breakfast room. In this regard I want to emphasize that if any of these fine young men had to go into combat in the defense of their country I would want them to go with the best possible training and the best equipment our country could give them. In this way, I believe they not only would be of great service to their country but they would be able to defend themselves and to prevail against their enemies.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize again that I hope the Congress and the people of this country will bear in mind that the country, the United States of America, requests and demands a very high level of ability, knowledge, courage, and forceful determination from the men who wear the uniform of the United States Marine Corps. As a Nation, we expect them to do the impossible and the United States Marine Corps has never let this Nation down, for they have done the impossible time after time after time.

My plea today then is a plea of caution. Let us not be too hasty to form unwarranted conclusions. At the same time I extend to the families and loved ones of these young men my heartfelt sympathy and assure them these boys have contributed greatly to the efficiency and the fight in themselves and their military service. Do not destroy that which has been nobly constructed out of the fury and fire of victory. May men continue to be proud—they are marines.

AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1956—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 380)

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith, without my approval, H. R. 12, designated as the Agricultural Act of 1956.

It is with intense disappointment and regret that I must take this action. I assure you my decision has been reached only after thorough consideration and searching my mind and my conscience. Our farmers are suffering reduced incomes. They had a right to expect more surplus would be wrong. Production would be stimulated. Markets would be further destroyed, instead of expanded as must be done. More surplus would accumulate—and surpluses are price depressing. Regeneration by ever stricter production controls would be the end result.

It is inconceivable that we should ask farm families to go deeper into this self-defeating round of cause and effect.

2. The provision for dual parity would result in a permanent double standard of parity for determining price supports. Four crops would receive preferential treatment; out of 160 products for which parity prices are figured. There is no justification in logic or in equity for such preferential treatment. Particularly is this true because, under the working of the modernized parity formula enacted by the Congress, in the parity commodities automatically lowers the parity prices of all other commodities. If parity prices for wheat, corn, cotton, and peanuts are to be higher, then parity prices of the other products must be lower.

To whatever degree prices would be further artificially raised there would be a corresponding stimulus to production that would necessarily be intensified. Market outlets shrank, and surplus accumulations would necessarily be increased, and lower prices in the market. Such a device for parity manipulations could destroy the parity concept itself. It places a potent weapon in the hands of opponents of all price supports for farmers. We have no right to place the welfare of our farming industry in such jeopardy.

3. The provision for mandatory supports on the feed grains would create more problems for farmers. The market for feed grains would shrink as livestock production would come to depend more on forage and less on grain. The flow of feed grains into Government stocks would increase and production controls would necessarily be intensified.

4. The multiple-price plans for wheat and rice would have adverse effects upon producers of other crops, upon our re-
The Secretary of Agriculture will announce shortly the details of the new cotton export sales program.

2. For this year the support price of manufacturing milk will be increased to $3.25 per hundred pounds. The support price of butterfat will be increased to $8.6 cents a pound.

3. We will use Department of Agriculture funds, where assistance will be constructive, to strengthen the prices of perishable farm commodities. We have well over $400 million for that purpose for the year beginning July 1. These actions the administration will take immediately.

I now request Congress to pass a straight soil-bank bill as promptly as possible. It should be in operation before fall seeding for next year's crops. It is vital that we get the soil bank authorized in the message of January 9. There is general agreement on it. I am ready to sign a sound Soil Bank Act as soon as Congress sends it to me. That can be accomplished in a very few days if the leadership in Congress will undertake the task.

This combined program of administrative action and legislative enactment will begin now to improve the income and welfare of our farm families.

I am keenly mindful that the failure of the Congress to enact a good new farm bill can have unfavorable effects on farm income in 1956, unless prompt administrative efforts to offset them are made immediately. Particularly, the failure to enact a Soil Bank before planting time this year makes such administrative efforts imperative.

Fortunately, we are going to take prompt and decisive administrative action to improve farm income now. I have conferred with the Secretary of Agriculture and the administration is moving immediately on four major fronts:

1. In 1956, price supports on five of the basic crops—wheat, corn, cotton, rice, and peanuts—will be set at a level of at least 85 percent of parity. Tobacco will be supported as voted in the referendum in accordance with existing law.

Within this range of price support levels, the administration intends to set minimum support levels that will result in a national average of:

Wheat at $2.25 a bushel.
Corn at $1.50 a bushel.
Rice at $4.50 per hundred pounds.

A separate support for corn not under acreage control in the commercial corn area will be announced at an early date.

Price supports on cotton and peanuts have not yet been announced, but it will be at least 821/2 percent of parity.