

This Week in Washington

Pombo Announces Fox Theatre Grant

Congressman Richard Pombo today announced that the Fox Theatre has been awarded an Economic Development Initiative (EDI) grant of \$290,000. The grant, released by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is to be used for the historical restoration of the Theatre.

"This grant is important, not just for the Fox Theatre, but the economic revitalization of downtown Stockton, as well," Pombo stated. "For decades, the Fox Theatre has been at the center of cultural activity in Stockton, and I trust that this grant will help the Theatre re-open to its former glory."

Built in 1929, the Fox Theatre has hosted scores of cultural events and concerts, including performances by Natalie Cole, Hall and Oates, Julio Iglesias and Stockton's favorite son, Chris Isaak. The Theatre closed for renovations in March, 2002, and is expected to re-open next year.

Congressman Pombo, Congressman Petri To Tour San Joaquin County Transportation Facilities Friday

Congressman Richard Pombo and Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Petri will begin their tour at the ACE station in Tracy, learning the secrets of ACE's success, and why the program is a model for similar programs throughout the country. Pombo and Petri will speak with ACE train riders, local officials and the public.

Following their tour of ACE, Chairman Petri and Congressman Richard Pombo will host an informal breakfast with elected officials, business leaders, construction industry, transit groups, trucking groups, and rail groups.

Rep. Pombo and Chairman Petri, joined by Stockton Mayor Gary Podesto, will next tour the Port of Stockton. Stops to include Navy Drive Bridge, McCloy Street, Railroad Yard Improvements, Daggett Road Bridge and Waterfront Facilities.

For additional information, access the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee website at: www.house.gov/transportation

House OK's 2002 Farm Bill

Washington, D.C. - U.S. House of Representatives 280 to 141 approval early Thursday afternoon of the 2002 farm bill negotiated by House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest (R-Texas) and Ranking Member Charlie Stenholm (D-Texas) met prompt praise from President Bush, who urged the Senate to act promptly so he may sign the new farm bill into law.

"The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002" is the end result of more than two years and dozens of hearings in rural communities throughout the country, and more than 60 days of House and Senate conference to produce one bill balancing conservation, crops, nutrition, trade and rural development into the nation's comprehensive agricultural policy. The bill is supported by dozens of groups, ranging from the Cotton Council to the National Farmers Union, and from the Food Research Action Center to Ducks Unlimited.

The President's statement in part read, "I am pleased that the compromise agreement on the farm bill resulted in better balanced commodity loan rates; spending that is no longer front-loaded; and the strongest conservation provisions of any farm bill ever passed by Congress. The final provisions of the farm bill are also consistent with America's international trade obligations, which will strengthen our ability to open foreign markets for American farm products. I thank the conferees for their hard work and urge Congress to send the farm bill to my desk promptly for signature to help ensure the immediate and long-term vitality of our farm economy."

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Today in History

1802 - Washington, DC, was incorporated as a city.

1855 - Macon B. Allen became the first African American to be admitted to the Bar in Massachusetts.

1921 - West Virginia imposed the first state sales tax.

1944 - Wartime rationing of most grades of meats ended in the U.S.

1948 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that covenants prohibiting the sale of real estate to blacks and other minorities were legally unenforceable.

1951 - Christopher Cross was born

1968 - After three days of battle, the U.S. Marines retook Dai Do complex in Vietnam. They found that the North Vietnamese had evacuated the area.

1971 - Anti-war protesters began four days of demonstrations in Washington, DC.

1971 - National Public Radio broadcast for the first time.

1971 - James Earl Ray, Martin Luther King's assassin, was caught in a jailbreak attempt.

1979 - Margaret Thatcher became the first woman prime minister of Great Britain.

1992 - Five days of rioting and looting ended in Los Angeles. The riots, that killed 53 people, began after the acquittal of police officers in the beating of Rodney King.

From www.on-this-day.com

Farm Bill Highlights

"Members of both the House and Senate members had very different opinions in the crafting of the Farm bill but, after intense negotiations for countless hours I am pleased that we have a Farm Bill that will increase market access, provide assistance to producers in times of low prices, and assist farmers in compliance with environmental laws."

- *Congressman Richard Pombo*

The Following are highlights of the passed bill:

MAP - The Market Access Program (MAP) is increased from \$90 million per year to \$200 million to be phased in by 2006. The MAP program has been especially valuable in assisting California producers gain market share in international markets.

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) - The Farm Bill provides \$19 million to provide technical assistance for fruits and vegetables producers in resolving phytosanitary trade issues in international markets.

Country of Origin Labeling -The Farm Bill includes Country of Origin labeling for fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and peanuts. The Secretary of the USDA is required to provide guidelines for voluntary labeling by September 30, 2002. This program will then become mandatory in two years.

Protection from Domestic Competition - Retains the planting restriction on fruits and vegetables on program crop acres.

Fruit and Vegetable Government Purchases - The Farm Bill allocates \$200 million annually for the purchase of fruits and vegetables in government nutrition programs.

Conservation - The overall funding level of \$17.1 billion (over 10 years) for conservation programs, reflecting an increase of over 80% from current conservation spending levels. Primary Conservation programs include:

Farmland Stewardship Program - This program provides conservation incentives for farms and ranchlands, and encourages the blending of state and local, and federal conservation initiatives to better address conservation needs at the ground level.

Water Conservation Program - The Water Conservation Program provides cost-share incentives and assistance for efforts to conserve ground water and surface water. This program is funded at \$600 million.

Wetlands Reserve Program -The Farm Bill authorizes the Wetlands reserve Program at 250,000 acres, funded at \$1.5 billion.

EQIP -The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a cost share program for conservation measures on working lands. The Conference agreement increases funding to \$9 billion over ten years. EQIP provides assistance to producers in meeting environmental laws though the use of a wide variety of conservation enhancements including water and soil conservation, improved irrigation, and assistance in meeting TMDL and CAFO requirements. Payment limitations set at \$450,000 for the life of the six-year Farm Bill.

Water Conservation Program - The Bill provides cost-share incentives and assistance to conserve ground and surface water funded at \$600 million over 10 years.

For additional details, I encourage you to visit the following website:
<<http://www.agriculture.house.gov/farmbill.htm>>.

Weekly Quotes

Rare moments of fiscal candor throughout history

1407 - "You have gold and I want gold; where is it?"

- *King Henry IV of England*

18th Century - "Let them eat cake!"

- *Attributed to Marie Antoinette, Queen of France*

1938 - "We will spend and spend, and tax and tax, and elect and elect."

- *Harry Hopkins, director, Public Works Adm.*

1954 - "It's a terribly hard job to spend a billion dollars and get your money's worth."

- *Treasury Secretary George Humphrey*

1963 - "There is one difference between a tax collector and a taxidermist - the taxidermist leaves the hide."

- *Mortimer Caplin, IRS commissioner*

1984 - "Mr. Reagan will raise taxes and so will I. He won't tell you. I just did."

- *Vice President Walter Mondale*

1995 - "Probably people in this room are still mad at me, at that budget, because you think I raised your taxes too much. Well, it may surprise you to know that I think I raised them too much, too."

- *President Clinton*

April 2002: "We will also never bring up the permanent tax cut the president is advocating."

- *Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, South Dakota Democrat*