

back that morning, and his wife told my parents that it was the single biggest event that has occurred in that area in decades.

They have delivered medicine to the homebound and brought spare parts to farmers in need of aid. During the darkest, coldest parts of the blizzard that have torn through our State, they have risked their lives to rescue stranded motorists and brought lifesaving medical attention to those in need.

One of those teams was the Drift Busters. The Drift Busters is a snowmobile club in Aberdeen, my hometown, which went into action shortly after the onset of our most recent blizzard. Their quick action and bravery were instrumental in saving the residents of Aberdeen from serious harm.

One of the most threatening situations occurred when 2-year-old Stetson Heirigs accidentally ingested poison and needed emergency care in a hospital. After a quick conference call with Stetson's family and the poison control center, club president Duane Sutton drove his snowmobile over 7 miles through darkness, blowing snow, and bitter cold to reach the family's home near Richmond Lake. Then, with the aid of a comember, Dennis Beckler, he ensured that the boy reached the hospital safely and received the treatment he needed just in time. Today Stetson is safe and healthy.

Extraordinary bravery has been a fact of life throughout the course of this winter. We have all heard the remarkable story of Karen Nelson, a nursing home aide from Webster who was stranded for over 40 hours in her pickup after becoming disoriented on the roads she has driven her entire life. With her engine running for heat and her cellular phone her only link to the world, Karen waited through the hours of darkness, crying and praying, as a team from around the State assembled to find her.

From Rapid City came aircraft equipped with special heat-seeking sensors to scour the drifts from the sky. From Watertown came experts in communications to triangulate the signal from Karen's phone and narrow down her location. Meanwhile, Day County rescue teams in snowmobiles and four-wheel-drive vehicles combed the roads for any sign of her car. At last she was found when she told the rescue team over her phone that she heard the sound of engines overhead. I cannot adequately express how proud we are of all the outstanding people that made Karen's rescue possible, and of Karen for her bravery in enduring those long, cold hours before the rescuers arrived.

Many of the dangerous circumstances of this winter have been found on South Dakota's Indian reservations. Blasted by blizzard after blizzard and woefully short of money and equipment, tribal workers have acted courageously throughout this difficult season.

Of particular note are the Rescue Rangers of the Cheyenne River Res-

ervation, who during the height of the January blizzards led convoys of snowplows, ambulances, and four-wheel-drive vehicles to ensure that medical attention was received where it was needed. In dangerous conditions, the Rescue Rangers plowed through 30-foot drifts packed harder than adobe by 80-mile-an-hour winds. Creating an even greater challenge were the vast distances that had to be traveled to reach those in need.

At one point this month, seven Rescue Rangers nearly froze after becoming stranded on an 85-mile trip to provide medical attention to a tribal elder.

A truly heart-wrenching story was related to me by Gregg Bourland, chairman of the Cheyenne River Reservation, who told me of two families stranded in a snow-blocked pass on highway 63. After 14 hours, frostbitten and certain that rescue would come too late, the parents placed tags with vital information on each of their children so they might be identified after they had died. Thankfully, the Rescue Rangers arrived in time.

Luckily, not all of the stories of this winter are as terrible as that. For instance, I was touched to learn of the Bredvik family, who opened their home to stranded motorists along I-29 near the North Dakota border. While Lynn Bredvik picked up the travelers one by one in his snowmobile and brought them home, his mother Dorothy opened up her kitchen and provided each with a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, bread, and, in South Dakota, lefse. When asked why she would open her home to over a dozen strangers, Dorothy said it was "old hat" to her. It is what families do during blizzards.

I think Dorothy has summed it up for all of us. Her actions might seem extraordinary to someone else, but for people like her they are old hat. We like to think of our State as the biggest small town in America, where everyone is a member of the same community. We understand you cannot make it through this world alone and that we have a responsibility to help each other whenever or wherever we can.

We will need to continue to do that because this winter is not over. Weather reports from South Dakota continue to tell us of minus-50 degree windchills. We have received nearly 10 inches of new snow in the past couple of days, and there are over 2 more months of snow to come. We need to make sure that the farmers and ranchers devastated by their livestock losses can get the help they need and that low-income families can keep their homes heated during this freezing weather.

We must prepare ourselves for the inevitable floods of spring. When the great drifts that currently cover my State begin to melt, they will release their force on areas that have been declared Federal flood disasters in the last 4 of 5 years. Simply put, come spring there will be nowhere left for

the water to go. We need to ensure that prompt Federal assistance is made available when this flooding occurs. These are difficult challenges to be sure, but together I am absolutely convinced that we will overcome them. We always do.

Finally, I want to thank everyone whose help has been so vital to South Dakota. This has been more than an individual or a State effort. America has pulled together. Our neighbors to the south, north, west and to the east have all helped and sent something—snowblowers, snowplows, teams of rescue workers. For hours upon end, workers and snowplows donated from States as far away as Texas have labored alongside our National Guard to keep the roads clear.

