

the attack, operators were on the scene providing an emergency communication network that allowed for the organization of supplies as well as firemen, policemen, and rescue crews from countless communities. Their contribution of 360 hours of service was made possible by donations from electronics companies such as the Oklahoma Community Center.

Not only did companies contribute time and money, but charity organizations made it possible for every citizen to become involved. Scores of organizations set up relief funds or served as dropoff locations for donated items. The Salvation Army, Feed the Children, and the American Red Cross were vital in the distribution of foods and goods. Federal, state, and local officials, as well as citizens of all ages, aided in the effort. The Oklahoma National Guard contacted families while fifth grade students from Anadarko Mission School donated relief items. Others contributed to the relief network by setting up centers for counseling and pastoral care for victims' relatives. Members of the Oklahoma funeral directors aided in contacting, consoling, and making funeral arrangements for families. The First Christian Church, for example, arranged a group of 75 volunteer clergy members, psychologists, and social workers to ease the mourning. These measures significantly assisted rescue efforts and provided outlets for individual participation.

The toll of lives would have been even greater without the quick and coordinated response by emergency agencies, including the police, fire departments, and the paramedics of the Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services Authority supplied by American Medical Response of Oklahoma [OEMSA/AMR]. OEMSA/AMR had 24 medical personnel in seven ambulances rolling to the scene within 90 seconds of the explosion. Within 3 minutes they were treating the injured; within the first hour, 210 patients were transported to hospitals and within the first 90 minutes, a total of 517 injured persons were treated, transported or both. The people of EMSA/AMR mobilized 66 ambulances and other vehicles during the response and integrated 29 additional emergency vehicles into the Oklahoma City rescue operation.

Certainly the volunteers have been models of bravery. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each fireman, policeman, and rescue worker who selflessly searched to locate survivors and recover the victims. Eleven Urban Search and Rescue Teams, including teams from Fairfax County and Montgomery County in the Washington area, were invaluable as they utilized their expert knowledge and training to conduct the rescue effort. Their courageous efforts in conditions that were extremely perilous, and at times shocking, are to be commended. Each time these individuals entered the building, they were risking their lives

so that others might find some element of comfort, whether that be the discovery of a survivor or the recovery of a victim.

These valiant volunteers have also demonstrated their exemplary perseverance. They had faith when there was little tangible reason for hope. For instance, the Oklahoma Nurses Association continued to contribute countless hours at hospitals even after losing one of their own, Rebecca Anderson, who was fatally injured while aiding in the rescue effort at the Murrah Building. The rescue crews were not disheartened by the tedious process nor daunted by the rain. We appreciate their patience, as do the people whose lives they saved and assisted.

All these volunteers, from whom we have learned so much, are true heroes. In the face of tragedy, their compassion and effectiveness have offered solace to the State of Oklahoma and the Nation. Their heroism fills me with deep appreciation and admiration. We thank them and look up to them in ways that words cannot express.

THE WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE SOLD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the tough part of the budget process is about to commence. Up until now, budget balancing has been all talk. Now comes the time for action.

For example, the Senate Energy and House Natural Resources Committees have now been presented a budget blueprint and must move to make the hard choices that meet their spending targets. Their job is to decide what to cut and what to keep.

There is no disagreement that we need to cut Government spending and eliminate the deficit. The real argument is over how to get there.

Are we going for quick fixes that make the numbers add up, but are blind to the underlying policy problems that cause the deficit?

Will we opt for a politically expedient formula that gets us to the bottom line now, and asks questions later?

Or are we going to consider carefully all the consequences of our options before making final decisions?

Mr. President, today, I would like to highlight one example that illustrates the dilemma we face, and demonstrates the need to look a little harder at some of the items on the chopping block.

Earlier this year, President Clinton recommended in his fiscal year 1996 budget that three Power Marketing Administrations be sold to private industry. He projected that this sale would save the Treasury over \$4 billion.

A number of Senators representing States served by these PMA's—and whose constituents' electric rates would likely rise significantly if the sale goes through—protested this proposal vigorously. I am one of those Senators.

