

hope this time, for once, he does not prove to be prescient. But this can only happen if we attend to what he foresees.

The financial crisis has eased. We are free to think anew and act anew. There was at least one such moment in our involvement with Vietnam. We missed it.

SOUTH DAKOTA FLOODS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, once again, Mother Nature's fury is challenging the spirit and perseverance of South Dakotans. For the past several weeks, persistent rains have brought flooding conditions to much of the State for the third straight year. As a result, 38 counties already have been declared disaster areas. More counties may be added in the days ahead. Just by way of comparison, in July 1993, 33 counties were disaster areas due to the heavy rainfall and flooding that made front page headlines nationwide.

Flooding has made vital roads and bridges impassable, placing the assurance of basic services at risk. Rivers and streams overflowing their banks have wreaked havoc in urban and rural areas across South Dakota—basements, fields, and roads are inundated with water. Damage to public and private property threatens the well-being of farmers, small business men and women, families, and individuals.

On Monday, Gov. Bill Janklow requested that the President declare the State a disaster area and provide Federal emergency assistance in excess of \$16 million. The devastation appears already to have surpassed that caused by the so-called Great Flood of 1993. Some areas of the State already are experiencing their wettest springs in history with 3 weeks remaining in the season.

An end does not appear to be in sight. National Weather Service reports indicate heavy precipitation will continue through the end of this month and maybe into this summer. If this is the case, South Dakota once again may resemble the Great Lake of the Midwest.

South Dakotans clearly are experiencing hard times. The Governor's office has informed me that the State is using all the resources it can to assist those in need. Federal help is critical. As South Dakota's senior Senator, I intend to do all I can to ensure that the President and our Federal agencies respond to South Dakota's disaster needs swiftly and diligently. The people of South Dakota deserve and should expect no less from their Government.

I already have written to the President, the Federal Emergency Management Agency [FEMA], and the Small Business Administration [SBA], and the Federal Highway Administration, alerting them of South Dakota's urgent situation and urging quick approval of the Governor's aid request.

I also invited the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Rodney Slater, to personally assess the damage of our flood-damaged roads and bridges and to give immediate consid-

eration to a request from the State for assistance. Having endured \$1.2 million of damage to roads and bridges last year, additional damage to roads and bridges makes FHWA assistance even more critical this year.

Administrator Slater for some time has planned to survey damaged roads and bridges in South Dakota. Unfortunately, he has not scheduled a visit. Now is as good a time as any for him to see just how serious the situation is.

South Dakotans have no time to waste. The Federal Government should act, and act fast. South Dakota deserves the same response other areas of the Nation receive in times of need. I intend to see that this action is taken.

What kind of action can be taken at the Federal level? Plenty. In fact, a number of initiatives can be taken without a Presidential disaster declaration—initiatives that are critical to South Dakota farmers and ranchers. First and foremost, the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation must provide far greater flexibility in the administration of the Crop Insurance Program to South Dakota farmers.

The Crop Insurance Program, which has replaced disaster payments as the central means for emergency relief, is predicated on the planting of crops. However, as we all know, the clear problem caused by the recent rain and floods for crop farmers is that they are unable to plant. Consider the percentage of crops planted, as of May 8, 1995, as compared to the 5-year average: corn—1 percent, 5-year average—19 percent; spring wheat—17 percent, 5-year average—89 percent; oats—12 percent, 5-year average—85 percent; barley—6 percent, 5-year average—84 percent.

I already have written to Agriculture Secretary Glickman, urging administrative flexibility for the Crop Insurance Program. Specifically the Secretary needs to take the following steps:

First, provide prevent planting coverage on crops that producers paid premiums on. If a producer was unable to plant the insured crop by the final planting date, crop insurance should pay the prevented planting indemnity and permit the producers to plant any subsequent crop possible and insure that crop.

Second, provide crop insurance coverage for producers who aerial seed this year's crop. With the degree of wet conditions occurring in South Dakota, aerial seeding needs to be considered a usual practice.

Third, withhold penalties against producers by permitting prevented planting coverage even if a producer enters the 0/92 program.

Fourth, release Conservation Reserve Program [CRP] acres for haying and grazing.

Fifth, extend immediately the May 15 deadline for calving on CRP acres. I am pleased that Secretary Glickman has responded to this request, and has extended the deadline.

Sixth, permit the following crops to be planted this year without the loss of

farm program benefits: millet, soybeans, buckwheat, sunflowers.

FEMA, SBA, and the FHWA also should be equally responsive, fair, and flexible to the needs of South Dakotans should the Governor request Federal assistance.

The need for equitable treatment in response to disasters is very important to me. In recent years, I have been very critical of what I believe to be the apparent discriminatory administration of Federal emergency assistance. It seems that disaster aid is always quick in coming to States and localities with major media markets and big electoral votes. However, whether you are from Humboldt, CA, or Humboldt, SD, a disaster is a disaster—a lost home, business, or income due to Mother Nature is hard for all Americans, regardless of where they live. Thus, treatment of these disasters should be fair.

Once again, the wrath of Mother Nature is challenging the people of our great State. Times are tough, but I know South Dakotans will persevere. The pioneer spirit and sense of community within all South Dakotans will rise to the occasion. In the last few days, my wife Harriet and I have talked to a number of our friends in South Dakota. We have heard the difficulties they have faced. Our hearts and our prayers are with them—the farmers, ranchers, business men and women, and the families impacted by the flooding. I intend to do all I can to ensure that the Federal Government stands side-by-side with all South Dakotans during this difficult time. The President can begin this effort by approving Governor Janklow's request and send assistance where needed. I urge him to do so without delay. Again, the people of South Dakota should expect and deserve no less.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF ED ROBERTS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, it was with profound sadness that I learned of Ed's death. On March 14, 1995, not only did the world lose one of our most dynamic and forceful advocates for the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities; on that day, I lost a friend and confidant.

Ed Roberts was a kid who lived for baseball when he contracted polio at age 14. He became severely disabled almost overnight, needing large equipment and assistance simply to breathe. Ed overheard the doctor tell his mother that it would be better if he died because he was going to be a vegetable. He decided right then that if he was going to be a vegetable, he would be an artichoke: prickly on the outside with a tender heart.

A lot of people told Ed there were a lot of things he could not do.

They told him he could not graduate from high school because he could not pass PE or driver's education, so he

had to argue with and convince his principal to change these requirements because they were not fair.

They told Ed he could not attend the University of California at Berkeley because they had never had a student in a wheelchair, one who used a respirator, or one who slept in an iron lung. Ed fought all that too, and convinced the university to admit him. "Helpless Cripple Goes to College" was one of the headlines marking Ed's entrance to college.

They made him live in the infirmary. But Ed was not helpless. By the time Ed left UC Berkeley, he and fellow student activists who called themselves the Rolling Quads had organized funding to begin transforming the campus into a model of physical accessibility for students with disabilities.

As Ed said, "We realized that we could change some things, and the first thing we can do is change our own attitudes toward ourselves, be proud of who we were and what we were and go out and change it for others and for ourselves * * * that liberated me when I realized that I can help others. It made me a lot freer to help myself."

Ed went on to graduate school in political science and taught at UC Berkeley for several years. One of Ed's deans once told him, "Oh, you'll finish your Ph.D. and they you'll live in a nursing home." But Ed knew otherwise. He told that dean, "No, that's not the plan. We're here to change that whole idea." And at his memorial service, a representative from the university described him as "bringing the honor of being the right kind of troublemaker here at Cal." Today, over 800 students with many kinds of disabilities attend UC-Berkeley where there are scholarships in his name for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students with disabilities.

After his university years, Ed went on to establish the first Center for Independent Living in the country. Where was it was located? Where else? Berkeley. Today there are over 300 independent living centers all across the country. Independent living is a philosophy which defines independence as full inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life. Ed lived this philosophy, and he helped others live it as well. His colleague Doug Martin, ADA and 504 compliance officer for UCLA, recently described Ed during the CIL years when he said, "He believed in us before we believed in ourselves."

Ed's philosophy of independent living, and his ability to get the money and the people behind it changed our lives. It changed the lives of millions of people in this country and abroad—people with disabilities, their families, their friends and many others who began to see the universality of his approach. As Ed put it, "I'm paralyzed from the neck down, but I'm completely in control of my own life. I can make decisions about what I want."

Early on, they told Ed he was unable to be rehabilitated. However, this

rehab failure went on to become director of the California State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation. You see, Ed loved to turn barriers upside down, rendering each one a challenge in his own slalom course toward empowerment and independence. And by the end of his tenure in Sacramento, Ed knew he wanted to be a full-time rabble-rouser. Ed told his friend Stephen Hofman, "I don't want to work. It prevents you from raising hell, and I like to raise a lot of hell * * * After all, if raising hell doesn't work, the only solution is to raise even more hell, and then, they give up!"

As Joe Shapiro wrote in U.S. News & World Report the week after Ed died, "He knew that it was the paternalism of others, more than his own disability that held him back."

In 1984, Ed was awarded a MacArthur Genius Fellowship, which he used to live on as he started The World Institute on Disability, a disability policy think tank located in Oakland, CA. Ed testified before committees in Congress numerous times, and many of us grew to know him well. But Ed was not content to be a solo rabble-rouser. He wanted to join forces, debate the issues, hammer out policy and see it implemented in his lifetime. WID was the crucible Ed fashioned with his colleagues for stoking fires and building community.

Ed's vision was exemplified in the way he lived his own life, but he also very much believed in empowering others. As one of his colleagues at WID said, "Part of his star quality was that he always talked about 'we'. He always would come up and say 'we've got to do that,' 'we need people,' 'we need to work on this together,' 'we can make this happen.'" Ed blew people's minds when he took to the streets of Moscow in his motorized chair in 1993. There, he has become a symbol of freedom, a household word to millions of people with disabilities.

But Ed was more than a civil rights hero. He was a man with heart, a man whose love and sense of humor were tools just as powerful as his keen mind and his passion for justice. Ed always took the time to find out how you were doing.

He took the time to encourage young students with disabilities to study public policy.

He took time to talk with personal assistants about the powerlessness of being underpaid.

He took the time to visit other respirator users in the hospital when they were despairing over living independent lives.

He took the time to stop on the street and talk with homeless people, people with disabilities that the "system" has forsaken.

He took the time to laugh, to have an adventure, and always to eat a good meal!

Ed did just about everything a person could dream of doing. He got married. He fathered a son—his absolute pride

and joy. Ed swam with the dolphins, practiced karate, was almost eaten by a shark, threw tremendous dinner parties, and travelled all over the world. As WID vice president and one of Ed's former proteges, Debby Kaplan said recently, "He had a determined exuberance for life."

We are all fortunate to live in this world which Ed so deeply touched, so richly celebrated.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1045. An act to amend the Goals 2000: Educate America Act to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1266. An act to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following measure was read the first time:

H.R. 1045. An act to amend the Goals 2000: Educate America Act to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 454. A bill to reform the health care liability system and improve health care quality through the establishment of quality assurance programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-83).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HATFIELD:

S. 806. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to entities in rural areas that design and implement innovative approaches to improve the availability and quality of health care in such rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN: