (202)395-5691

SUBJECT: REVISED OMB Signing Statement on S1150 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act

DEADLINE: 1:00 P.M., TODAY, Monday, June 15, 1998

In accordance with OMB Circular A-19, OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President. Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

COMMENTS:**DISTRIBUTION LIST****AGENCIES:**

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LRM ID: MLG124 SUBJECT: REVISED OMB Signing Statement on S1150 Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act

**RESPONSE TO
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL
MEMORANDUM**

If your response to this request for views is short (e.g., concur/no comment), we prefer that you respond by e-mail or by faxing us this response sheet. If the response is short and you prefer to call, please call the branch-wide line shown below (NOT the analyst's line) to leave a message with a legislative assistant.

You may also respond by:

(1) calling the analyst/attorney's direct line (you will be connected to voice mail if the analyst does not answer); or

(2) sending us a memo or letter

Please include the LRM number shown above, and the subject shown below.

TO: Michael L. Goad Phone: 395-3857 Fax: 395-5691
Office of Management and Budget
Branch-Wide Line (to reach legislative assistant): 395-6194

FROM: _____ (Date)
 _____ (Name)
 _____ (Agency)
 _____ (Telephone)

The following is the response of our agency to your request for views on the above-captioned subject:

 Concur

No Objection

No Comment

See proposed edits on pages _____

Other: _____

_____ FAX RETURN of _____ pages, attached to this response sheet.

I am pleased today to be signing into law S. 1150, the "Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998." This bill is an example of the Federal Government at its best: Congress and the Administration working together on bipartisan basis, bringing together a broad coalition of individuals and groups, to address some of the most important needs of the people in a fiscally responsible manner. The overwhelming majorities of the House and Senate that voted for this bill are evidence of the strong consensus in this country for the reforms and funding contained in this bill.

This bill and last year's Balanced Budget Act go a long way toward fulfilling the commitment to reverse the unfair treatment of legal immigrants that I made when I signed the 1996 Welfare Reform bill. The Food Stamp provisions of S. 1150 restore benefits to 250,000 legal immigrants, including 75,000 children, who lost assistance through the 1996 bill as a result of its harsh cuts that had nothing to do with welfare reform. The Food Stamp provisions build on our success last year in restoring to legal immigrants the SSI and Medicaid benefits that were also terminated in welfare reform. S. 1150 benefits to the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. It also restores benefits to Hmong immigrants from Laos who aided our country during the Vietnam War, and extends the period during which refugees and asylees may qualify for Food Stamps while they await citizenship. We will continue to work to ensure that, in this great country, those who honor our laws and contribute to our society can be free from hunger. *too broad*

Similarly, when I signed the 1996 Farm Bill that radically changed the decades-old Federal programs to balance crop supply and demand, I made a commitment to work with Congress to strengthen the farm safety net. I was concerned that the Federal Government was walking too far away from doing its part to keep U.S. agriculture the most productive and efficient in the world, and from improving the quality of life in rural America. With the bill I am

approving today, our Nation's farmers know that crop insurance will be there for them if disaster strikes, with the program fully funded for the next five years.

Another crucial fiber in strengthening the farm safety net is improving farming productivity and efficiency, and we must increase our investment in agricultural research to do so. In the 1996 Farm Bill deliberations, Congress believed the agricultural research title to be so important that work on it was postponed so it could receive the time and consideration that it deserved. The research provisions in S. 1150 were worth waiting for, and I commend the Congress for its work.

The Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems in S. 1150 will channel an additional \$120 million a year to vital investments in food and agriculture genome research, food safety and technology, human nutrition, and agricultural biotechnology. These investments will lead to advances in new production systems for crops and livestock. This will enable farmers and agricultural processors to improve their ability to produce an abundant supply of safe food, with less harm to the environment, and meet the challenge of new, more virulent pest and disease outbreaks. In addition, the bill reforms the working arrangements between the Secretary of Agriculture and the universities that carry out important agricultural research. These changes will encourage and enable them to take on larger-scale challenges and enhance their integration of research, education, and extension functions while improving the accountability and management of their programs.

Rural areas cannot rely on agriculture alone to sustain their economy and quality of life. That is why I have strongly supported increasing the investments in rural development throughout my Administration, and pushed to find innovative solutions to unique local needs. We worked hard with Congress in the 1996 Farm Bill to create the Fund for Rural America,

which provided \$300 million for additional rural development and innovative agricultural research funding. I am pleased that S. 1150 provides an additional \$200 million for the Fund and extends its funding through FY 2002.

As I have today approved S. 1150, I am concerned that some in Congress are already threatening to block significant portions of its funds from being spent in FY 1999. Appropriation bills in the House and Senate would deny any funds from being used for the Fund for Rural America, and the House bill would also block any research funding in this bill from going forward next year. I strongly object to these ill advised proposed cuts in these vital programs. I call on Congress to heed the many voices from across America that they listened to when they overwhelmingly approved S. 1150, to look past congressional jurisdictional squabbles to see the greater good, and to provide the needed funds for these important activities.

10am Briefing

1030 - ~~Event~~ Meet + greet

1035 - Event

Gates @ 930 - ~~Ag~~

Rain - Ag

Invites going out

Program

Glickman 2-3 mins.
- not too sure

- Prole

Legal Imag - Arrv

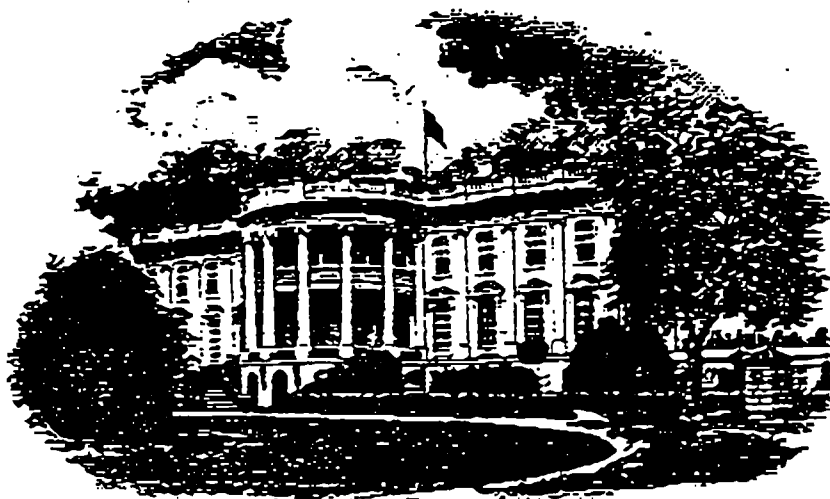
Farmer

(No M of C) (Daschle slight pass)

Remarks:
(Lugar, Hartin, Smith, Stenholm)

Pres.

Office of Management and Budget



Natural Resources, Agriculture Branch

Fax Transmittal Cover Sheet

Number of pages (including cover) _____

Date: 6/19/98

To: Mary Smith

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

From: Mark Weatherly

Comments: Ag. Research Bill - enrolled
bill - memo per your request.

Phone: (202) 395-3446

Fax: (202) 395-4941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1150 - Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
Reform Act of 1998
Sponsor - Sen. Lugar (R) IN

Last Day for Action

June 23, 1998 - Tuesday

Purpose

Restores Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; provides funding for the Federal crop insurance program; and establishes, reauthorizes, or modifies certain research, extension, and education programs within the Department of Agriculture.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Approval (Signing Statement attached)
Social Security Administration	Approval
Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)	Approval
Department of Commerce	No objection (Signing Statement attached)
General Services Administration	No objection
Environmental Protection Agency	No objection (Informally)
Office of the United States Trade Representative	No objection (Informally)
Small Business Administration	No objection (Informally)
Department of Health and Human Services	Defers to USDA
Department of Education	Defers to USDA (Informally)
Department of the Interior	Defers to USDA (Informally)
Department of Energy	No comment (Informally)
Department of Justice	No comment (Informally)

Department of State
Small Business Administration

No comment (Informally)
No comment (Informally)

Discussion

S. 1150 is a multi-title bill that would: (1) restore Food Stamp benefits for certain legal immigrants; (2) provide a needed authorization for the Federal crop insurance program; and (3) extend and authorize additional funding for the Fund for Rural America. The enrolled bill would also establish several new agricultural research initiatives and modify or reauthorize through FY 2002 certain existing Federal agricultural research, extension, and education programs that expired in September 1997. The enrolled bill contains numerous miscellaneous provisions, including requirements for reports to Congress.

S. 1150 would authorize appropriations or spending totaling more than \$2 billion during FYs 1999-2003. This includes approximately \$600 million for agricultural research, extension, and education programs; a net total of nearly \$500 million for elements of the crop insurance program; \$830 million for Food Stamp benefits; and \$100 million for the Fund for Rural America. This funding is fully offset, with the main savings derived from reduced payments to the States for administering the Food Stamp program.

The more significant provisions of the enrolled bill, which passed the Senate and House by votes of 92-8 and 364-50, respectively, are discussed below. A section-by-section description of the enrolled bill's provisions is included with the USDA views letter.

Major Provisions of S. 1150

Food Stamp Benefits for Immigrants. In signing the welfare reform law (P.L. 104-193) in 1996, you pledged to reverse the law's cuts in benefits to legal immigrants that had "nothing to do with welfare reform." This pledge was partially fulfilled with the enactment of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-033) under which Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income benefits were restored to legal immigrants who were receiving them as of August 22, 1996. In addition, P.L. 105-033 allowed legal immigrants who had entered the United States as of that date, but who become disabled in the future, to receive such benefits.

S. 1150 would restore Food Stamp benefits to "qualified aliens" who lawfully resided in the United States as of August 22, 1996, and were: (1) disabled or become disabled after that date; (2) 65 years of age or older; or (3) children under 18 years of age. S. 1150 also would extend, from five to seven years, the period during which refugees and asylees are eligible to receive Food Stamps. In addition, it would make the following eligible for Food Stamps: (1) Hmong and Laotian immigrants who aided U.S. personnel during the Vietnam conflict; and (2) certain Native Americans living along the Canadian and Mexican borders.

