

TSONGAS SUCCESSFUL IN STRIKING SUGAR PRICE SUPPORTS FROM FARM
BILL

A sacred cow of federal farm industry price supports for the received a blow this afternoon when an amendment sponsored by Senator Paul Tsongas deleting sugar price supports from the Farm bill won approval to in the Senate.

"After all the Reagan administration talk about cutting government waste and all the Republican rhetoric about commitment to the free enterprise system, the American people were waiting to see if special interest groups like the sugar, peanut and dairy farmers were to be the great exceptions" Tsongas stated on the Senate floor.

Deletion of the sugar supports could save consumers as much as \$3 billion this year for sugar sweeteners.

Tsongas had harsh criticism for the credibility of the Reagan administration who gave strong support to Farm bill subsidies.

"It is ironic that the Reagan administration advocated this costly subsidy program in the wake of the most drastic federal budget cuts in history."

"If you are going to go out and ask the school lunch program to take cuts, if you are going to ask people who need college loans to take cuts, you can do it, but you will pay a price." Tsongas emphasized.

"That price over the long term is a sense of unfairness, a sense of being had, and ultimately, a sense of hypocrisy.