



UNITED STATES SENATE
**REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE**

Larry E. Craig, Chairman
Jade West, Staff Director

Conference Report Highlights

October 7, 1997

H.R. 2160 -- Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 1998

The House passed the conference report last night by a vote of 399-18.

Funding Totals

Conference total for FY 1998 is \$49.75 billion (\$4.14 billion less than FY97, \$964.1 million less than the Senate-passed bill, and \$146.1 million more than the House-passed bill). Discretionary spending for FY98 totals \$13.75 billion.

Agricultural and Rural Development Programs

- Funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service is set at \$789 million (\$19 million over last year, but about \$32 million less than requested). Of this amount, funding for conservation operations is set at just over \$633 million (\$13 million more than the FY97 level).
- \$188.6 million is provided for crop insurance sales commissions.
- Rural Community Advancement Program is funded at \$652.2 million, which is \$7.9 million more than the Senate bill level.
- Rural housing loans are increased \$760 million over FY97, for a total of \$4.2 billion in loan authorizations for FY98.
- Agriculture research, education and extension service programs are funded at \$1.7 billion, \$15.3 million below the FY97 level.

- The Farm Service Agency is funded at \$703.2 million, a reduction of \$45.3 million below FY97 levels.
- Farm operating and ownership loan levels are funded at \$2.855 billion, \$140 million less than the FY97 level.
- Food for Peace (P.L. 480 program) is funded at a total program level of \$1.1 billion (same as the Senate bill).
- The Food Safety Inspection Service is increased \$15.3 million over FY97, bringing FY98 funding to \$589.3 million.

Food and Nutrition Programs

- Total funding of \$7.769 billion is provided for child nutrition programs and \$25.140 billion is provided for the food stamp program.
- The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) feeding program is increased \$118.2 million over last year, for a total of \$3.9 billion for FY98.
- The Commodity Assistance Program is funded at \$141 million.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- Total funding for FDA is increased to \$925.1 million, \$37.5 million over FY97.
- Within FDA, funding for the tobacco initiative to curb youth smoking has been boosted to \$34 million, the level requested by the President.
- The new food safety initiative to protect the safety of the nation's food supply is funded at the requested level of \$24 million.
- Prescription Drug User Fees of up to \$91.2 million may be collected.