Payments to States for Administration of the Food Stamp Program. Prior to the enactment of the welfare reform law, States charged to the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program certain administrative costs that could have been attributed to Food Stamps and Medicaid. P.L. 104-193 changed AFDC into a block grant (the TANF program) and provided funds to States based on historical levels that included all of the administrative costs in AFDC, including those that could have been attributed to Food Stamps and Medicaid.

Because Food Stamps and Medicaid have retained open-ended matching funds for State administrative costs, many States have sought to change the way they allocate costs among TANF, Food Stamps, and Medicaid by charging more administrative costs to Food Stamps and Medicaid and fewer costs to TANF. As the costs that would be reallocated to Food Stamps and Medicaid have already been included in the TANF block grant, States would receive a windfall as a result of the cost shift to Food Stamps and Medicaid.

S. 1150 would require HHS to determine the specific amount of costs included in TANF that could have been attributed to Food Stamps prior to welfare reform, and then direct the Secretary of Agriculture to reduce administrative payments to States for Food Stamps by the amount determined by HHS. This provision would reduce Federal Food Stamp spending by \$1.8 billion during FYs 1999-2003. Pursuant to the enrolled bill, a portion of these savings would be used to offset the bill's restoration of Food Stamp benefits for legal immigrants.

Employment and Training Funds. Under current law, States receive Federal funding for employment and training programs for Food Stamp recipients aged 18 to 50 years. This funding was provided in P.L. 105-033 to offer work slots to individuals subject to the current-law "3-in-36 month" time limit on the receipt of Food Stamp benefits by unemployed single adults. State spending on employment and training programs for Food Stamp recipients has been low. S. 1150, therefore, would reduce Federal funding for this purpose from \$131 million in each of FYs 1999 and 2000 to \$31 million in FY 1999 and \$86 million in FY 2000.

Federal Crop Insurance. S. 1150 would provide the authority to ensure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program. Without the funding provided in the bill, it is possible that crop insurance policies would have to be canceled. Cancellation of crop insurance would have created a significant problem for many farmers by preventing them from securing annual farm operating loans.

The 1994 reform of the crop insurance program left the funding of private insurance agents, who sell and service crop insurance policies, subject to discretionary appropriations. In order to ensure adequate funding of these costs, the FY 1999 Budget proposed to fund them through mandatory spending with approximately half of the offsets derived from other reforms to the crop insurance program. S. 1150 is consistent with the Administration's proposal, although the specific changes in the crop insurance program differ from those proposed.

Reforms in the enrolled bill that will reduce the cost of the crop insurance program include:

- Reducing delivery expense payments to private insurance companies from 27 percent to 24.5 percent of premiums.
- Reducing the loss adjustment payments on catastrophic policies from 14 percent to 11 percent of premiums.
- Changing the fees charged for "catastrophic" loss policies from \$50 per policy to either \$50 per policy or 10 percent of premiums, whichever is greater. The increased fees would be remitted to the Federal Government rather than the insurance companies.
- Raising the current administrative fee paid by farmers for additional insurance coverage from \$10 to \$20 per crop policy.
- Reducing the amount of mandatory funds that USDA's Risk Management Agency can spend for research and development purposes from \$7.5 million to \$3.5 million per year.

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education (REE) Initiatives. S. 1150 would reauthorize through FY 2002 the various USDA programs that support the Nation's land-grant colleges and universities and USDA's intramural research program. The 1996 Farm Bill had reauthorized these programs for only two years, through FY 1997. S. 1150 would complete the Farm Bill reauthorization process, modify many existing programs, and authorize new REE programs.

The most significant new research program authorized by S. 1150 is the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, a competitive grants program that would support REE activities in critical emerging areas. These areas include: agricultural genomes, food safety, food technology and human nutrition, new and alternative uses of agricultural commodities and products, agricultural biotechnology, natural resource management, and farm efficiency and profitability. S. 1150 would provide annual budget authority of \$120 million in mandatory funding for these projects for five years. High priority would be given to projects that are multi-state, multi-institutional, or multi-disciplinary.

S. 1150 would also authorize a new Agricultural Genome Initiative. The Secretary would make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to fund research on plant, animal, and microbial genomes to locate important genes that would allow future genetic improvement of agriculturally important species. This Initiative, which was proposed in the FY 1999 Budget, would also fund research on the preservation of diverse germplasm and support the efforts of the National Science and Technology Council's Interagency Working Group on Plant Genome research.

The enrolled bill would also reauthorize the National Research Initiative, which is a discretionary program that supports important fundamental science on agriculture, food, and environmental issues. S. 1150 would reauthorize numerous other programs including: an organic agriculture research program, an agricultural telecommunications program, a nutrient (animal feed and waste) management initiative, and a program to assist farmers with disabilities. S. 1150 would also reauthorize and amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Program. Pursuant to the bill, the Secretary would be required to publish, at five-year intervals, a State-by-State inventory of forests and an analysis of forest health conditions over the previous two decades.

Other provisions in S. 1150 would improve the management and accountability of agricultural research programs. These provisions include: (1) a requirement that all agricultural research and extension projects be subject to peer and merit review; (2) an increase in the non-federal matching requirements for the historically-black land-grant colleges to make them consistent with the requirements of the other land-grants; and (3) a requirement that at least 25 percent of funding available to land-grant universities through dedicated formulas be awarded for multi-state, multi-institution, and multi-disciplinary grants. In addition, S. 1150 would eliminate certain duplicative grants.

Fund for Rural America ¹⁹⁹⁹⁻²⁰⁰³ S. 1150 would authorize mandatory annual appropriations of \$60 million during FYs 1999-2003 for the existing Fund for Rural America. The Fund provides financial assistance to rural Americans and funds innovative, applied research, and extension programs to strengthen rural communities.

Miscellaneous Provisions. Among its numerous miscellaneous provisions, the enrolled bill includes a Sense of Congress statement that the Secretary of Agriculture should use a substantial portion of specified research funds to develop alternatives to the methyl bromide pesticide. This pesticide is used as a soil fumigant in strawberry, tomato, cucumber, pepper, melon, and eggplant fields and as a post-harvest fumigant for imported and exported vegetables. A second Sense of Congress statement concerns the Secretaries of Agriculture and Education cooperating to provide instructional and technical support for school-based agricultural education.

S. 1150 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on a number of topics. For example, the Secretary would be required to report on research, marketing, and commercialization activities related to biobased products, as well as specified crop insurance issues, including privatization. The Secretary would also be required to request the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of the role and mission of federally-funded REE programs. Finally, the Secretary would be directed to send Congress a strategic plan to implement the expanded Forest and Rangeland Research Initiative.

Pay-As-You-Go Scoring

S. 1150 would affect direct spending and, therefore, is subject to the pay-as-you-go requirement of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990. OMB's preliminary scoring estimates of this bill are presented in the table below.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATES
(dollars in millions)

<u>Outlays</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>Total</u>
Research and						
Rural Development	-10	20	105	128	117	360
Food Stamp Administration						
and Employment and						
Training	-385	-415	-405	-405	-405	-2015
Food Stamp Benefits	195	185	155	145	150	830
Crop Insurance (Net)	93	101	109	115	122	540
Other	0	-27	-27	-28	0	-82
Total	-107	-136	-63	-45	-16	-367

Agency Views

USDA recommends "in the strongest terms" the approval of S. 1150. USDA advises that the enrolled bill "makes important changes in the eligibility of food stamps supporting work and responsibility for those who play by the rules [and] provides a needed infusion of funding for agricultural research, extension, and education to address critical issues in food production, environmental quality, and farm income."

Commerce has no objection to S. 1150, but requests that section 613 be addressed in a signing statement. This section would designate the Secretary of Agriculture as the principal official responsible for coordinating all Federal research and extension activities related to food and agriculture science. Commerce advises that this section does not take into consideration the existing authorities of other Federal agencies (e.g., aquaculture authorities). Commerce has provided language for a signing statement that would narrowly construe the authority in section 613 as applying to only Agriculture and not to other agencies. USDA advises informally that it will send this Office a letter confirming such a narrow interpretation of the section. Accordingly, Commerce no longer requests that the matter be addressed in a signing statement.

Conclusion and Recommendations

We join USDA, the Social Security Administration, and OSTP in recommending approval of S. 1150. A signing statement is attached for your consideration. The statement comments favorably on the the bill's changes in agriculture and welfare policies. It also urges Congress to provide adequate appropriations for important agricultural programs in FY 1999. The statement has been reviewed and approved by USDA, the Department of Justice, and White House Legislative Affairs.

Jacob J. Lew
Acting Director

Enclosures

LRD:HFitter:MGoad:dmc 06/17/98



United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service

FAX

To:

Mary Smith

Fax #:

456-7431

Subject:

Date:

Pages: including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Let me know if you want us to
follow up on this idea. Have a
nice weekend

Tom

From the desk of

Thomas J. Billy
Administrator
331-E Jamie L. Whitten Building
Washington, DC 20250

202-720-7025
or 720-8217
Fax 205-0158

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 22, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT THE SIGNING OF THE
PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND
WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT

The Rose Garden

11:15 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Lillie, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Vice President, to the members of the Cabinet. All of the members of Congress who are here, thank you very much.

I'd like to say to Congressman Castle, I'm especially glad to see you here, because eight years ago about this time when you were the Governor of Delaware and Governor Carper was the Congressman from Delaware, you and I were together at a signing like this.

Thank you, Senator Long, for coming here. Thank you, Governors Romer, Carper, Miller and Caperton.

I'd also like to thank Penelope Howard and Janet Ferrel for coming here. They, too, have worked their way from welfare to independence and we're honored to have them here. I'd like to thank all of the people who worked on this bill who have been introduced from our staff and Cabinet, but I'd also like to especially thank Bruce Reed, who did a lot to do with working on the final compromises of this bill; I

thank him.

