

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Agriculture

The meeting was called to order by Senator Allen at
Chairperson

10:10 a.m. ~~XXX~~ on March 18, 1986 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~except~~:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Arden Ensley, Revisor of Statutes Department

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau
Becky Crenshaw, Kansas Association of Public
Career Schools

Senator Allen called the Committee to order and called for action on Committee minutes.

Senator Karr made a motion the minutes of the two Committee meetings on March 7 be approved. Senator Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman announced that March 20 had been designated as "Agriculture Day" and he called attention to a resolution (attachment 1) written declaring that March 20 be proclaimed as "Agriculture Day".

Senator Kerr moved the Committee recommend the resolution for adoption. Senator Karr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman then called the Committees' attention to SB 735 and ask Senator Gannon to explain the bill.

Senator Gannon stated SB 735 is known as the Kansas displaced farmer act. He explained that SB 735 provides grants for schooling for displaced farmers for vocational or technical schooling for a period of not over 12 months also includes the provision for the student to receive \$200 monthly for subsistence expenses. Senator Gannon stated applicants for this program must have a job lined up to commence when the schooling is completed. This program would be available for 500 applicants within our state. He stated the fiscal note was figured to be \$1.5 million.

The Chairman thanked Senator Gannon and called on Bill Fuller to testify.

Mr. Fuller expressed support for legislation that would help retrain displaced farmers. He stated since the average age of a displaced farmer is 46 years of age that maybe vocational training would be more helpful than grants to attend a college or university. Mr. Fuller stated a grant program could be a good tool to help our displaced farmers. Mr. Fuller expressed support for both SB 735 and SB 591 as both address a real need of our displaced farmers. He encouraged the Committee to work for combining proposed legislation so that legislation is passed that will offer help to displaced farmers in Kansas.

During Committee discussion the concern was expressed that maybe funds should be spent in trying to help keep small farmers on their farms rather than spending the funds on schooling. Also the question was posed regarding the availability of jobs after completing schooling. The concern was expressed that the state should not retrain a farmer and then have him accept a job outside our state. It was suggested that this program could be worked like in medical school; that is, if a job is accepted outside the state, the student repays the state for the cost of the education.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Fuller and called on Becky Crenshaw to testify.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate COMMITTEE ON Agriculture,
room 423-S, Statehouse, at 10:10 a.m. ~~XXXX~~ on March 18, 1986

Ms. Crenshaw expressed support for SB 735 because it provides for free schooling at vocational-technical schools. She stated a person at the average age of displaced farmers in Kansas today is more apt to choose going to a vocational school for a period of up to 12 months rather than a 4 year college. She also stated this type of schooling may appeal to farm wives also.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Crenshaw and declared the hearing closed on SB 735. The Chairman then announced he was appointing a subcommittee to work on legislation to combine SB 591 and SB 735. He appointed Senator Doyen, chairman, Senator Gannon and Senator Gordon. The Chairman announced the Committee would be meeting on March 21 to hear the report on this subcommittee and for possible action on bills previously heard. The Chairman adjourned the Committee at 10:45 a.m.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION proclaiming March 20, 1986, as "Agriculture Day."

WHEREAS, Agriculture is the oldest, largest and most respected industry in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture was and still is the foundation of the economic structure of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The American farmer, including the Kansas farmer, of today produces enough food to feed 79 people at a price that is a lower percentage of income than the price paid by the American people a generation ago; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas farmer produces over 400,000,000 bushels of wheat each year, which is over 16 percent of the entire United States wheat crop; and

WHEREAS, The production of wheat in Kansas has made the state number one in flour milling capacity, flour milled and the amount of wheat exported from any state; and

WHEREAS, Kansas ranks number one in the country in beef packing and number three in the country in the production of beef; and

WHEREAS, Kansas ranks number six among the states in total agricultural exports amounting to \$2.1 billion; and

WHEREAS, Kansas ranked number one in the country in grain sorghum production during 1985 with 289.8 million bushels; and

WHEREAS, Kansas produces field crops, livestock and poultry having a value of more than \$5 billion in a single year; and

WHEREAS, The United States and the state of Kansas owe a great debt to the thousands of industrious individuals who have given their heart and spirit to the production of food so millions of people could live healthy and happier lives; and

WHEREAS, The American farmer and the Kansas farmer have been and will continue to be the great providers for the people of the United States and of the world: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we proclaim March 20, 1986, as "Agriculture Day."

3/18/86 Sen. Ag.

attachment 1