

had an opportunity to witness firsthand the efforts South Dakotans were making in anticipation of the flood. Thanks to the spirit and fortitude of our State's leaders, important efforts to prevent serious damage were initiated weeks in advance of the terrible recent events. The Governor has done an excellent job of coordinating State, Federal, and local efforts to control flooding. Unfortunately, some of these efforts failed.

James River Valley—including dikes built in the Aberdeen area; Huron; Mitchell; Yankton. In Mitchell, I visited with Shawn and Darcie Winters who run Siouxland Camp. And their father Don McLean. High winds had blown the roof off of a dormitory there. In Pierre, I met with city officials and with the Southeast Pierre Homeowners Association. Approximately 200 homes have experienced flooding conditions. The city has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to build a dyke to help divert an overflow of water out of this neighborhood. Watertown—spoke with Mayor Brenda Barger today where at one point 5,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes and take up temporary residence with friends, in hotels, and in even in a public exposition building.

PEOPLE PERSEVERING

Leola—The power went out Sunday at 1:00 a.m. They lost water Sunday night at 8:30 p.m. They've been without heat and water for 2 days. They wear stocking caps, mittens, and winter jackets to bed as they try to fall asleep under the bulk of six or seven blankets. The temperature fell to 15 below last night. Every morning they wake up, praying for heat while they face another day of cold.

During the day, people gather at the local fire hall where a generator provides the communities only heat. They're pumping water from the fire truck to take care of basic needs. The local cafe is staying open during this disaster so people can eat. The cafe has a propane grill and it's the only place in town where you can get a warm meal and a hot cup of coffee.

Watertown—5,000 people were forced to evacuate their homes in the midst of a raging blizzard. It will be days or even weeks before people are able to get into their homes, look at the damage, dry things out, make repairs, and move back in. In the meantime, they're living with friends, relatives, in hotels, and in shelters set up in the local county ag building. Lemmon—In Lemmon, SD, they got 24 inches of snow and had 60-mile-an-hour winds on Saturday. That's also the day they lost their power. Volunteers used snowmobiles, pay loaders, and four wheel drive vehicles to move the snow and move people trapped in freezing homes.

The mayor told me they came to the home of an 89-year-old woman. They asked her if she could ride a snowmobile. She said sure she could ride a snowmobile, though it would be the first time she'd ever done it. People were taken to the nursing home and the local fire hall were a generator created heat. Others were taken to private homes with wood-burning stoves. Neighbors took in neighbors to make sure everyone had shelter from the storm.

TRANSPORTATION QUICK FACTS

Yesterday, I invited USDOT Secretary Rodney Slater to survey damage to the State's transportation infrastructure. He has yet to get a response from Slater, but is hopeful that the Secretary will take him up on the invitation.

Highways—As of this morning, 19 sections of State and U.S. highways were deemed impassable and closed to traffic. Several other roads have water flowing over their surface. One stretch of U.S. 281 just south of Redfield near Tulare was under 12 feet of water.

SDDOT expects to give notice of intent to apply for Emergency Relief [ER] funds this week. Inspections by FHWA, SDDOT officials will get an assessment of damages to roads and bridges. Those surveys will be turned in to FHWA to determine the level of assistance. ER funds can be used for Federal aid highways and bridges. FEMA funds can be used for local roads and bridges that receive no Federal funds.

In Redfield, flooding has restricted access from many directions. A portion of U.S. 281 south of the town is under 12 feet of water.

The winter blizzards escalated fiscal year 1997 highway maintenance costs to \$25.7 million. The State budgeted \$5.2 million. FEMA thus far has provided \$3 million to the State. The proposed temporary increase to the State gas tax would have generated between \$15 and \$16 million.

Rail, Air and Transit—DM&E and several areas of the State-owned line have been washed out by flooding. In Sioux City, State-owned line used by BNSF, 900 feet of track was buried by 20 feet of soil that slid off of a bluff. In 1993, \$1.6 million was provided for rail assistance as a result of flooding. Figures for this year are not yet available. Several small airports may need assistance as a result of flooding and excessively cold temperatures.

AGRICULTURE

Ranchers are braced to take some heavy livestock losses, especially among newborn calves. This latest blizzard hit right at calving time.

Longtime rancher, Bud Jones from Caputa, SD, said he has lost an undetermined number of new calves when winds—estimated at 50 to 70 mph from Wyoming across western South Dakota—chilled calves already soaked by rain that turned to heavy wet snow.

