

10-26-1995

Press conference on Farm Bill

Max S. Baucus

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Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

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(1) Subject*: **Agriculture**

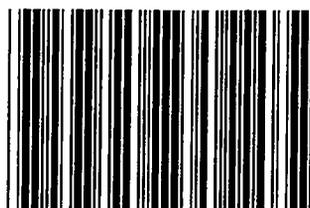
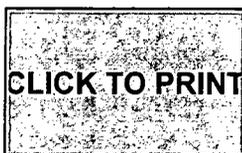
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **Press Conference on the Farm Bill as Part of the Budget**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **10/26/1995**

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* "required information"



BAUCUS

Senator Max Baucus
Press Conference

October 26, 1995

Thank you. I'm very happy to see you all here today.

And I want to thank our Leader Senator Daschle; Senator Leahy, Ranking Member on the Agriculture Committee; and Senators Conrad, Harkin, Murray and Wellstone for coming today. More important, I want to thank each of them for helping in the effort to restore some fairness for rural America.

This year, the budget is also the farm bill.

It will reauthorize all the commodity programs and the Conservation Reserve Program. It will eliminate several more. And for the next seven years, it sets our national agriculture policy. That policy should keep rural economies strong and stable. And it should guarantee consumers a safe and dependable food supply at a reasonable price.

And I'm sorry to say that the policy in this budget does not measure up. First, it is partisan. It is a hard-line, ideological approach to agriculture, not an effort to bring people together and draw on the best from everyone.

Second, it is secret. It was written behind closed doors. Very few Americans even know it is in the budget. And it is going to get about forty-five minutes of total debate. It's a scandal, but it's not a surprise. If I were in their shoes, I would not want to say much about it either.

Well, the other side will be awfully quiet. But we're here to make up for that. We're going to tell the truth about the big, gobbling, turkey we see on the Senate floor. And then we're going to give the other folks a second chance. We're going to offer an amendment that lets them fix their farm program, and give themselves something to be proud of when they go home and talk to their farmers later on.

That brings me to the third problem. This new ag policy is partisan. It is secretive. And it is plain old bad policy.

If you have read Genesis, Chapter 41, you know the story of Joseph's dream. He compared the seven years to come with:

"seven kine ... poor and very ill favoured and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness."

These seven ill-favoured cattle ate up the good cattle, just as seven ears of corn, "withered, thin and blasted with the east wind" ate up seven good ears of corn.