Lillie Harden was up there talking, and I want to tell you how she happens to be here today. Ten years ago, Governor Castle and I were asked to cochair a Governors Task Force on Welfare Reform, and we were asked together on it, and when we met at Hilton Head in South Carolina, we had a little panel. And 41 governors showed up to listen to people who were on welfare from several states.

So I asked Carol Rasco to find me somebody from our state who had been in one of our welfare reform programs and had gone to work. She found Lillie Harden and Lillie showed up at the program. And I was conducting this meeting and I committed a mistake that they always tell lawyers never to do: never ask a question you do not know the answer to. (Laughter.)

But she was doing so well talking about it, as you saw how well-spoken she was today -- and I said, "Lillie, what's the best thing about being off welfare?" And she looked me straight in the eye and said, "When my boy goes to school and they say what does your mama do for a living, he can give an answer." I have never forgotten that. (Applause.) And when I saw the success of all of her children and the success that she's had in the past 10 years, I can tell you, you've had a bigger impact on me than I've had on you. And I thank you for the power of your example, for your family's. And for all of America, thank you very much. (Applause.)

What we are trying to do today is to overcome the flaws of the welfare system for the people who are trapped on it. We all know that the typical family on welfare today is very different from the one that welfare was designed to deal with 60 years ago. We all know that there are a lot of good people on welfare who just get off of it in the ordinary course of business, but that a significant number of people are trapped on welfare for a very long time, exiling them from the entire community of work that gives structure to our lives.

Nearly 30 years ago, Robert Kennedy said, "Work is the meaning of what this country is all about. We need it as individuals, we need to sense it in our fellow citizens, and we need it as a society and as a people." He was right then, and it's right now.

From now on, our nation's answer to this great social challenge will no longer be a never-ending cycle of welfare, it will be

the dignity, the power and the ethic of work. Today, we are taking an historic chance to make welfare what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life.

The bill I'm about to sign, as I have said many times, is far from perfect, but it has come a very long way. Congress sent me two previous bills that I strongly believe failed to protect our children

and did too little to move people from welfare to work. I vetoed both of them. This bill had broad bipartisan support and is much, much better on both counts.

The new bill restores America's basic bargain of providing opportunity and demanding in return responsibility. It provides \$14 billion for child care, \$4 billion more than the present law does. It is good because without the assurance of child care it's all but impossible for a mother with young children to go to work. It requires states to maintain their own spending on welfare reform and gives them powerful performance incentives to place more people on welfare in jobs. It gives states the capacity to create jobs by taking money now used for welfare checks and giving it to employers as subsidies as incentives to hire people. This bill will help people to go to work so they can stop drawing a welfare check and start drawing a paycheck.

It's also better for children. It preserves the national safety net of food stamps and school lunches. It drops the deep cuts and the devastating changes in child protection, adoption, and help for disabled children. It preserves the national guarantee of health care for poor children, the disabled, the elderly, and people on welfare -- the most important preservation of all.

It includes the tough child support enforcement measures that, as far as I know, every member of Congress and everybody in the administration and every thinking person in the country has supported for more than two years.

It's the most sweeping crackdown on deadbeat parents in history. We have succeeded in increasing child support collection 40 percent, but over a third of the cases where there's delinquencies, involve who cross state lines. For a lot of women and children, the only reason they're on welfare today -- the only reason -- is that the father up and walked away when he could have made a contribution to the welfare of the children. That is wrong. If every parent paid the child

support that he or she owes legally today, we could move 800,000 women and children off welfare immediately.

With this bill we say, if you don't pay the child support you owe we'll garnish your wages, take away your driver's license, track you across state lines; if necessary, make you work off what you pay -- what you owe. It is a good thing and it will help dramatically to reduce welfare, increase independence, and reenforce parental responsibility. (Applause.)

As the Vice President said, we strongly disagree with a couple of provisions of this bill. We believe that the nutritional cuts are too deep, especially as they affect low-income working people and children. We should not be punishing people who are working for a living already; we should do everything we can to lift them up and keep them at work and help them to support their children. **We also believe that the congressional leadership insisted in cuts in programs for legal immigrants that are far too deep.**

These cuts, however, have nothing to do with the fundamental purpose of welfare reform. I signed this bill because this is an historic chance -- where Republicans and Democrats got together and said, we're going to take this historic chance to try to recreate the nation's social bargain with the poor. We're going to try to change the parameters of the debate. We're going to make it all new again and see if we can't create a system of incentives which reenforce work and family and independence.

We can change what is wrong. We should not have passed this historic opportunity to do what is right. And so I want to ask all of you, without regard to party, to think through the implications of these other non-welfare issues on the American people and let's work together in good spirits and good faith to remedy what is wrong. We can balance the budget without these cuts, but let's not obscure the fundamental purpose of the welfare provisions of this legislation which are good and solid, and which can give us at least the chance to end the terrible, almost physical isolation of huge numbers of poor people and their children from the rest of mainstream America. We have to do that. (Applause.)

Let me also say that there's something really good about this legislation. When I sign it we all have to start again. And this becomes everybody's responsibility. After I sign my name to this bill,

welfare will no longer be a political issue. The two parties cannot attack each other over it. Politicians cannot attack poor people over it. There are no encrusted habits, systems and failures that can be laid at the foot of someone else. We have to begin again. This is not the end of welfare reform, this is the beginning. And we have to all assume responsibility. (Applause.)

