

THE PLIGHT OF BLACK FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, over the last 9 years I have come to this floor to talk about the plight of rural America. I have talked about farmers, including small farmers, disadvantaged farmers and minority farmers.

Today, I rise again to talk about the plight of the black farmers who have suffered a saga of mistreatment, discrimination and benign neglect. I would say that both the problems, as well as their possibilities, really transcend region, transcend race. It encompasses a wide array of individuals that go beyond just black Americans but includes Hispanics, includes Asian, includes Indian Americans and women as well.

This issue also affects the disabled. A wheelchair-bound white male in Michigan has felt the sting of unfair discriminatory practices on the part of the Agriculture Department and contacted the Agriculture Department, who are there to serve; and indeed, all who are involved in farming as a way of life are affected by the mistreatment and by the lost opportunities that the black farmers would have.

All farmers are affected by changes and forces that have been experienced in this new world order or this new economy of the world. There are several factors that have caused small farmers to decline or to accelerate the decline of these small producers. They include globalization of commerce, economies of scale, limited access to capital and technological advances. The existence of worldwide markets for all commodities, not just agriculture, but all commodities, are feeling this, have created unique market forces and pressures that producers of the past did not have to compete against.

American's producers have to cope with the substantially larger and less accommodating world market in which to sell their merchandise and their commodities, with competitors who play by sometime significantly different rules.

In 1992, when we first started looking at farmers and the demise of farmers, we saw the landscape was very different, and we compared the landscape as it was in 1920, when we had over 6 million farms in the United States. Things have changed obviously. Close to one-sixth of those farmers were really in North Carolina; 926,000 small farmers were in North Carolina.

When we looked at it again in 1992, the landscape was very different. For only 1 percent of 1.9 million farmers in the United States were then operated by African Americans. Since the 2000 census, that decline has even gone further. At that time, it was only 18,816 farmers. That is a paltry number of African Americans when we consider that we represent more than 13 percent of the total population.

In my home State of North Carolina, there has been a 64 percent decline in minority farmers just over the last 15 years, from 6,996 farms in 1978 to 2,498 farms, again when we measured from this time in 1992. There are several reasons why a number of minorities and limited resource farmers indeed are declining so rapidly, but the one that has been documented time and time again is the discrimination in the credit extended by the Department of Agriculture, the very agency established by the U.S. Government to accommodate and to assist the special needs of all farmers and ranchers.

The issue was first raised in 1968 when the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights established that the USDA discriminated both in internal employee actions and external program delivery activities. An ensuing USDA employee focus group that was established in 1970 again reported that USDA was callous in their institutional attitude and demeanor regarding civil rights and equal opportunity.

In 1982, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights examined the issue yet again and published the report called *The Decline of the Black Farmers in America*. The Commission concluded that there were widespread prejudicial practices in loan approval, loan servicing, farm management assistance as administered by then what we used to call the Farmers Home Administration.

However, as no improvement was forthcoming, indeed my friend the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) had a report. I want to tell my colleagues that this saga has been going on. In fact, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) in his operational committee, as he chaired it, had a report and he called it *The Minority Farmer: A Disappearing Resource*. Well, we have an obligation then. We should do better.

Mr. Speaker, I will be coming to this floor more than once again to raise a consciousness that we cannot have this benign neglect, this mistreatment and this discrimination.

□ 1800

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF
SEPTEMBER 11 TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRUCCI). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), in continuing to read the names of those who fell in the tragedy on September 11, and I would do so now.

Kevin Marlo; Jose J. Marrero; Fred Marrone; Constance Marshal; Shelley A. Marshall; John Marshall; Daniel Marshall; James Martello; Michael A. Marti; Teresa M. Martin; Peter C. Martin; Karen Martin; William J. Martin; Brian E. Martineau; Waleska Martinez;

Jose Martinez; Edward J. Martinez; Betsy Martinez; Robert Martinez; Lizie Martinez-Calderon; Paul Richard Martini; Joseph Mascali; Bernard Mascarenhas; Stephen Masi; Ada L. Mason; Nicholas "Nick" Massa; Patricia A. Massari; Michael Massaroli; Philip W. Mastrandrea; Rudolph Mastrocinque; Joseph Mathai; Charles William Mathers; William A. Mathesen; Margaret Elaine Mattic; Marcello Matricciano; Dean E. Mattson; Robert D. Mattson; Walter Matuza; Choi "Irene" Mau; Timothy Maude; Charles J. Mauro; Nancy T. Mauro; Dorothy Mauro; Charles A. Mauro; Robert J. Maxwell; Renee May; Tyrone May; Keithroy Maynard; Robert J. Mayo; Kathy Mazza; Edward Mazzella, Jr.; Jennifer Mazzotta; Kaaria Mbaya; James J. McAlary; Brian McAleese; Patricia A. McAnaney; Colin Richard McArthur; John McAvoy; Kenneth M. McBrayer; Michael Justin McCabe; Brendan F. McCabe; Charlie McCabe; Robert McCallum;

And I would encourage my colleagues to contact our colleague, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), to help us read the names of those who fell in the tragedy on September 11.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN
EDWARD P. BOLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 30 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having this time in order to speak about our great beloved, departed colleague from the State of Massachusetts, Edward Patrick Boland. He served in this institution for 36 years. He was elected in 1952; he served until 1988.

He loved this institution, and this institution loved him. He arrived in 1952, with his best pal, Tip O'Neill, another freshman Congressman coming from the eastern part of the State. They were roommates for 24 years here in Washington, really only staying here on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and immediately returning to their home districts after the close of business on Thursdays.

And that is how it went in their little apartment over all those years until Tip was elected Speaker and brought Millie down. However, it had been preceded just a couple of years before that by Eddie breaking his long years of bachelorhood and marrying Mary Egan, a marriage that produced four beautiful children that were, without question, the pride and joy of his life.

Now, for those that knew Eddie, he still and for always will be thought of as a legislative giant, as someone who motored around on the floor of the House like the Energizer Bunny, moving at the speed of sound from deal to