

Approved January 17, 1990
Date

House Agriculture and Small Business and
MINUTES OF THE Joint COMMITTEE ON Senate Agriculture Committee

The meeting was called to order by Senator Jim Allen at
Chairperson

9:11 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on January 10, 1990 in room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Harder (excused)
Senator McClure (excused)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes Department

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Dan Glickman, U.S. Congress
Representative Pat Roberts, U.S. Congress

Senator Allen called the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee and the Senate Agriculture Committees to order and then welcomed Representatives Glickman and Roberts to present information about the agriculture issues in Washington.

Comments by the representatives included: A new farm bill should be prepared before the present farm bill expires on September 30. It is expected that there will be no major changes in a new farm bill as people are tired of change and are satisfied with the structure of the farm legislation as it is. There will probably be changes to allow for more flexibility with soybean production as there is now more demand for soybeans than are produced. The desire is for a farm bill that will keep farmers and ranchers available to all national and world markets. Legislation is desired to enhance rural development and to help with rural health care. There is a need to redefine the disaster program in order to better help those most affected by disaster. Committee members were encouraged to continue to communicate information to the representatives' offices.

During discussion it was stated that investigations are being conducted into the excessive price increase for propane gas since the cold spell and that some answers should soon be known. It was agreed that restructuring of the federal crop insurance program is needed and it was urged that such restructuring be encouraged by our representatives. It was stated that work needs to be done to find a way for all to have medical care and still have freedom of choice for that care. The comment was made that it is expected that the federal government will get involved with the malpractice problem. Also it was explained that there probably will be a broader health care program in the future and that such a program will be administered by the states so Kansas should be following such legislation. It was answered that the federal government should be doing more about value added products and that there should be a separate export program dealing with value added products. It was suggested that the representatives work for more flexibility to allow alfalfa to be grown on set-aside lands.

Senator Allen thanked the representatives for their information and then adjourned the committees at 10:05 a.m.

