

11-22-1974

Letters and Documents exchanged between Jim Buck Ross, David Bowen, Del Clawson, and B. F. Smith, November 1974

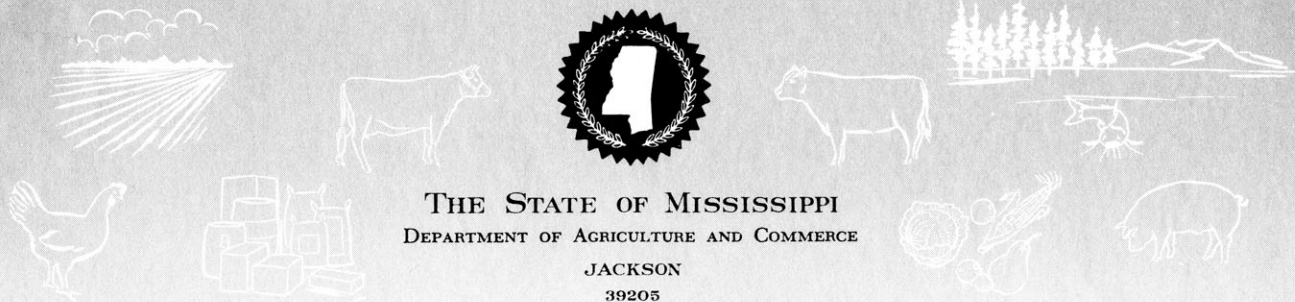
Jim Buck Ross

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THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
JACKSON
39205

JIM BUCK ROSS
COMMISSIONER

November 18, 1974

NOV 22 1974

Honorable David Bowen
1207 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear David:

Attached hereto are 14 reasons why we need the bill lifting acreage restrictions on rice that is tied up in the Rules Committee moved out.

I am attaching also a copy of the letter that I have written all members of the Rules Committee on this subject, also the Honorable Phil Campbell.

Will you please use your influence to get favorable action by the Rules Committee on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Buck Ross".

Jim Buck Ross
Commissioner

JBR:jcs

Attachments

AG.: Rice
(ROSS)
ack ltr re Rice bill, &
copy of ltr to Hon. Del
Clawson,

November 25, 1974

The Honorable Jim Buck Ross
Commissioner
Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Jim Buck:

Thank you for your letter of November 18, 1974, and enclosure outlining the merits of the proposed Rice Act of 1974 together with a copy of your letter to the Honorable Del Clawson.

As you may know, I am one of the sponsors of the Rice Bill. Congressman Alexander and I fought vigorously to push the bill through the Agriculture Committee, and you may recall that it was a close vote (18 to 16).

We have had a great deal of difficulty in prevailing upon the members of the Rules Committee to clear the measure so that it can be brought to the House floor for debate. Chairman Poage has vigorously opposed the bill and much to my regret the Speaker has also hindered our efforts to get it through the Rules Committee. The Speaker's contention is that he does not want the House of Representatives to consider any new legislation from this point on. We are doing everything we possibly can to change his mind.

This bill will certainly benefit the State of Mississippi, and I am convinced that once it clears the Rules Committee it will pass the House of Representatives by a substantial margin. As a result of the snag in the Rules Committee, we felt it imperative that the bill be introduced in the Senate and that action be taken by the Senate Agriculture Committee. I am happy to report that Senator Talmadge's committee plans to take action on the bill during the first week in December. If the Senate can promptly pass the bill, then hopefully the Speaker and the members of the Rules Committee will receive the

JHH/ras

The Honorable Jim Buck Ross
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November 25, 1974

message that this bill deserves enactment. In the meantime, I shall continue to do what I can to move the bill out of the Rules Committee.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

DAVID R. BOWEN
Member of Congress

P.S. I have also received your letter of November 20, 1974, along with the copy of your letter from Mr. B. F. Smith. Thanks for sending this to me.

