Mr. Speaker, South Dakota is plagued by water of exceedingly poor quality, and the Perkins County and Fall River County rural water projects are efforts to help provide clean water—a commodity most of us take for granted—to the people of South Dakota. I am a strong believer in the Federal Government's role in rural water delivery, and I hope to continue to advance that agenda both in South Dakota and around the country. I urge my colleagues to support both of these important rural water bills, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee to move forward on enactment as quickly as possible.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, those that have suggested that the use of pesticides by producers of our food supply is not environmentally sound have missed the most important environmental benefit of modern farming: It produces more food from fewer acres, so it leaves more land for nature.

The best possible agriculture for the environment would look amazingly like modern, high-yield technology supported farming. High-yield agriculture is the best available model—and the only proven success for a world that must triple its farm output over the next 45 years, and whose largest demonstrated environmental threat is loss of wildlife habitat.

Our environmentally ideal agriculture must use monocultures, potent new seed varieties, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides to get high yields. It must do this because high yields are the most critical factor in preserving millions of square miles of wildlife habitat from being plowed down for lower yielding crops.

These technologies have more than doubled the yields on our farmlands. Since 1960, we have been able to get twice the amount of grain and oilseeds, and feed better diets to 80 percent more people on the same amount of land. If these new technologies had not taken place we would have lost 10 million square miles of habitat, about the land area of North and Central America combined.

Pesticide bans would cause yield reductions that would themselves lead to significant loss of wildlife habitat. Several studies have been conducted to ascertain the yield differences between farming with or without pesticides. According to a Department of Agriculture Economics study, production in crops would drop between 24 and 57 percent without pesticides. Farming without pesticides would cost us 20 to 30 square miles of wildlife by the time world population peaks in the year 2040.

Environmentally sensitive agriculture is one that uses the best possible use of our land—by technology supported fertilizer use and other high-yield methods which most efficiently produce our feed supply and hence protect wildlife species from habitat loss. Our goal must be to produce more food on fewer acres, leaving the rest to wildlife and for future generations to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO HAMILTON FISH, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of one of the greatest Congressmen from New York State, Mr. Hamilton Fish, Jr., my friend and colleague with whom I had the pleasure of serving in Congress during my first term. Although we sat on opposite sides of the aisle, we shared many interests and common goals.

Congressman Fish, who was known for his ability to compromise, worked on some of the major legislation for the last half of the 20th century. He spearheaded legislation for his party which led to the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1988 and the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990. He was a principal sponsor of the Civil Rights Act of 1991, legislation that was denounced by President George Bush as a quota bill. Representative Fish also sponsored amendments to the Voting Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act.

Hamilton Fish's inspiration and leadership will be remembered. He was a tremendous decent man. His legacy to the United States has been legislation like the Americans With Disabilities Act which now allows people with disabilities to be treated equally and to have equal access to buildings, education, and employment.

I will miss him, and I will miss his decency—I believe all Americans will. Mr. Speaker, I extend my condolences to the family of this fine public servant.

JONES ACT REFORM

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today thousands of agricultural producers across America cannot sell their products to their own U.S. neighbors because they cannot secure waterborne transportation. My own farmers in Michigan can't sell their grain to livestock producers desperately needing feed in the South because there is no means of coastal transportation. American farmers and industry are forced to purchase foreign goods, rather than those produced in the U.S. because there is no means of transportation within the coastal U.S. for American products.

In all parts of the Nation, industry and farmers have watched business opportunities pass them by and go to foreign competitors because of lack of adequate transportation of U.S. goods to U.S. purchasers along our coastal waters. In effect the United States is subsidizing foreign farmers to the detriment of U.S. producers.

This system is contrary to the free-market system and the buy-American philosophy. That is why I am introducing reforms to our Federal maritime law, commonly known as the Jones Act to allow more free movement of agricultural commodities and other cargo within our domestic waters.

Currently the 1920 Jones Act, borne out of national security concerns, requires the transport of goods within the United States be done on domestic carriers, with domestic crews, under domestic flags. My bill is designed to spur economic activity by increasing the means of transportation for agriculture and others goods within the United States and in turn boost the maritime industry which has suffered dramatically in the last 20 years.