Now that we are saying with this bill we expect work, we have to make sure the people have a chance to go to work. If we really value work, everybody in this society -- businesses, non-profits, religious institutions, individuals, those in government -- all have a responsibility to make sure the jobs are there.

These three women have great stories. Almost everybody on welfare would like to have a story like that. And the rest of us now have a responsibility to give them that story. We cannot blame the system for the jobs they don't have anymore. If it doesn't work now, it's everybody's fault -- mine, yours, and everybody else. There is no longer a system in the way. (Applause.)

I've worked hard over the past four years to create jobs and to steer investment into places where there are large numbers of people on welfare because there's been no economic recovery. That's what the empowerment zone program was all about. That's what the community development bank initiative was all about. That's what our urban Brownfield cleanup initiative was all about -- trying to give people the means to make a living in areas that had been left behind.

I think we have to do more here in Washington to do that, and I'll have more to say about that later. But let me say again, we have to build a new work and family system. And this is everybody's responsibility now. The people on welfare are people just like these three people we honor here today and their families. They are human beings. And we owe it to all of them to give them a chance to come back.

I talked the other day when the Vice President and I went down to Tennessee and we were working with Congressman Tanner's district, we were working on a church that had burned. And there was a pastor there from a church in North Carolina that brought a group of his people in to work. And he started asking me about welfare reform, and I started telling him about it. And I said, "You know what you ought to do? You ought to go tell Governor Hunt that you would hire somebody on

welfare to work in your church if he would give you the welfare check as a wage supplement, you'd double their pay and you'd keep them employed for a year or so and see if you couldn't train them and help their families and see if their kids were all right." I said, "Would you do that?" He said, "In a heartbeat."

I think there are people all over America like that. (Applause.) I think there are people all over America like that. That's what I want all of you to be thinking about today -- what are we going to do now? This is not over, this is just beginning. The Congress deserves our thanks for creating a new reality, but we have to fill in the blanks. The governors asked for this responsibility; now they've got to live up to it. There are mayors that have responsibilities, county officials that have responsibilities. Every employer in this country that ever made a disparaging remark about the welfare system needs to think about whether he or she should now hire somebody from welfare and go to work. Go to the state and say, okay, you give me the check, I'll use it as an income supplement, I'll train these people, I'll help them to start their lives and we'll go forward from here.

Every single person needs to be thinking -- every person in America tonight who sees a report of this who has ever said a disparaging word about the welfare system should now say, "Okay, that's gone. What is my responsibility to make it better?" (Applause.)

Two days ago we signed a bill increasing the minimum wage here and making it easier for people in small businesses to get and keep pensions. Yesterday we signed the Kassebaum-Kennedy bill which makes health care more available to up to 25 million Americans, many of them in lower-income jobs where they're more vulnerable.

The bill I'm signing today preserves the increases in the earned income tax credit for working families. It is now clearly better to go to work than to stay on welfare -- clearly better. Because of actions taken by the Congress in this session, it is clearly better. And what we have to do now is to make that work a reality.

I've said this many times, but, you know, most American families find that the greatest challenge of their lives is how to do a good job raising their kids and do a good job at work. Trying to balance work and family is the challenge that most Americans in the workplace face. Thankfully, that's the challenge Lillie Harden's had to

face for the last 10 years. That's just what we want for everybody. We want at least the chance to strike the right balance for everybody.

Today, we are ending welfare as we know it. But I hope this day will be remembered not for what it ended, but for what it began -- a new day that offers hope, honors responsibility, rewards work, and changes the terms of the debate so that no one in America ever feels again the need to criticize people who are poor on welfare, but instead feels the responsibility to reach out to men and women and children who are isolated, who need opportunity, and who are willing to assume responsibility, and give them to opportunity and the terms of responsibility. (Applause.)

Now, I'd like to ask Penelope Howard, Janet Ferrel, Lillie Harden, the governors and the members of Congress from both parties who are here to come up and join me as I sign the welfare reform bill.

Q Mr. President, before you sign the bill, can you tell us whether you think it's right to regulate tobacco or nicotine as a drug?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, Wolf, under the law, I have to wait until the OMB makes a recommendation to me. I think we have to anticipate things. I can't say more than that right now.

(The bill is signed.)

Q Mr. President, some of your core constituencies are furious with you for signing this bill. What do you say to them?

THE PRESIDENT: Just what I said up there. We saved medical care. We saved food stamps. We saved child care. We saved the aid to disabled children. We saved the school lunch program. We saved the framework of support. What we did was to tell the state, now you have to create a system to give everyone a chance to go to work who is able-bodied, give everyone a chance to be independent. And we did -- that is the right thing to do.

And now, welfare is no longer a political football to be kicked around. It's a personal responsibility of every American who ever criticized the welfare system to help the poor people now to move from welfare to work. That's what I say.

This is going to be a good thing for the country. **We're**

going to monitor it and we're going to fix whatever is wrong with it.

Q What guarantees are there that these things will be fixed, Mr. President, especially if Republicans remain in control of Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: That's what we have elections for.

END

11:33 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 22, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 3734, the "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996." While far from perfect, this legislation provides an historic opportunity to end welfare as we know it and transform our broken welfare system by promoting the fundamental values of work, responsibility, and family.

This Act honors my basic principles of real welfare reform. It requires work of welfare recipients, limits the time they can stay on welfare, and provides child care and health care to help them make the move from welfare to work. It demands personal responsibility, and puts in place tough child support enforcement measures. It promotes family and protects children.

This bipartisan legislation is significantly better than the bills that I vetoed. The Congress has removed many of the worst provisions of the vetoed bills and has included many of the improvements that I sought. I am especially pleased that the Congress has preserved the guarantee of health care for the poor, the elderly, and the disabled.

Most important, this Act is tough on work. Not only does it include firm but fair work requirements, it provides \$4 billion more in child care than the vetoed bills -- so that parents can end their dependency on welfare and go to work -- and maintains health and safety standards for day care providers. The bill also gives States positive incentives to move people into jobs and holds them accountable for maintaining spending on welfare reform. In addition, it gives States the ability to create subsidized jobs and to provide employers with incentives to hire people off welfare.

The Act also does much more to protect children than the vetoed bills. It cuts spending on childhood disability programs less deeply and does not unwisely change the child protection programs. It maintains the national nutritional safety net, by eliminating the Food Stamp annual spending cap and the Food Stamp and School Lunch block grants that the vetoed bills contained. In addition, it preserves the Federal guarantee of health care for individuals who are currently eligible for Medicaid through the AFDC program or are in transition from welfare to work.

Furthermore, this Act includes the tough personal responsibility and child support enforcement measures that I proposed 2 years ago. It requires minor mothers to live at home and stay in school as a condition of assistance. It cracks down on parents who fail to pay child support by garnishing their wages, suspending their driver's licenses, tracking them across State lines, and, if necessary, making them work off what they owe.

For these reasons, I am proud to have signed this legislation. The current welfare system is fundamentally broken, and this may be our last best chance to set it straight. **I am doing so, however, with strong objections to certain provisions, which I am determined to correct.**

First, while the Act preserves the national nutritional safety net, its cuts to the Food Stamp program are too deep. Among other things, the Act reinstates a maximum on the amount that can be deducted for shelter costs when determining a household's eligibility for Food Stamps. This provision will disproportionately affect low-income families with children and high housing costs.

Second, I am deeply disappointed that this legislation would deny Federal assistance to legal immigrants and their children, and give States the option of doing the same. My Administration supports holding sponsors who bring immigrants into this country more responsible for their well-being. Legal immigrants and their children, however, should not be penalized if they become disabled and require medical assistance through no fault of their own. Neither should they be deprived of food

stamp assistance without proper procedures or due regard for individual circumstances. Therefore, I will direct the Immigration and Naturalization Service to accelerate its unprecedented progress in removing all bureaucratic obstacles that stand in the way of citizenship for legal immigrants who are eligible. In addition, I will take any possible executive actions to avoid inaccurate or inequitable decisions to cut off food stamp benefits -- for example, to a legal immigrant who has performed military service for this country or to one who has applied for and satisfied all the requirements of citizenship, but is awaiting governmental approval of his or her application.

In addition to placing an undue hardship on affected individuals, denial of Federal assistance to legal immigrants will shift costs to States, localities, hospitals, and medical clinics that serve large immigrant populations. Furthermore, States electing to deny these individuals assistance could be faced with serious constitutional challenges and protracted legal battles.

I have concerns about other provisions of this legislation as well. It fails to provide sufficient contingency funding for States that experience a serious economic downturn, and it fails to provide Food Stamp support to childless adults who want to work, but cannot find a job or are not given the opportunity to participate in a work program. In addition, we must work to ensure that States provide in-kind vouchers to children whose parents reach the 5-year Federal time limit without finding work.

This Act gives States the responsibility that they have sought to reform the welfare system. This is a profound responsibility, and States must face it squarely. We will hold them accountable, insisting that they fulfill their duty to move people from welfare to work and to do right by our most vulnerable citizens, including children and battered women. I challenge each State to take advantage of its new flexibility to use money formerly available for welfare checks to encourage the private sector to provide jobs.

The best antipoverty program is still a job. Combined with the newly increased minimum wage and the Earned Income Tax

Credit -- which this legislation maintains -- H.R. 3734 will make work pay for more Americans.

I am determined to work with the Congress in a bipartisan effort to correct the provisions of this legislation that go too far and have nothing to do with welfare reform. But, on balance, this bill is a real step forward for our country, for our values, and for people on welfare. It should represent not simply the ending of a system that too often hurts those it is supposed to help, but the beginning of a new era in which welfare will become what it was meant to be: a second chance, not a way of life. It is now up to all of us -- States and cities, the Federal Government, businesses and ordinary citizens -- to work together to make the promise of this new day real.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 22, 1996.