Reasons for Release of Rice Acreage

1. Additional rice acreage would be an asset to economy of Mississippi agriculture--would help in attaining 3 billion goal--could add 250 million to economy.
2. Would allow farmers to grow what is most ideally suited on each type of soil--that is, the heavy land unsuitable for other crops is good for growing rice--would help to more fully utilize available farm land.
3. Old Growers, in some cases, think release of acreage would hurt them.
 - Fact 1..Chemical manufacturers say the amount of chemicals will determine acreage--not quotas. If rice is not planted in the U. S., then it will be grown in Central America and North Africa.
 - Fact 2..Old Growers will be protected on allotment and price support where new growers will be growing without protection. In fighting release of rice acreage, the Old Grower is saying in effect that he is willing to compete against Central American countries, but is not willing to compete against his fellow American farmer even though he has the above mentioned protection.
4. The world needs food and rice is the basis of much of the world's usual diet.
5. The legislation necessary to release controls on rice should be completed immediately in order for farmers to acquire necessary items for production.
6. The states that are so strongly opposed to lifting quotas--Texas and California--wanted cotton restrictions lifted so they could compete for the market--but now they are saying we should not be allowed to compete for "their" rice.
7. Production costs are approximately 1/2 in Mississippi what they are in California.
8. "Red Rice" (grass) is a serious problem in south Texas.
9. South Louisiana has the rental agreement whereby the Landlord furnishes water and land and gets 1/2 of production. Other areas of country are more favorable to renter, hence they don't think they can compete by giving tenant only 1/2 of crop.
10. Our rice is the finest grade available, in the United States. For example, mills from Texas and Arkansas are buying Mississippi rice now (first). The rice grown in the Mississippi Delta is of superior quality to that grown in other areas of U. S..
11. Additional rice acreage will provide additional employment--contrary to the popular idea that you just plant rice, wait awhile, then harvest--there is probably as much labor involved in production of rice as there is in cotton.
12. There is less pollution problem involved in growing of rice than a number of other crops.
13. The danger is not going to be in possibility of overproduction, but in obtaining enough wells, ditches, chemicals and combines for production.
14. Rice is selling for 50¢ a pound in grocery stores and price is still rising. Competition would help in stabilizing price of this basic food item.



THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
JACKSON
39205

JIM BUCK ROSS
COMMISSIONER

November 12, 1974

Honorable Del Clawson
Rules Committee
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Congressman Clawson:

Meaningful action to alleviate hunger and starvation is a problem that is demanding the attention of leaders and nations throughout the world. So far, there has been a lot of conversation between global leaders but there is very little tangible evidence that they are coming to grips with the problem in a meaningful manner.

We do not believe that this is caused by a lack of desire or by failure to recognize the seriousness of the problem. Instead, we believe that it is due to the concern of each nation with regard to their own individual food requirements, both now and in the future.

We feel sure that the United States can provide needed assistance and at the same time provide adequately for our own domestic needs. In view of the shortages resulting from adverse weather conditions this year, however, we will need to encourage stepped-up production of strategic food crops and move promptly to remove restrictions that will limit production.

In recognition of the need to increase food production, President Ford has called on Congress to lift restrictions on rice production. As you know, rice is one of the most versatile and nutritious of our cereal grains and it is one of the staple foods in many parts of the world.

In this country, we have the land, water and other resources that are needed for rice production; however, the current rice law is very restrictive and severely limits production. In fact, it appears almost certain that marketing quotas on rice will be reimposed for 1975 under provisions of the current law. This will mean a big cut in rice acreage just when we actually need to increase production.

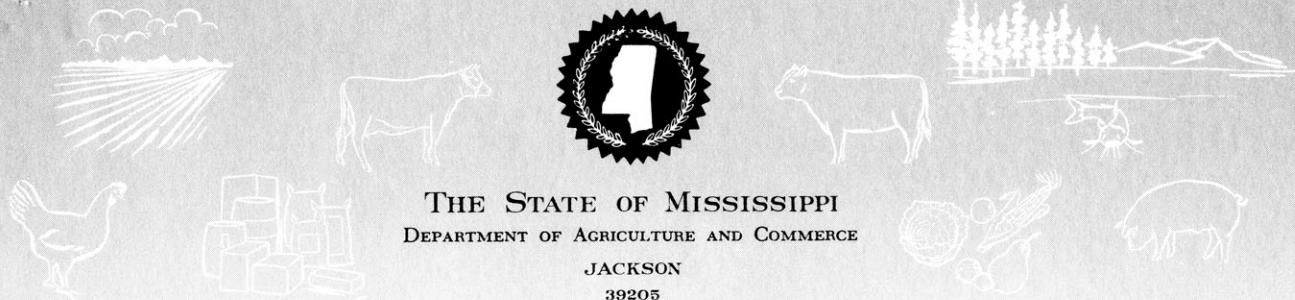
Honorable Del Clawson
November 12, 1974
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The House Agriculture Committee gave its approval to H.R.15263, a bill to establish a target price program for rice similar to the programs for cotton, feed grains and wheat. This bill will provide for needed production; however, it has not as yet been approved by the House Rules Committee. We respectfully urge that this bill be granted a rule as soon as possible so that farmers can make their plans for 1975. Your support will be deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jim Buck Ross
Commissioner