My bill that I am introducing today would bring competition to ocean transportation and level the playing field between domestic and foreign carriers by allowing cargo to be carried on foreign ships, while requiring only U.S.-manned crews in compliance with immigration laws, and adherence by foreign carriers to all tax and regulations currently imposed on U.S. ships.

Reforming the Jones Act will strengthen the competitive position of American businesses and agricultural producers. Please lend your support to American industry by helping to promote trade and economic activity throughout the United States.

CORINTH GRANGE NO. 823 CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if there's one organization that has consistently been at the center of American society for generation upon generation, it is the Grange. From its inception in rural America, to the Grange Halls that span across middle America and towns of all sizes and backgrounds today, the Grange has remained the consummate centerpiece for community life.

Mr. Speaker, that is no easy task considering the times and changes we've seen over the course of this 20th century. And that's not to say that the Grange hasn't had to change along with it, because they have. How else can they remain a central part of so many communities? But thankfully, they have remained faithful to those core ideals and principles that have made them a central part of American life.

One such Hall I'd like to make particular note of today is from my congressional district in upstate New York. I'm talking about the Corinth Grange No. 823 who will be celebrating their 100th anniversary later this month. Over the course of 100 years, the Corinth Grange has remained a focal point for community camaraderie and a source of traditional ideals like community service and volunteerism. Mr. Speaker, to me, those are the two ideals to which I most credit the tremendous history and progress of this country. And Mr. Speaker, they have played no less significant role in the history of Corinth and Grange No. 823.

In fact, this fraternal organization is steeped in American history, so centrally tied to our Nation's roots and heritage it is impossible to separate one from the other. It is in places like Corinth, NY, where this rings true to this very day. Because of the work and activities of my fellow Grangers there, the ideals and values that have for so long comprised the American way of life survive today.

That's right, Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have belonged to the Grange for over 25

years now, and I can't tell you how proud I am to be a part of this organization. I have always been one to put community and country above self and it is the Grange that embodies this spirit. In that regard, I always judge people based on what they return to their community. By that regard, all the members, past and present, of the Corinth Grange are truly great Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the Corinth Grange No. 823 will be holding an open house to commemorate their 100th anniversary on August 25 of this year. As they will gather at the Grange Hall on Main Street, I ask now that you, and all Members of the House join with me to pay tribute to everyone who has comprised their history since back in 1896, they certainly deserve it.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3734, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY RECONCILIATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN McCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 1996

Ms. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record the following letter from the National Conference of State Legislatures [NCSL] regarding welfare reform. As past president of NCSL, I understand first hand the concerns they raise about meeting the work requirements in H.R. 3734 without adequate Federal funding and the potential cost shifts the welfare reform proposal places on States. I supported H.R. 3734 with similar concerns and look forward to working with State legislators during the 105th Congress to see that these concerns are addressed:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF STATE LEGISLATURES,
Washington, DC July 31, 1996.

Hon. KAREN MCCARTHY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MCCARTHY: The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) has long sought federal legislation reforming our welfare system and now urges your support for the conference agreement on H.R. 3734. This legislation builds on the numerous state legislative welfare reform efforts of the past decade and on federal waivers granted in recent years.

We particularly are pleased with the creation of block grants for cash assistance and child care and the programmatic and administrative flexibility they may bring. The inclusion of increased child care funding, establishment of a contingency fund, preservation of child welfare entitlements and preservation of state legislative authority over block grant funds are notable achievements and represent key provisions recommended and sought by NCSL. We are further gratified with the inclusion of several policy options, such as the state option to provide Medicaid to legal immigrants and refugees, recognition of the need for adequate transition time, restructuring of child support collection systems and initiatives as well as an exemption for states from electronic benefit transfer liabilities.

We remain particularly concerned about work participation requirements and a related array of policy mandates and sanctions. These will be troublesome. The flexibility needed in the work participation area is missing. Furthermore, the Congressional Budget Office has repeatedly warned of the multi-billion dollar shortfall in federal funding for work efforts. We recommend that Congress and the Administration collaborate with state legislators and others to review and evaluate work requirements, state experiences with these requirements, funding needs and worker placement and job retention accomplishments commencing with the 105th Congress.