#

WHSO LAYOUT Draft 3

a/o 6/22/98 L. Schwartz

AGRICULTURE RESEARCH BILL SIGNING

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Rose Garden/Rain Site USDA

Gate Opens:	9:30 a.m.		
Invite Time:	10:00 a.m.		
Principal Time:	10:00 a.m.	Brief	<u>Oval Office</u>
	10:25-10:35 a.m.	Meet	<u>Oval Office</u>
	10:35-11:05 a.m.	Event	<u>Rose Garden</u>

Approx. 300 Guests/Open Press/Business Attire

5 Social Aides

7:00 a.m. Rain call: x72104 code 5564

9:25 a.m. IN PLACE TIME

9:40 a.m. Guests begin to arrive at the East Visitors Gate and are directed to the Rose Garden by Social Aides.

SET UP NOTES: 10x24 stage location east side; US and Presidential flags behind Blue Goose; rope and stanchion around stage; Blue Goose; water at podium; 220 chairs in garden; 4 chairs on stage; signing table; WHCA announce in colonnade; press risers along west side with one cutaway on north east side - all rope and stanchioned; water provided by ushers right outside Rose Garden on drive.

10:00 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** receives briefing in the Oval Office.
Contact: Janet Murguia

10:25 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** meets stage participants, advocates and Members of Congress in the Oval Office.

Meet and Greet Participants:

Cabinet:

USDA Secretary Glickman

USDA Deputy Secretary Rominger

Farmer on stage:

Robert Carlson, Glen Burn, ND (Farmer)

Members of Congress:

Rep. Bob Smith - R (OR)

Rep. Charles Stenholm - D (TX)

Sen. Richard Lugar R - (IN)

Sen. Tom Harkin D - (IA)

Bill Lovelady

Chairman of the Board of Directors

National Cotton Council

Tornilla, TX

Mr. Brent Porteus

Chairman of Public Policy Team

National Corn Growers Association

Coshocton, OK

Ms. Margie Williams

Acting Chief Executive Officer

National Association of Wheat Growers

Washington, DC

Mr. Mark Berg

President

American Soy Bean Association

Tripp, South Dakota

Mr. Chuck Shroeder

National Cattlemen's Beef Association

Denver, CO

Ms. Chung-Wha Hong

Executive Director

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Inc.

Flushing, NY

Mr. Ron Cruz

Executive Director

Portuguese American Leadership Council

Washington, DC

Ms. Cecilia Munoz

Vice President, Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation

National Council of La Raza

Detroit, MI

10:35 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT**, accompanied by Secretary Glickman and Robert Carlson is announced to the stage in the Rose Garden.

PROGRAM BEGINS

Secretary Glickman makes welcoming remarks and introduces Robert Carlson.

Robert Carlson makes remarks and introduces **THE PRESIDENT**.

THE PRESIDENT makes remarks.

11:05 a.m. **THE PRESIDENT** departs.

Guests depart South West Gate.



Cynthia A. Rice

05/13/98 06:07:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January?????

Yes, they were...remember, it was added at the last minute....I called you at home that night to tell you.. it was vague "Congress should finish the job this year..." in fact it was

I also want to thank Congress for restoring some of the benefits to immigrants who are here legally and working hard -- and I hope you will finish that job this year.

Diana Fortuna

Diana Fortuna 05/13/98 06:02:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January?????

I don't think food stamps were in this year's state of the union, fyi.

Cynthia A. Rice



Cynthia A. Rice

05/13/98 05:56:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP

cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

bcc:

Subject: Re: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January?????

yes, I think so. both were mentioned in the state of the union.

Andrea Kane

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP
cc: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
Subject: Re: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January????

Since there were no welfare reform-related issues on here, we wondered if we should mention either Access to Jobs or food stamps restoration as accomplishments -- while they've both passed key hurdles, neither is through the legislative process yet. What do you think?

----- Forwarded by Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP on 05/13/98 05:52 PM -----

Andrea Kane

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP
cc:
bcc: Records Management
Subject: Re: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January???? 

I noticed that too. Only thing I can think of since SOTU is that House and Senate ISTEAs reauthorization bills included authorization for welfare to work transportation initiative similar to our Access to Jobs proposal. But, since we still need appropriations, maybe it's premature to list as an accomplishment? What about restoration of food stamps--same situation in that legislative process not finished?

Diana Fortuna

Diana Fortuna 05/13/98 05:11:09 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Andrea Kane/OPD/EOP
cc:
Subject: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January????

i note we're not on the list. can you think of any welfare accomplishments they're overlooking?

----- Forwarded by Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP on 05/13/98 05:13 PM -----



Laura Emmett

05/13/98 04:29:05 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: Has there been any action taken on the following initiatives since January????

Can everyone please review the following list and send me a sentence or two on what, if anything, the Administration has done on each of these issues (only the DPC issues- you all should be able to figure it out). I am sorry for the inconvenience, but it should only take you all a minute. Please get your answers to me by noon tomorrow so I can consolidate the answers for the communications office. They are trying to organize the President's accomplishments in 1998. Call me with any questions. Thank you for your help.

----- Forwarded by Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP on 05/13/98 04:23 PM -----