Mr. President, let me say this: Tomorrow morning, the third

vote in order is going to be a vote to invoke cloture on the farm bill.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, my Republican friends, are

near bringing this bill down. That is a shame. All those farm States

out there--and there are lots of them--and all those farm communities--

and there are lots of them--need to look to the Republicans for killing

the farm bill. If they vote, and they should vote cloture to stop this

silliness that has been going on now for 10 days, 11 days, they can

still offer amendments. Once cloture is invoked, they have the 30 hours

to offer amendments. We can enter into an agreement. If they want to

spend a half hour on each amendment, 15 minutes to a side, whatever

they want to do that is reasonable, but they have been unwilling to be

reasonable. I guess they want, as I indicated earlier, the Democrats

not to have an accomplishment. But the fault of the farm bill is at

their feet. You don't have to look further than down at their feet.

They are stopping an important piece of legislation, a bipartisan piece

of legislation, and they are doing it for what I believe are very bad

motives.

It is a shame. The American farm programs are good programs. This

bill makes them better. Is this bill perfect? Of course not.

I went over the schedule with my staff as to what we can do in

December. We don't have the luxury of spending a long time on this farm

bill. We could if cloture is invoked. We could come back and finish

this bill in a short period of time. If it is not invoked, we are going

to be hard pressed to get the farm bill completed very soon.