

fearless. He is a man of great courage with supreme dedication to his work. He is smart, and he does what he thinks is best. It is the right thing to do.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with Senator HOLLINGS on the Appropriations Committee these many years. He has been a fine subcommittee chairman, has always been most cooperative with me in the years that I was chairman. I could always depend on him to carry his part of the load, and then some. His knowledge and expertise in all areas of the Commerce-Justice-State Subcommittee's jurisdiction are well known and unequaled in the Senate.

For two decades he has served on the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Subcommittee, served with great distinction, and has worked tirelessly throughout his years of service as a member of that subcommittee and as its chairman to ensure that the many important programs and activities that are funded by the subcommittee received fair treatment and equitable treatment, often at times of severe budgetary constraints.

I understand that the President has indicated he will veto this conference report for a number of reasons. I can assure all Senators that such a veto will in no way reflect upon the outstanding work of the chairman and ranking member, Senator GREGG and Senator HOLLINGS. The Senate and the American people are in their debt.

It is with great pleasure that I take this moment to express my deep appreciation to Senator HOLLINGS, a man whose heart is as stout as the Irish oak and as pure as the lakes of Killarney.

I also want to compliment the staff. He has an excellent staff, and so does Senator GREGG, the staff of the subcommittee; Mr. David Taylor and Mr. Scott Corwin for the majority; Mr. Scott Gudes for the minority. There is no better—no better—along with Lula Edwards and Emelie East. They deserve our gratitude and our thanks.

Now, Mr. President, we pass out a lot of encomiums in this body. But I try to be reserved in doing so. I want to close with just these words. I salute Senator HOLLINGS, my old friend of these 29 years and 28 days.

When a man does a deed that you greatly admire,
Do not leave a kind word unsaid
For fear to do so might make him vain
Or cause him to lose his head;
But reach out your hand and tell him, "Well done,"

And see how his gratitude swells.
It is not the flowers we strew on the grave;
It's the word to the living that tells.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. HOLLINGS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. HOLLINGS. My good friend, the distinguished Senator, has been so generous. I hasten to add I am not leaving. It would be most appropriate here for me to tell of my admiration in one sense, but then they would say it is tit for tat.

I have served under Senator BYRD as leader; I have served under him as our chairman. He is the one remaining in the U.S. Senate who maintains the decorum, the dignity, the civility that is so fundamental to the good working of this body. So to hear from him on this occasion—I join with him in congratulating our distinguished chairman of the subcommittee for his difficult and hard work. I have apologized in the sense of not being able to vote for the bill, but I think that is understood in the light of the constraints and what has been contained therein.

But let me genuinely thank my good friend. You make some good friends in this service here. And there is none better than my friend, BOB BYRD, the Senator from West Virginia, and I really thank him.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Senator.

Mr. GREGG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. I also wish to thank the Senator from West Virginia, who has been of tremendous assistance to this committee, obviously. I was sort of dropped into this committee out of the clear blue, and with the help of the Senator from South Carolina, the Senator from West Virginia, Members on our side have been able to struggle through the effort. I think we have produced a bill that is, if not supported by the other side, hopefully at least respected by the other side.

I also wish to thank Senator HATCH, who was very helpful in this undertaking, and Senator HELMS, and especially the staff on both sides of the aisle who have already been mentioned, of course, Scott Gudes and Emelie East, and David Taylor and Scott Corwin, Lula Edwards, and Vasiliki Alexopoulos on our side. They worked incredible hours, just overwhelming hours, under tremendous intensity. I do not know really how they do it.

It is extremely impressive. I think what they all deserve is a good vacation in New Hampshire, and I hope they come. We would love to have them come up and relax.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for about 8 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern about the current state of funding for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP]. In the State of Minnesota last year there were about 110,000 households—over

300,000 men, women and children—who receive energy assistance. They received an average energy assistance benefit of about \$360 per heating season.