We continue to question policy changes in H.R. 3734 regarding income security accessibility for legal immigrants and refugees. We remain convinced that H.R. 3734 will produce unfunded mandates and cost shifts to state and local governments of unacceptable proportions. We strongly recommend that Congress and the Administration immediately begin an analysis and review of state experiences regarding income security program availability for legal immigrant populations, particularly children, the elderly and the disabled. Those provisions of H.R. 3734 regarding legal immigrants should be tested against the intent and objectives of S. 1, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995, and Executive Order 12875. This recommended review and analysis should involve state legislators and other officials.

H.R. 3734 represents a number of policy compromises. It also offers states new opportunities to manage a welfare system most Americans agree needs restructuring and redirection. Despite some of its aforementioned shortcomings, we encourage your support for H.R. 3734 and urge you to work with state legislators to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL E. BOX,
Majority Chairman, Alabama House, President, NCSL.

JAMES J. LACK,
State Senator, New York, Immediate Past President, NCSL.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 1996

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize permanently a very successful, low-cost, community-based program that I created as part of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988, to train and counsel current and potential women business owners.

Mr. Chairman, women entrepreneurs remain an increasingly significant part of the U.S. economy. They account for approximately one-third of all U.S. businesses and are starting businesses at twice the rate of men. Masked by these impressive statistics, however, is the fact that women encounter numerous obstacles trying to start, maintain or expand a business—obstacles which must be eliminated if we are ever to realize the full potential of this dynamic sector of our economy.

While all small businesses have common challenges—access to capital, for example—there are particular problems faced by women. In 1988, the Committee on Small Business heard testimony from dozens of women business owners on this issue, and one area which was repeatedly cited was a need for business training to teach women financial management and technical skills. The women's business training program, which is the subject of today's legislation, thus was established as a pilot program to see if it could help fill the training void. I can report to you today that it has exceeded our hopes for it.

Currently, the authorization for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 1997. My bill does not change any of the terms or conditions of the program; it simply removes the expiration date, thereby allowing existing training centers to plan their futures with more certainty, and encouraging States and locales without centers to try to establish them.

As befitting a program administered by the Small Business Administration, this program takes a very business-like approach to fostering and assisting women entrepreneurs. Organizations experienced in business counseling and training may submit to the SBA proposals for Federal funding to start a training center. The proposals are very competitive for a number of reasons, including the facts that Federal funds for the program are limited, are given for a maximum of 3 years, and must be matched by non-Federal assistance according to a specified formula. I can assure you that such terms weed out all but those who are the most committed to assisting women entrepreneurs and are the most likely to be able to keep their center operational when Federal assistance ends after 3 years.

If, as one says, the proof is in the pudding, let me now turn to that. Eight years after getting off the ground, there are currently 54 training sites in 28 States, with each center tailoring its style and curriculum to the particular needs of the community—be it rural, urban, low income, or linguistically or culturally diverse. More than 55,000 women have sought and benefited from the training and counseling in business management, marketing, financial and technical assistance offered by the centers. The centers have directly led to business start-ups, expansions and job creation. Equally important, the program has also prevented business failures.

Mr. Chairman, I could spend hours giving concrete examples of the accomplishments of this program and describing the experienced and talented people who put enormous time and energy into running their sites. I will, however, take just a minute to give a few examples:

There is a site in Mississippi where the National Council of Negro Women operates the training program, essentially ''circuit riding'' from place to place to bring assistance to rural women who are or want to be business owners.

The Center for Women and Enterprise in Massachusetts, a new site, has been given $150,000 by the Bank of Boston toward the center's matching fund requirement. I think this says volumes about the center's importance to the community. The director of this training site has a Harvard MBA and experience in microenterprise development in South America.

The Ms. Foundation has given a grant of $150,000 to the site in Ukiah, CA, a rural area some hours north of San Francisco. This training center is one of the many still up and running even though its Federal start-up funding has ended.

One of the earliest sites started under the program, run by the National Association of