

These are just a few examples of the mitigation efforts undertaken by communities all over South Dakota. Because of these efforts, from all reports, South Dakota communities could not have been better prepared for the anticipated flooding. I traveled to South Dakota early last week expecting to see high water fairly well controlled by these mitigation efforts with some areas faring worse than others.

Unfortunately, the situation was worse than I anticipated because Mother Nature, as only she can do, had changed the rules of the game and given the residents of the State of South Dakota more water than initially anticipated and additional severe winter weather. The devastation I witnessed and subsequent destruction in the short time since my touring ended is heart-rending in its thoroughness and in its indiscriminate taking of property and possessions.

Let me give just a few examples of the ways in which our communities have pulled together:

In a relatively small community near Huron, 150 students, volunteers, and State inmates joined together to save the James Valley Christian School from the waters of the James River. Their efforts were absolutely inspiring. These individuals labored for days to stem the rushing James River with a sandbagged dike and sandbags all over the area to protect the school. Unfortunately, the James Valley Christian School lost its fight just days after I toured it. It now sits in 6 feet of water.

I visited the farm of Gary and Diane Foster near Bruce, SD, where 30 head of cattle were calving on a small island surrounded by flood water. I will not soon forget this tragic sight.

It was evident that our farmers will once again face a financially devastating problem in regard to springtime planting. Flooded fields prevent any field preparation, let alone planting. And there probably is not enough time for drying before it will simply become too late to plant this year's crops. In 1995, another very wet year, less than 40 percent of my State's crops were planted on time.

The current flooding means that we probably will not even match 1995's slow performance. This is going to deal a tough blow to the agricultural economy of my State—and, in the end, it will deal a blow to consumers and businesses on Main Street.

I was amazed by the reality that many South Dakotans who normally travel 10-15 miles to work, now have to drive 50-90 miles to work to avoid washed out or water covered roads, which often times are our major highways. The Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported that Janice Mellema, a nurse who lives west of Platte but works at the Gregory County Hospital, is forced to leave her home at 3:30 in the morning to arrive at work by 6. She now has a 90-mile commute.

Some 100 people in north central South Dakota have already spent 30

days in a motel after they were evacuated from their homes because of rising water. This last weekend 5,000 people in Watertown, SD, have had to leave their homes.

Essential services in many communities such as wastewater treatment plants are threatened. Many communities' systems have been overwhelmed and have been forced to release untreated water.

Vital infrastructure has been dramatically impacted. During my tour, we drove on roads covered with water and saw many, many county roads completely washed away by a deluge of water. In McCook County every road that goes into the county from both the east to the west and from the north to the south are closed at some point.

Just as South Dakotans were accepting and successfully fighting the increased flows of water, Mother Nature hit the State with yet another blizzard over the weekend. Some areas received 34 inches of snow accompanied by 60-mile-per-hour winds. This winter storm resulted in sub-zero wind chill temperatures and zero visibility in much of the State for an extended period of time. A 100-mile stretch of Interstate 90 was closed and many communities were forced to prohibit all travel. I was stranded in Wall, SD for over 24 hours because of this winter storm.

This winter storm would have been a lot to handle as an isolated incident but coupled with the flooding already experienced all over the State, the impact of the winter weather has been unprecedented. The added precipitation and severe weather has led to unparalleled devastation.

Last weekend's blizzard is truly salt in the wound for producers in my State. Our producers are in the middle of calving season now and trying to prepare for springtime field preparations. The blast of cold and more snow on top of already treacherous conditions will surely mean that the number of dead livestock will continue to rise. This may well put many producers over the edge financially—after all, they only get one chance per year to successfully complete calving season.

This storm severely impacted the city of Watertown, causing the situation to escalate from a 100-year flood event to a 500-year flood event. Earlier this week, Mayor Brenda Barger, who I must commend for her effective leadership during this crisis, poignantly observed that, "It's a humbling thing when you see people out sandbagging in 60-mile-per-hour winds, in a blizzard, knee-deep in water." I think her statement sums up a lot of what everyone has felt over the last few weeks and, in particular, the last few days. Everyone banded together to save and minimize damage to both public and private property regardless of the weather conditions.