That was last year. This year, given the huge cuts in LIHEAP funding already enacted, that grant is expected to be about \$200, even though for these households during the heating season, the overall cost of their heating bill is somewhere between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

Last year, we funded this program at a little over \$1.3 billion. We had a rescissions package which contained a cut of \$319 million. On the Senate side, the appropriators proposed to fund this program at \$900 million, and on the House side, it has been zeroed out.

In this bloodless debate that we too often have about the budget, I think sometimes we are completely disconnected from people's lives. That's why I would like to talk about what is going on in Minnesota right now, and what is going on in other cold-weather States. I speak about this with some sense of urgency. Last year, Minnesota received about \$50 million in heating assistance. This year, we have received so far, after the last continuing resolution, about \$9 million. Usually by this time, we have received about \$20-\$25 million.

The energy assistance program, I say to my colleagues who are not from cold-weather States, is really not a year-long program. It is effectively a 6-month program. You need to allocate the heating money now during the cold-weather months. It is truly an example of a program where you cannot do it over a 1-year period of time. You need to get the assistance to people now when they need it.

What we have going on right now with the way we have been funding this program that we are forcing people to freeze on the installment plan. That has to change. I hope there will be a change in the third continuing resolution which we'll likely have before this body next week.

Let me put my colleagues on notice: This will not be the last time I am going to speak about the Energy Assistance Program here on the floor. I intend to raise the alarm until something gets done on it.

It may be—and people may have a hard time understanding this—it may be that in Washington, DC, when it is 30 or 40 or 50 degrees, in my State of Minnesota, it can be 10 degrees below zero, and in some parts of the State, those are exactly the kinds of temperature with which we have been faced.

I want to give a couple of examples, just a few examples, of what this actually means to people who rely on LIHEAP benefits.

Nancy Watson is 55 years old. She is disabled. She lives in Clear Lake, MN. Her income is from SSI and medical assistance. It is \$529 a month. She received her grant of \$81 this year for energy assistance, and she does not know what she is going to do for the rest of the year.

Mr. President, in the State of Minnesota, there are people who have been cut off already from utilities. There are people who do not have propane or fuel in their tanks. There are people who do not have any heat at all, and who are having to struggle to patch together help from friends, churches, the Salvation Army—anywhere they can get it.

There are elderly people who have closed off all but one room of their homes. That is all the heating they can afford. There are people who have the thermostat turned down to 50 degrees. What are we going to do about that in the U.S. Congress?

Mr. President, Clara Mager is a 73-year-old resident of a town on Minnesota's Iron Range. She receives \$675 per month in Social Security. She lives alone and raised six children on her own. She has just received her grant of \$222. She owed her fuel provider, Inter-City Oil, \$177, and on Monday had only 60 gallons left in the fuel tanks. She wonders what she is going to do at the end of December or in January or in February or in March.

In Blue Earth County, we have talked with a woman who is 90 years old. I will make a long story short. She is very worried about how she's going to heat her home, and she has now reached the conclusion, after having been self-reliant and self-sufficient her whole life, that she may have to move into a nursing home.

Mr. President, you can criticize the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program. There are imperfections in all our programs. But let me remind my colleagues that nationally, two-thirds of the energy households have an income of less than \$8,000 a year. More than half have incomes below \$6,000 a year. I tell my colleagues today, and I am going to speak about this over the next week: we have to do something now in this continuing resolution, we have to get adequate funding allocated to people who need it. The total cost of the Energy Assistance Program does not equal the cost of one B-2 bomber, and if we do not do anything, I say to my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, I guarantee you that sooner or later there will be people in our country in the cold-weather States who will freeze to death. Then we will do something.

We should not wait. We should not wait. That would be wrong. We can do better. People expect more of us.

Nobody in 1994 voted for an elimination of an energy assistance program for the most vulnerable citizens in this country to make sure, whether they are elderly or whether they are children or whether people with disabilities or whether they are a working poor family, that they at least have this survival supplement. We cannot keep doing it this way. In my State of Minnesota, by now, we have just over \$9 million that we are getting out to people. It is 10 degrees. It is 8 degrees. In northern Minnesota, it will reach zero or below tonight. There is a wind-

chill below zero. People are cold, and we have to get this assistance out to those who need it.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the text of a draft letter that is circulating among Senators, and that will soon be sent to Chairman HATFIELD, from the Northeast-Midwest Coalition. I was part of the effort, and urged that such a letter be done. Senator JEFFORDS from Vermont is co-chair of this coalition, and we have worked with him on the effort. It makes the case clearly for addressing the LIHEAP problem in the next CR.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, December 5, 1995.

Hon. MARK HATFIELD,
Appropriations Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HATFIELD: We would like to call your attention to a serious problem with the interim funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). We believe that if we are to continue funding programs under the FY96 Labor/HHS Appropriations bill through a Continuing Resolution (CR), states must be allowed to draw down LIHEAP funds at a higher rate which takes into account their historical spending practices and which is sufficient to ensure the program's viability. Temperatures have dropped below freezing and there is snow on the ground in many parts of the country, but the language in both CRs that limits state draw downs to a proportional annual rate does not provide states sufficient funds to operate programs and meet the heating needs of their low income families.

In past years, states have drawn down a majority of their LIHEAP funds during the fall. This allows states to purchase fuel at lower rates, maintain continuity of service, avoid shut offs, and plan for the upcoming winter. Furthermore, nearly ninety percent of LIHEAP funds are used for heating assistance during the coldest months. The CR language requires that LIHEAP funds be spent out over a twelve month period. While this may leave funds for heating assistance in June, many low income families may not be able to heat their homes this winter.

We believe it is critical to safeguard this program which protects the elderly, the disabled, the working poor, and children. When it gets cold, these vulnerable Americans should not be forced to choose between heating and eating. Continuing delays in funding and limits on the payout rate will hamper states' ability to help the 5.6 million LIHEAP households survive the winter. We ask your assistance in ensuring that the bulk of LIHEAP funds can be spent during the cold weather months at a rate sufficient to meet the needs of low income families this winter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JIM JEFFORDS.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will be speaking about this in much more detail over the next week or so. We have to do something about this, I say to my colleagues.

On the last continuing resolution, finally I was able to get, and Senator JEFFORDS and others can talk about what's happening in their States, \$2 million more for my State. That is it. But that is a pittance. We have long

waiting lists of people who need the assistance, and adequate funds are not available. That's why people are having to go cold.

We have to get the funding out now, and we have to figure out a way in this continuing resolution to make sure that we do so; otherwise, Mr. President, there is no question that in the United States of America, this winter some people will likely freeze to death.

For God's sake, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, liberals, conservatives, and whatever other label you choose to call yourself or apply to yourself, let us try to do better, and let us try to make sure in this continuing resolution that we are able to get some of this funding out. We should not be freezing people on the installment plan. It is unconscionable. It is not right. We should not be doing this. We have to take some action.

I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI- CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996—CON- FERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 591 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Abraham	Faircloth	McConnell
Ashcroft	Frist	Murkowski
Bennett	Gorton	Nickles
Bond	Gramm	Pressler
Brown	Grams	Roth
Burns	Gregg	Santorum
Campbell	Hatch	Shelby
Chafee	Hatfield	Simpson
Coats	Helms	Smith
Cochran	Hutchison	Snowe
Cohen	Inhofe	Specter
Coverdell	Jeffords	Stevens
Craig	Kempthorne	Thomas
D'Amato	Kyl	Thompson
DeWine	Lott	Thurmond
Dole	Lugar	Warner
Domenici	Mack	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Exon	Kerrey
Baucus	Feingold	Kerry
Biden	Feinstein	Kohl
Bingaman	Ford	Lautenberg
Boxer	Glenn	Leahy
Bradley	Graham	Levin
Breaux	Grassley	Lieberman
Bryan	Harkin	McCain
Bumpers	Heflin	Mikulski
Byrd	Hollings	Moseley-Braun
Conrad	Inouye	Murray
Daschle	Johnston	Nunn
Dodd	Kassebaum	Pell
Dorgan	Kennedy	Pryor