We have visited the President to make our case against the PMA sale. We have spoken on the Senate floor. And we have lobbied our colleagues on the Senate Budget Committee.

Nonetheless, the Senate and House Budget Committees, eager to cobble together a plan that balances the Federal budget within 7 years, endorsed the President's idea and incorporated it into the congressional budget resolution. Why? Because it made their daunting challenge \$4 billion easier.

Where does that leave the opponents of the PMA firesale? It leaves us with the task of convincing the members of the Senate Energy Committee that the sale does not make sense, and that it does not save money.

My State of South Dakota is served by the Western Area Power Administration [WAPA], which is one of the three power marketing administrations the President and the Budget Committees want to sell. The budget resolution passed by Congress will ask most South Dakotans to pay higher electric rates in order to fund another tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Meanwhile, the reality is that the sale of WAPA is a bookkeeping gimmick that helps make the numbers add up, but unnecessarily hurts working families. And it does nothing to address the underlying budget problem facing our country.

The sale of WAPA is bad economic policy. It is not fair to South Dakota. And, in the long run, it does not even save any money.

Let us look at the facts.

First, WAPA pays its own way. In South Dakota, it guarantees a dependable and affordable supply of electricity for nearly half the people of my State. It is on solid financial ground, covering its operating expenses every year and paying off the original construction expense, with interest.

If other Federal programs were as successful as WAPA, we would not have a deficit to deal with. The proposed sale simply would allow the Federal Government to collect the construction debt faster. But since that debt is now being paid back with interest, the sale will not result in any long-term financial benefit to the Government. Long-term revenue losses from the sale will offset any short-term revenue gains.

Second, WAPA is a promise made to the people of South Dakota. Our State made a deal with the Federal Government, and WAPA is the Government's end of the bargain.

The State of South Dakota sacrificed prime land to the construction of the mainstem dams along the Missouri River to provide critical flood control. Every year there is more erosion and more land lost. Affordable power is South Dakota's compensation for the loss of the land as well as the flood control it provides.

A deal is a deal, and selling WAPA to private industry, with the inevitable rate increases that would follow, would

mean the Federal Government is reneging on its commitment.

Mr. President, my colleagues and I have been making this case with anyone who will listen, and I am pleased that our arguments have not fallen entirely on deaf ears. The final version of the fiscal year 1996 congressional budget resolution concedes that selling WAPA is not necessary to meet deficit reduction objectives.

And our case keeps getting stronger. Since this scheme was first proposed, further evidence of its flaws have come to light.

First there is the issue of river management. This year, South Dakota experienced much more rain than normal, causing flooding throughout the State and resulting in record levels of water accumulating behind the dams on the Missouri River. These high water levels caused considerable property damage and threaten to cause additional damage as water is released from the dams. Managing the water levels and releases on the river is a monumentally difficult and complicated task, where often competing economic and environmental issues must be balanced to minimize damage to property and land, and to maximize national benefits. Selling WAPA would complicate this already contentious process by increasing pressure to generate electricity at the expense of other objectives, so that the new owners of the system could maximize their profits.

Second, it is my understanding that much of the thousands of miles of transmission lines that make up the WAPA system cross private lands. The rights-of-way held by the Federal Government for this purpose in many cases would revert to the private landowners if the WAPA system is sold into private ownership. Therefore, the sale could result in the need for the new owners to renegotiate many of the rights-of-way with private landowners, some of whom might be reluctant to do so.

This added complication could diminish the value of the system to potential buyers, leading to less revenue than the Federal Government expects.

And third, there is the problem of potential cherry-picking. The WAPA system is expansive, covering 14 States, and includes many different components. As these components are broken up for sale, what is to prevent some buyers from purchasing only the best and most profitable parts, leaving behind the older, less valuable parts, and thus preventing the Federal Government—and the taxpayers—from getting the full value from the system?

In conclusion, Mr. President, the sale of WAPA is a bad deal for its current customers, and it is a bad deal for the American taxpayers. Beyond that are some very real practical problems with the execution of the sale of WAPA. These issues alone should be enough to sink the deal.

No one will win if WAPA is sold, except perhaps a few select private inter-

ests who could exploit first the Federal Government, and later their customers to maximize profit.

Since I have been in Congress, I have seen a lot of proposals that did not make sense for South Dakota. Selling WAPA is one of the worst. I urge my colleagues to join with me in this battle and do the right thing by the energy consumers of South Dakota and other Western States, and the right thing for the taxpayers of the Nation.

THE CHALLENGES OF THE 1995 FARM BILL

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the 1995 farm bill got off to a good start recently when the Senate Agriculture Committee drafted significant parts of the legislation, including the research, farm credit, rural development and trade sections. Taken as a whole, I am optimistic these first four provisions will benefit rural America by helping beginning farmers get started and putting renewed focus on the production of value-added agricultural products.

While progress was indeed made and such a good beginning is encouraging, I walked out of the committee room after voting feeling a bit like a farmer watching his fields in early spring. It is always nice when your crop gets off to a good start, but experience suggests we should not get overly confident until it has been harvested and sold at a fair price.

There is still a long and difficult path to travel before we can declare any sort of victory for the American farmer.

My highest priority in the coming months will be to tackle those parts of the farm bill that will have the most immediate impact on the income of family farms and ranches. I have talked to hundreds of producers across South Dakota in the last few months about the importance of this farm bill. They all tell me the same, very simple thing: "Go back to Washington and write a farm bill that will allow us to get a fair price for the food we produce."

They ask for nothing more—and nothing less.

I have been very pleased by the bipartisan nature in which we were able to work out the fine details of these first provisions, and hope this cooperation will continue as we take up the issues that are most important to farm and ranch families across South Dakota. Make no mistake—increasing net farm income will not come without a fight, but those of us in Congress who have been waiting for years to draft a farm bill that puts the farming family above the farming corporations are ready and eager for the debate.

To this point, the Senate Agriculture Committee has taken action on four sections of the farm bill:

The research provisions include my proposal to require that USDA allocate 40 percent of competitive research dollars to applied research that will have a tangible, positive impact on the daily

lives of producers and the economic health of our rural communities. I also fought for a provision that requires USDA to include full-time farmers as members of their research advisory board. Many of the decisions made by the Secretary of Agriculture are based in part on the advice of this board. It simply does not make sense to have it packed with bureaucrats.

The farm credit provisions improve the guarantee program by increasing the protection afforded to banks if they lend to a beginning farmer or refinance the loan of an existing direct USDA borrower. Also, the direct loan program is reformed to increase its focus on beginning farmers and on those in need of only temporary assistance.

The trade title sets workable, concrete goals for trade expansion, increases the percentage of our exports that must be used for high-value and value-added products, and creates new procedures that will help enforce recently signed international trade agreements.

Finally, the rural development title in the committee-approved bill will give States the flexibility they need to pursue innovative projects to revitalize our small communities by allocating a portion of the funds for State-specific projects.

There are many reasons to be optimistic about the progress achieved to date. These first few provisions address important issues facing our future—beginning farmers, meaningful applied research, expanded trade and new markets. We now need to reenforce the point that if we do not do something about declining farm income in the present, there may not be a future.

We also need to remember that no one gets the prize for a good start. My sights are now set on continuing this initial momentum on through to the finish line. Our goal is a farm bill that will improve net farm income, simplify farm programs and bolster our rural economies. The stakes of this race are nothing less than the future of rural America.

THE DIETARY GUIDELINES FOR AMERICANS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last year Congress reauthorized and improved several important nutrition programs under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act. The legislation strengthened access to good nutrition for some of our Nation's most vulnerable children. I was pleased to be a cosponsor of the bill.

As part of that legislation, Congress directed the Department of Agriculture to bring schools into compliance with specified "dietary guidelines" by the 1996-97 school year rather than the 1998-99 school year, as originally stipulated by USDA. These guidelines establish a 30-percent limit on daily dietary fat, and a 10-percent limit on saturated fat.