In a State that covers 80,000 square miles, it is both rare and unfortunate to have a situation where regions across the entire State are so disas-

trously affected by severe weather. The widespread nature of this disaster has devastated the agribusiness economy of our entire State and assistance in the coming months is absolutely critical to ensuring the future existence of many small businesses in South Dakota. The combined impact of the weather disasters over the last 5 months on agriculture is the gravest threat South Dakota farmers and ranchers have faced from nature in probably 100 years. Additionally, the damage done by the prolonged flooding has jeopardized the long-term viability of parts of South Dakota's infrastructure. Prior to the extensive damage done from this year's severe weather to South Dakota's roads, the State of South Dakota had an excess of \$500 million in backlog needs on its State Highway System alone. And, the damage to personal property is as yet uncalculated in monetary or sentimental value.

Our State has been fortunate enough to receive an outstanding response from President Clinton and FEMA in the past. I am grateful that, once again, the President has responded expeditiously with much needed assistance for South Dakota. Yesterday, the President made a major disaster declaration for the entire State which will supplement the efforts of the State and local governments during this difficult time.

As I mentioned previously, the spirit of South Dakotans, even in this incredibly difficult time, never ceases to amaze me and this weekend's trip re-emphasized that impression in my mind. I am committed to doing everything I can do to assist the State and communities as much as possible to ensure South Dakotans can get back to living their normal lives at the earliest possible time. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator DASCHLE, Representative THUNE, Governor Janklow, and local communities in the coming weeks and months as we clean up from this disaster. After all South Dakotans have endured over the past few months, they need all we can give. We need expeditious action on this floor on the supplemental appropriations requests.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent morning business be extended long enough for me to give my statement, which I believe will be less than 10 minutes.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be accorded to Mr. Dan Katz from my staff, who should be admitted to the floor because he worked so hard.

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

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. LAUTENBERG pertaining to the introduction of S. 527 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 today.

Thereupon, at 12:54 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:14 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. COATS].

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT AMENDMENTS—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time between 2:15 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. shall be for debate equally divided on the motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 104, which the clerk will now report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Policy Act of 1982.

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been requested by Senator KENNEDY—and it is my understanding Mr. HATCH has requested of Senator MURKOWSKI—to give 15 minutes of our time to Senator KENNEDY and Senator MURKOWSKI will give 15 minutes to Senator HATCH. I ask unanimous consent for that at this stage.

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

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to express appreciation to Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator REID for their willingness to give Senator HATCH and myself an opportunity to introduce our children's health bill. I see my colleague, Senator HATCH, on the floor now. So, I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD and Mr. KERRY pertaining to the introduction of S. 525 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair report the matter that is now on the floor?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The matter pending before the Senate is a motion to proceed on S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if I could make an inquiry relative to the time we will have on the bill this afternoon.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the proponents and opponents have an hour and 15 minutes each, and I say to the chairman of the committee, I was going to speak for about 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces that under the previous agreement, an hour and a half is divided. However, 15 minutes from each side has been allocated to the previous speaker, so there is an hour and 15 minutes remaining for each side.

Mr. REID. We both understand that.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

Mr. REID. If the chairman of the committee desires to go first, I have no problem.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. The Senator from Nevada should proceed. I went first yesterday. I suspect we will be taking turns.

Mr. REID. I yield myself 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as we indicated yesterday, this matter is on the floor for one reason and one reason only. That is the nuclear power industry. That is the reason we are here. There is no other reason. The fact of the matter is that the situation here is the same as it was last year.

What I indicated, Mr. President, yesterday, and it was confirmed by the chairman of the committee, we are not here because of science. We are here because of politics. We underline and we underscore that.

What I said I would do yesterday I want to do today. That is, indicate to the Members of the U.S. Senate that there are approximately 200—I repeat, 200—environmental groups opposed to this legislation. I am not going to read the names of the environmental groups, but I ask unanimous consent the entire number and names of the environmental groups be printed in the RECORD.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CITIZENS GROUPS AGAINST THE BILLS THAT WOULD REPLACE THE CURRENT ACT

Nuclear Information and Resource Service, Greenpeace, League of Conservation Voters, Public Citizen, U.S. Public Interest Research Group, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club, Military Production Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, Office for Church in Society, United Church of Christ, Project on Government Oversight, League of Women Voters of the United States, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, United Methodist General Board of Church and Society, Nuclear Free America, National Ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Nuclear Waste Citizens' Coalition, Safe Energy Communication Council, Friends of the Earth, Citizens Awareness Network, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, 20/20 Vision, Prairie Island Coalition, Environmental Action.

Native Youth Alliance, Nuclear Control Institute, Clearwater, Citizens for Alternatives

to Chemical Contamination, Rocky Mountain Peace Center, Snake River Alliance, Citizen Alert, Redwood Alliance, National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans, Campaign for Nevada's Future, Southwest Research and Information Center, Clean Water Action, Free the Planet, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Kansas Sierra Club, Envirovideo, Kansas Natural Resources Council, Greens/Green Party USA, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Good Money, Inc., Wyoming Outdoor Council, Nuclear Resister, Three Mile Island Alert, Western North Carolina Alliance, GE Stockholders Alliance, The Peace Farm, Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition, C-10 Research and Education Foundation, Northwest Environmental Advocates, Oyster Creek Nuclear Watch, Green Party of Ohio, Grass Roots Environmental Organization, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles, Alliance to Close Indian Point, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Louisiana, Toledo Coalition for Safe Energy, Wilmington College Peace Resource Center, Grandmothers for Peace, Student Environmental Action Coalition, U. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Orange County Greens, U. of Florida Environmental Action Group, Eco-Action, Penn State U., Austin Greens, Student Environmental Action Coalition, U. of Northern Iowa, Los Gatos Unitarian Fellowship.

Alliance for Survival, Nuclear Democracy Network, Stop the Organizations Raping Mankind, Pennsylvania Environmental Network, Heart of America Northwest, Desert Citizens Against Pollution, Eco Sense, American U, California Communities Against Toxics, Nuclear Energy Information Service, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, People's Action for Clean Energy, Iowans for Nuclear Safety, New England Coalition on Nuclear Pollution, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Kansas, Student Environmental Action Coalition, U. of Delaware, St. Joseph Valley Greens, Economists Allied for Arms Reduction, Kwanitewk Native Resource Network, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Atlanta, Los Alamos Study Group, Abalone Alliance, Fernald Residents for Environment, Safety & Health, Womens Action for New Directions, STAND, Center for Energy Research, Humans Against Nuclear Waste Dumps, Mescalero, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Colorado, American Friends Service Committee, Denver, North American Water Office, Students for Social Responsibility, CalPoly, War & Peace Foundation, North Carolina Waste Awareness & Reduction Network, Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee, Downwinders, Women's Environment & Development Organization, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Ygdrasil Institute, Nukewatch, WESPAC (Westchester People's Action Coalition), Oregon Peace Works, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, International Institute of Concern for Public Health, Save Ward Valley, GRACE Public Fund (Global Resource Action Center for the Environment), Environmental Defense Institute, Citizens Regulatory Commission, The ZHABA Collective, Northwest Ohio Greens, Arizona Safe Energy Coalition, Indian Point Project, No Escape, Citizens at Risk: Cape Cod, E-3, Wesleyan University, Wolf Creek Citizens Watchdog Group, Indigenous Environmental Network, Pax Christi USA, University of Maine Student Government.

The cities of Los Angeles, Denver, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Decatur, GA, Mt. Rainier, Takoma Park & Greenbelt, MD, Beacon NY, Falls Township, PA, Amherst, MA, Wadesboro, NC and Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara (CA), Marshall, Anson (NC), and Bucks (PA) counties.

And, according to a December 1995 poll, 70% of the American people.