During the worst of the storms, when the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was cut off from the outside world, 25,000 pounds of food were donated by Feed the Children, based in Oklahoma City, and delivered to Pine Ridge by the 28th Transportation Squadron of Ellsworth Air Force Base. Together they worked to ensure that no one would go without food. Indeed, help has poured into South Dakota from around the country. Even as we speak, Federal Emergency Management Agency teams are fanning out over South Dakota to assess the damage and bring help where it is needed. Thanks to the rapid response of President Clinton, public and private agencies too numerous to mention, and the support of our friends and neighbors all over, I am proud to announce to my colleagues this afternoon that we are pulling through.

So thank you, South Dakota, and thank you America. We are proud of you. All of your stories will never be known but you can be sure that they are alive in the hearts of those of us whom you have helped when we needed it the most.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### STOKES COURTHOUSE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I introduced yesterday legislation to honor the late Carl Stokes.

Carl Stokes was born on the east side of Cleveland in 1927. He lost his father at the age of 2. When he was young, his family was so poor that Carl, his mother, and his brother LOUIS—now our distinguished colleague in the House of Representatives—had to sleep in the same bed.

In 1962, Carl Stokes was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives—the first African-American to serve as a Democrat in our State legislature.



In 1967, he was elected mayor of Cleveland—the first African-American ever to be elected mayor of a major U.S. city.

He served two terms as mayor, and in his second term, he became the first African-American to serve as an officer of the National League of Cities.

Carl Stokes later became a television news anchor in New York City, and a municipal judge in Cleveland. In 1994, President Clinton named him United States Ambassador to the Seychelles.

The Honorable Carl Stokes had a long and distinguished career before his untimely passing in April of last year. In his eulogy for Mayor Stokes, the Reverend Jesse Jackson called him "a dream maker and an odds buster."

That's exactly right. Carl Stokes was a man who made a difference. The people of Ohio will always remember him as a man of great courage and personal character.

For this reason, I am introducing legislation today to name the new Federal courthouse in Cleveland after this truly honorable man.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN F. MAISTO, TO BE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I offer my support to the President's nomination of the Honorable John F. Maisto to serve as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Venezuela. Mr. President, it has been my pleasure to know Ambassador Maisto and I have known him as the United States Ambassador to Nicaragua. He has served with great distinction as our United States Ambassador to Nicaragua for the last 4 years, helping that country make its very historic transition to full democracy.

In fact, Mr. President, I had occasion to be in Nicaragua this past November, and it just happened to be the week that the Ambassador and his wife were leaving after 4 years. I had the opportunity to talk to Nicaraguans clear across the political spectrum. I had the opportunity to talk to Nicaraguans with all kinds of background, Nicaraguans who had many different political beliefs. But I found that it was unanimous that our Ambassador had done a fantastic job—a fantastic job of representing our country in a time in Nicaragua's history that was crucial for not only democracy to continue to develop in Nicaragua, but also crucial for our continuing relationship with this country, which we have had such a long relationship with in the past.

It was very clear to me, after talking to the many Nicaraguans that I saw, that our Ambassador was very well respected and that he had represented us exceedingly well.

Mr. President, before his posting to Managua, Ambassador Maisto had served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He also served as Deputy U.S. Representa-

tive to the Organization of American States, and Deputy Chief of Mission in the United States Embassy in Panama.

Mr. President, this is a man whose hands-on experience with Latin America will serve us very well. It has served us in the past and will continue to serve us. Mr. President, the Ambassador will be an outstanding Ambassador to Venezuela, and I urge that his nomination be confirmed.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, February 6, the Federal debt stood at \$5,302,957,481,388.92.

One year ago, February 6, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$4,987,289,000,000.

Five years ago, February 6, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,801,444,000,000.

Ten years ago, February 6, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,232,746,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3 trillion (\$3,074,337,787,977.17) during the past 10 years.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1008. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1009. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the interim report on the High Plain States Groundwater Demonstration Program for October 1996; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1010. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, Presidential Determination 96-54; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1011. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the

report entitled "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1012. A communication from the National Director, Tax Forms and Publications Division, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of Revenue Procedure 97-11; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1013. A communication from the Lieutenant General, USA Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on status of loans and guarantees under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1014. A communication from the Lieutenant General, USA Director, Defense Security Assistance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on foreign military sales under the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1015. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exceptions to the Educational Requirements for Naturalization for Certain Applicants," received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1016. A communication from the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Priority Dates for Employment-Based Petitions," (RIN1115-AE24) received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1017. A communication from the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1018. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1019. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to projects with industry, (RIN1820-AB13) received on January 31, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-1020. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to disability and rehabilitation research projects, (RIN1820-AB38) received on February 3, 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### 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. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. FRIST, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 291. A bill to provide for the management of the airspace over units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated: