Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to

broaden this discussion a little bit this morning, and I want to

broaden it even to the point where we talk about sanctions.

Sanctions with any country—and yes, there are a lot of them, we

just returned from the Middle East 2 or 3 weeks ago and we talked

to our troops down there, and we also were in Bosnia for 4 days,

and the only reason I went on the trip, I thought it would be a

fancy trip because the chairman of the Appropriations Committee

was going to go, and they travel in style. However, 18 hours in a

C–141 dispelled that idea.

I want to broaden this a little bit, and I am also going to be a

little bit parochial, Mr. Pickering, because we have a crisis on the

Northern Great Plains of the United States of America. We have

a problem that when we make our foreign policy and we do certain

things, because of certain actions it causes a lot of distress to us

locally.

I think the Senator from South Dakota is here, probably knowing

what I am going to allude to, and that is, whenever we put sanctions

in place there is usually retaliations, and even though, ever

since the grain embargo of the seventies, you cannot stop us from

exporting agricultural products, the countries retaliate in that

area.

We are looking at a drought. We are looking at the worst wheat

prices that we have looked at in a long time, and there are many

factors to that that are uncontrollable even by us, and that is the

total financial collapse of the Pacific Rim, where the vast majority

of our exported products go.

Those exports have gone to nil. Last fall, we had two railroads

that merged, and they tried to do business down on the Gulf of

Mexico, and that was a snafu, and a lot of our producers did not

get to ship in a timely manner to take advantage of the market.

Here are some facts I want you to think about whenever we talk

about sanctions, and I am going to refer to an article that was in

Farm Journal in March. Wheat imports by Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Libya,

and North Korea, all of which are off-limits to U.S. products, have

doubled since 1995, and account for over 10 million tons, or 11 percent

of the world trade, and we are not allowed that market.

Now, I say that in the context of sanctions do not work. In fact,

on our list, Mr. Pickering, on our list there are some 75 countries

that represent 52 percent of the world’s population that we are not

allowed to ship to. Other countries are shipping there. They ship

their product at a premium because of the psychology in the market.

Then we have to compete on the rest of the world market at

the lower end of the market.

We wanted to use some export enhancement programs, some export

credits, and we finally got EEP on chickens.

Chickens.

We do not raise a lot of chickens in Montana or

South Dakota.

Well, there is a reason for that.

I want to broaden this just to say this morning that I think we

are going to see legislation that we will hope will deal with this,

because we have a crisis.

I am losing people, and yet the truck loads of wheat keep pouring

across the border from Canada, and we cannot even get a hearing

on some fairness or balance in this particular situation.

I do not think Saddam Hussein has any sanctions on him. I

think he is doing exactly what he wants to do, and yet he will retaliate

on our agricultural products. He will absolutely, this man,

starve his own people to serve his own purpose, and I do not know,

the carrot has not worked very good. Maybe the stick will.

But I just want to make you aware of those figures, of what sanctions

do, and we should look at them very carefully, because I will

tell you, we have a segment of our economy that is responsible for

24 percent of the GDP in this country in trouble, and if you think

this economy is going to go on forever, with that big an industry

that has that much impact on our economy, is going to stay forever,

I would advise that you consider otherwise.

I am very, very upset this morning about this situation, and I

would like some time to get a hearing, and this is my only opportunity

that I have. This is the only shot I get, is when we have

joint hearings.

But I am very concerned about the oil embargo. I said on the Energy

Committee, along with the chairman, I am very concerned

about energy security, and yet we will allow different groups to bar

us in Montana from going on public lands and developing an energy

supply that we have so much of. It is unbelievable. But we

cannot touch it because we make policy by a feel-good methodology.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Well, we do not know yet.

You do not feed them to those football players.