On top of that, more than 20 yearlings died trapped in a deep snow drift along South Dakota Highway 44. That's just what shows sticking out of the snow. It could be a week or more before the drift melts and reveals what lies buried underneath.

Bitter winds have compelled some cattle to quit good shelter and drift into water holes to stand in deep slush and suffer hypothermia.

It is too early to estimate the effects this will have on spring planting, but it is safe to say our spring crops are in jeopardy—it is too wet to plant anything.

ELECTRICITY

This disaster is a giant disaster made up of many smaller catastrophes.

The storm started with rain on April 4. Late on the 5th that rain started to freeze. Then the wind started gusting to over 60 miles per hour. Mother Nature whipped the frozen lines until they swayed and snapped and poles broke in half and toppled.

To make matters worse, a blizzard blew in after the rain. It wasn't safe to stay home because there was no heat. It wasn't safe to go out because of zero visibility on every road and highway. Then the flood waters started to rise.

Given all these problems it's impossible to say when power may be restored again.

Dedication and perseverance are the only tools that work under the circumstances. The

downed lines are mired in snow, mud, and water. Only four wheel drive vehicles can navigate the mud.

Some people may be waiting in the cold until this weekend before temperatures are restored. Thousand of people are waiting by their grandparents old kerosene lamps for the return of heat and light. Approximately 1,500 people lost power in the community of Wakpala; 25 South Dakotans lost electricity in the city of Cam-Wal; and 700 people were without power in the town of Long Lake.

These are just South Dakota rural electric customers. All across the State, South Dakotans are making do, waiting for the power to be restored.

CLOSING

Although flood waters continue to saturate our State with misery, our citizens are holding together. The Dakota spirit is no aberration. Though frigid and soaked to the bone it is unmistakably clear during these trying times. Every day neighbor helping neighbor endure hardship—neither knowing which needs help the most.

I think of the stories I've been told about the Dirty Thirties—about the devastation the drought unleashed upon the Midwest. People who had lost all hope found that it was faith that would get them through. Many South Dakotans find themselves in similar situations today. They are finding their faith provides the only solid foundation to be found.

I have witnessed the destruction first hand. I have observed children and grandparents working side-by-side attempting to restrain the forces of nature. They are doing everything they can, but those efforts haven't always been enough. The severity of the problem cannot be contained. That is why South Dakota and our neighbors must come to the rest of the Nation—to ask them to do for us, that which we cannot do for ourselves. It is our job here in Washington to look at our resources and find a way to meet those most urgent needs.

The Federal Government has limited resources. I am convinced we can find the means to address our most urgent spending priorities.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO BALANCE ITS BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I drove over to Cousin Artie and Rebecca's house to pick up my daughter Anne, who had walked to their house after ballet. Anne's first cousin and best friend is Arabella Hadwin. And Arabella came out; she was wearing an Indian costume. Kind of leather. Actually, fake leather with frills on it. It had Pocahontas's picture on it.

So I said to 6-year-old Arabella, "Arabella, do you know today is Pocahontas's wedding day?"

□ 1815

She looked at me, and I could tell in that little 6-year-old mind she was

thinking, and she said, "She's dead." And I said, "Well, you're right, Pocahontas is dead, but this is the day that she got married on a long, long time ago, many years ago." Then Arabella said, "Oh, you mean she got married on Monday?" And I said, "Well, no, she really got married on April 7."

But it is funny how kids interpret things when we talk to them. You never quite know when they are listening or how they are listening and so forth. But I enjoy talking to children, I enjoy talking to small kids and to seniors in high school and college kids and so forth. One of the things I often ask small kids in schools, "How many of you have an allowance?" Inevitably half the class has an allowance. "What do you make?" Two or three dollars a week. Some of them make \$5. Some of them are well-heeled, I guess, they make \$10 a week. I said, "Let me ask you this. You make \$10 a week, how much do you spend?" And they always kind of giggle, "Well, I spend a little bit of it but my dad and mom like me to save some so I don't spend all of it."

"Let me ask you this. You make \$2 a week; do you ever spend \$2.10?" They look at me like I am crazy. "Do you ever spend \$2.25?" "No." "Do you ever spend \$2.50?" At this point they know I am crazy, and they are wondering what the heck is this guy talking about. I say, I am your Member of the U.S. Congress. Did you know that the U.S. Congress also has an allowance? We call it tax revenue, and we get a certain amount a year; sometimes it is about \$1.3 trillion. But do you know what we do? We grownups, we professional men and women who are paid to represent you and spend your money, we spend more of that allowance than we make. You send us \$1.3 trillion and we spend \$1.5 trillion. It seems to be the case, Democrats or Republicans, we overspend.

These kids cannot believe it. These kids, who have such innocent faces and such belief in mom and dad and the United States of America look at me in disbelief. Why would you spend more money than you bring in? Why would you spend more than your allowance? How can you spend that? And then we talk about the national debt and it is a very real problem. It is not something that, well, this is an amusing story to talk about my niece Arabella. This is truth. This is reality. When Members of Congress go out and they try to be the big mom or dad spending all the money, expanding social programs, talking about we need this for the United States of America, they are not spending their own money, they are spending little children's money. I see today in the gallery some children. Guess whose tab they will be picking up in the future?

Our debt, Mr. Speaker, right now is \$5.1 trillion. Let me give the definition of \$1 trillion. Shaq, the famous basketball player, Shaquille O'Neal, makes \$30 million a year. Do you know how many years he would have to play to

make \$1 trillion? Thirty-three thousand years, just to make \$1 trillion.

Another definition. If you have a boxcar full of thousands of dollar bills crammed to the top, you have \$65 million in the boxcar. Do you know how long the train would have to be, Mr. Speaker, to get to \$1 trillion? The train, with boxcars of \$65 million each, would have to be 240 miles long to get to \$1 trillion. And we, the big spenders in Congress, have left a debt, are looking at a debt right now of \$5.1 trillion. Yet the sad thing is we still have deficit spending. We still are spending more of our allowance money than we bring in. The children of America will be picking up this money. It will take years and years to pay down this debt.

But the first step is to balance the budget. We have not had a balanced budget since 1969, which, as you remember, was when Woodstock was the big thing and everybody wanted to get out of Vietnam and Richard Nixon was President and the "Mod Squad" was on TV. That is how long it has been, Mr. Speaker. The time is now to stop this. This Congress, this year, let us pass a balanced budget and get on to save the United States of America for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GEKAS. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. BONO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BONO. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. RIGGS. addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TAX EQUITY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, today is April 8. We are just 1 week away from April 15, the tax day that is dreaded by most Americans. In the past, my colleagues on the other side have talked about taxes and the need to lower taxes for American families. I am one Democrat on this side of the aisle that agrees with those who want to lower taxes for American families. I agree

with any of my colleagues, whether they are Republicans or Democrats, if they want to lower taxes for families and for individuals. We need to lower taxes for families and individuals in the United States. At the same time, we need to have a fair taxation policy which balances off our revenue-gathering operation by raising the taxes on corporations that have had their taxes lowered a great deal.

The problem is that we are taxing families and individuals too harshly. Families and individuals are paying too much because corporations are paying too little. We need to maintain certain services. We need to maintain certain functions of Government. I am all in favor of downsizing Government, I am in favor of Government getting smaller, but there are certain basics that must be paid for and we must tax in order to do that. So let us not oversimplify and determine that we can lower taxes all over the place. We need to balance off our revenue-gathering operation by guaranteeing that corporations pay their fair share.

For example, in 1943, and I have said this before, corporations were paying almost 40 percent of the total income tax burden in this country, in 1943. Twenty-seven percent of the total income tax burden in 1943 was paid by individuals and families. That is quite a difference. Corporations, as we see, were paying the greater amount. In 1983, however, the amount of taxes being paid by corporations under Ronald Reagan's administration fell to as low as 6 percent, from 1943's high of 40 percent to 6 percent in 1983. That is what happened to corporations in terms of their share of the income tax. At the same time that corporations fell, went down from this 40 to 6 percent, individual and family taxes rose from 27 to 48 percent. There was a swindle there somewhere that the American people really were not aware of. Corporations went as low as 6 percent. Today corporations are still paying only 11 percent of the total tax burden.

Individuals went as high as 48 percent in 1983. Individuals and family taxes are still up there at 45 percent. We have a gross inequity. The share of taxes paid by corporations is only 11 percent while the share paid by individuals and families is over four times that amount, 45 percent.

U.S. tax policy must be reset. Corporations must pay their fair share. And the special interest tax loopholes must be closed. In America, the richest country in the world, it is unspeakable that our families are forced to bear the brunt of the burden of taxation.

What we need to take a close look at is how corporations got from 40 percent of the income tax burden down to 6 percent, and now are at 8 percent. What happened? Public policy made by Members of Congress. The Members of Congress did that to individuals and to