JBR:jcs



THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
JACKSON
39205

JIM BUCK ROSS
COMMISSIONER

NOV 22 1974

November 20, 1974

Honorable David Bowen
1207 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear David:

Enclosed you will find a letter from B. F. Smith,
Executive Vice President of the Delta Council, written
to me in regard to the rice bill.

This copy is being forwarded to you as a follow-up to
my letter of November 18, 1974 on the same subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Buck Ross".

Jim Buck Ross
Commissioner

JBR:jcs

Enclosure

DELTA Council

HENRY C. SELF, PRESIDENT

BERNARD ADEN
CAMERON DEAN
HARRY FLOWERS

JOHN SHARP HOWIE
SEYMOUR JOHNSON
C. P. OWEN, JR.

VICE PRESIDENTS

GEORGE W. WILKES, TREASURER
B. F. SMITH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE YAZOO-MISSISSIPPI DELTA

PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY OF ITS AREA

TELEPHONE: LELAND, MISS., 686-4041

STONEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 38776

November 18, 1974

Honorable Jim Buck Ross
Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce
P. O. Box 1609
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Jim Buck:

With regard to the vote in the House Rules Committee on the rice bill, the committee vote on September 18 resulted in a 6-6 tie which blocked the rice bill from moving to the House Floor.

Voting against a rule for the bill were Richard Bolling (D.Mo.), B. F. Sisk (D.Calif.), John Young (D.Texas), Gillis W. Long (D.La.), Dave Martin (R.Neb.) and Del Clawson (R. Calif.). Favoring Floor consideration were Committee Chairman Ray J. Madden (D. Ind.), Claude Pepper (D.Fla.), Spark M. Matsunaga (D.Hawaii), Morgan F. Murphy (D.Ill.), John B. Anderson (R.Ill.) and James H. Quillen (R. Tenn.).

Three Rules Committee members did not vote -- James J. Delaney (D.N.Y.), Clem Rogers McSpadden (D.Okla.), and Delbert L. Latta (R.Ohio).

According to reports, Congressman Bolling voted against a rule for the rice bill in a trade-off for support of his House reorganization plan. Sisk, Young, Long and Clawson all represent districts with substantial rice allotments.

With regard to the three non-voting Rules Committee members, McSpadden is expected to vote against the rule while Delaney and Latta have been counted as favorable. There are some indications, however, that Matsunaga would switch from voting for a rule to merely voting present. Some of the Representatives from old-rice growing states have been putting strong pressure on him for a swap-off on proposed sugar legislation.

A companion bill (S.4121) has been introduced in the Senate to counter arguments from Rules Committee members that the Senate has no interest in abolishing the rice quotas. This bill was introduced on October 10 by Senator John L. McClellan, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He introduced the measure for himself and three other members of the Senate. This bill provides a target price of \$8.00 per hundredweight whereas the bill that is now in the House Rules Committee provides a target price of \$11.00 per hundredweight. The Administration had recommended \$7.00 per hundredweight.

DELTA COUNCIL
STONEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

Honorable Jim Buck Ross

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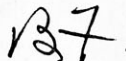
November 18, 1974

Another obstacle to the bill is the fact that peanut and tobacco growers fear that the rice bill could set a precedent that would lead to a target price approach for peanuts and tobacco. We, therefore, have had organizations representing peanuts and tobacco doing their best to prevent the rice bill from getting a rule.

As I told you in our telephone conversation, our Delta Council Board of Directors went on record at our mid-year Board meeting on November 14 urging that acreage restrictions be eliminated so that rice production can be expanded. We will be following up very aggressively, not only with members of our Mississippi Congressional Delegation but with Congressmen from other areas.

With best personal regards,

Yours very truly,



B. F. Smith
Executive Vice President

BFS/dl