

Farm bill—the current law—and this new farm bill is over \$270 million in additional assistance during collapsed prices to family farmers. Now, that help is not just for family farmers; it shows up on many of our main streets and supports our jobs in a rural State such as North Dakota.

I cannot say strongly enough how important this bill is. It took us too long to get done, but it is done. I appreciate the work that all of us did together and the cooperation in the final analysis to get it to the President. I am pleased and relieved that this morning, finally, this bill is now signed into law.

#### SELLING FOOD TO CUBA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me talk about two other issues briefly. One is a letter I received last Friday from Secretary of State Colin Powell. This relates to a decision by the State Department to cancel the visas for Cubans coming to our country to buy additional food. Since the hurricane, they have purchased over \$70 million in American food. That is available for them to purchase because I and my colleague from Connecticut, Senator DODD, and others changed the law to allow food sales to Cuba. Strangely enough, they have to pay in cash and do it through a French bank; nonetheless, they can finally buy American food.

We ought never use food as a weapon, and we have done it for 40 years with Cuba. That is over. They are now buying food from this country. We had a group of people representing Alimport, including Pedro Alvarez and others, coming to this country to buy food. They were coming, in fact, to North Dakota and they were going to buy dried beans and wheat. They were granted a visa by the State Department, and then immediately that visa was revoked. I asked Secretary Powell, "By what authority was it revoked and why?"

Let me use a couple of charts to see what happened on this issue. This is a news story about it:

A State Department official confirmed Wednesday that the administration policy is not to encourage sales of food to Cuba.

In the letter from Secretary Powell, he disavows that, but that is what they told us: It is our policy not to encourage food sales to Cuba. I said it is a brainless policy to decide you do not want to sell food to Cuba; you ought to sell food to Cuba. We sell it to China, a Communist country. We sell it to Vietnam, a Communist country. And we are told we do not want to sell food to Cuba? Does anybody think Fidel Castro has not eaten a meal along the way because we had an obstruction on the sale of food to Cuba? No, it just hurts sick people, poor people, and hungry people. This is what this policy has represented.

At a hearing last week when I raised this question with Secretary Powell, he

said: I have never heard of this policy not to encourage food sales to Cuba. In fact, he said additional sales should be encouraged so long as American farmers benefit.

The Farm Bureau said the cancellation of Mr. Alvarez's visa will adversely affect the sale of corn, rice, wheat, poultry, soybeans, lentils, and eggs, valued at \$35 million.

I received a four-page letter from Secretary Powell. Frankly, it does not answer any of the questions. It says Mr. Alvarez's visa was revoked because of a 1985 then-President Ronald Reagan directive. He also said: Mr. Alvarez was here once before and he lobbied to undermine the U.S. embargo. I guess when he was here before, he said Cuba would like to have a circumstance where they could buy food from American farmers. The State Department considers that undermining America's interest. Give me a break. Mr. Secretary, that does not undermine anything. I hope the State Department and others will pay a little more attention to the issue of terrorists getting bombs, not Cubans buying dried beans and wheat.

The subcommittee which I chair is going to hold a hearing, and I will ask the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Reich, to come to Congress and explain who decided to revoke these visas.

#### TRADE AUTHORITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I wish to speak to the underlying legislation we will be on following the vote on the judgeship this afternoon. That is the trade bill. We are going to be discussing once again so-called fast-track trade authority. I am not going to support the bill, but I do have some amendments.

I think fast track is fundamentally undemocratic. Our trade deficit is ballooning; it is now over \$450 billion in merchandise trade deficits. And every time we have had a new agreement, we have been injured further.

I am going to offer several amendments to fast track when it is before the Senate. One deals with wheat from Canada. The unfairly subsidized wheat coming in from Canada has injured our farmers in a dramatic way. The International Trade Commission says this wheat trade is unfair, and the trade ambassador, to his credit, says it is unfair. But there is no specific remedy. It is a five-point remedy in the sweet by-and-by; we will never quite get to it.

My amendment will say we want specific remedies identified and reported to us within 6 months of what the trade ambassador is going to do to take specific action and remedy the unfair wheat trade that exists with Canada and the unfair trade that exists in other markets with respect to Canada. That is No. 1.

No. 2, this administration is proposing on June 30 to allow long-haul Mexican trucks into this country. That is in contravention of everything Con-

gress debated just months ago on this issue. I am going to offer an amendment that tries to stop that.

Mr. President, you know and I know and everyone in this country knows Mexican truckdrivers are not driving with the same safety requirements imposed in Mexico that we impose in this country. They do not have the same safety inspections. They do not have the same requirements with respect to length of service or hours of service or logbooks. I ask everyone to read the newspaper accounts of people riding with Mexican long-haul truckers, and you will discover the truckers drove continuously for 24 hours or drove unsafe equipment.

The fact is this administration on June 30 is going to allow those long-haul Mexican trucks to come into this country to do long hauls, and that is wrong, it is unsafe, and it ought not happen.

The safety requirements the Senate would have imposed some months ago when we debated this issue are nowhere near in place. The inspection stations do not exist. The compliance and enforcement requirements in Mexico do not exist. The fact is, we are going to have American families driving up and down American streets and highways with long-haul Mexican trucks and no one is going to know whether that driver has been driving 24 straight hours or driving a rig with faulty brakes because it has not been inspected. I am going to offer an amendment on that issue.

In addition, I am going to offer an amendment dealing with Cuba, and that amendment will impose the same circumstances that were dropped out of the agriculture conference just last week. The amendment is very simple. It says when Cuba buys grain from our country, it ought not have to pay cash through a French bank; it ought to be able to buy grain with commercially accepted credit from our country.

I am going to support the Dayton-Craig amendment which is very important. Our trade negotiators are prepared to negotiate away antidumping authority, the ability on behalf of our producers to remedy trade that is unfair because someone else is dumping into our marketplace. If we eliminate the antidumping remedies, we will put our producers in desperate trouble. Their amendment is right on point. I intend to ask to cosponsor that amendment, and I will be very supportive of it.

I also will be supportive of an amendment to be offered by Senator DURBIN and will ask to be a cosponsor of that. That amendment deals with labor and environmental standards with respect to trade. The issue for this country should continue to be this: We want people to access the American marketplace, to give the American consumer the widest range of goods from all around the world, but we want it, when those goods come in as a result of trade, to be fair trade.