

way to get to people in order to extricate them.

Mr. President, there has been a tremendous response, not only by volunteers in our State but also by the agencies attempting to cope with this disaster.

I want today to thank the President for responding so quickly in declaring our State a Presidentially declared disaster. This is our second Presidentially declared disaster of this year. We are only in the fourth month of this year. We already had a Presidentially declared disaster because of the record amounts of snowfall. Now on top of that we are anticipating a record flood.

These are truly difficult times for our State. Many homes are still without power. We need generators and fuel to heat homes, make certain that essential services are up and operating. My State needs special heavy equipment to clear snow and ice from roads to allow for emergency access.

This is a snowfall that is unlike any we have seen because it happened with a freezing rain and then snowfall, and so the snowpack that is there is like concrete. That is what the people who are out there trying to fight this mess are telling us. They have never seen a snowpack like this. We had rain on top of snow, it froze, and it is like concrete trying to break through these incredible snowdrifts.

I also want to recognize FEMA and the capable administrator there, James Lee Witt, who is coming to my State tomorrow. FEMA has responded marvelously to the needs in North Dakota. I also wish to thank the Corps of Engineers that is involved in a really heroic effort. Some of these people have been working around the clock with no sleep for days attempting to build these dikes higher as the flood crest forecasts keep increasing.

I just want to say on behalf of the people of my State how much we appreciate the extraordinary response of the Corps of Engineers and of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

I would also like to thank the president of Manitoba Hydro, Bob Brennan. We were alerted by the Governor; they were having trouble getting people across our border. We got the Immigration and Naturalization Service to provide an immediate 2-week waiver on all of their requirements at the border. We talked to Manitoba Hydro and they committed to sending 100 people to our State to help rebuild the transmission facilities. Now, that is real neighborliness, and we appreciate very much that our neighbor to the north has responded in this most generous way of sending 100 people to help us rebuild the transmission facilities in our State.

I would also like to thank the Internal Revenue Service. This is something we rarely do. They have indicated that they would practice forbearance on our individual income tax payers in the State of North Dakota by allowing them to file by May 30 without late

payment penalties. They will be asked to pay interest on the money during the period that they would have paid, but they are being given until May 30. If they file and if they pay by that date, they will not be hit by any late-payment penalties. I am told that they are applying this same standard to every State and every county that receives a Presidentially declared disaster in the face of what is happening in many parts of the country.

We struggle to find good news in all of this, hopeful news. But I can tell you there is good news and there is hopeful news, and that is the spirit of the people. In North Dakota, we say we have a yes, we can attitude, and that is exactly what we have seen in coping with these disasters. As one emergency official said to me, Senator, I have seen blizzards; I have seen floods; I have seen power outages, but I have never seen all three together at the same time.

That is what we are coping with in North Dakota. I must say that can-do spirit has served us well. Not only do North Dakotans show that spirit, but I must say these Federal agencies that have come to help are also showing that spirit, and we deeply appreciate it.

I thank the Chair and yield back the remainder of my time.

I yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

DISASTER RELIEF FOR MINNESOTA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, the President has now declared a major disaster in my home State, Minnesota, and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in areas hard hit by severe flooding, severe winter storms, snow melt, high winds, rain and ice. And this all continues. The declaration will make funds available for grants, disaster housing and low-interest loans to cover uninsured damaged property and other aid to help residents, businesses and local governments cope with ongoing storm and flood damage.

I am pleased by the swift action taken by the emergency management division of the Department of Public Safety in Minnesota. Jim Franklin and his hard-working staff, very hard-working staff are to be commended for their efforts. I am very pleased with the action taken by the Federal Government as well.

I think James Lee Witt is one of the greatest employments ever made by any President. He has been so responsive to all of us in this country when

citizens in our States are faced with these very difficult and painful crises. I do not think crisis is an exaggeration.

I am also really pleased with the way in which SBA, the Small Business Administration, has been so responsive.

Today, I will be requesting \$50 million in additional energy assistance, the LIHEAP program, to help families who will soon be returning to their homes only to find their heating systems have been damaged. These are individuals with low income, many of them elderly, many of them families with children, who, because of the severe cold we have had all winter, have already had a very difficult time paying their heating bills. This aid is desperately needed. Many waterways in our State are already at record water levels. The Minnesota River is threatening to totally overrun many cities along its border. Record flood conditions are being predicted along the Red River, which is expected to crest within the next few days.

Along the Red River there are still ice and snowpacks which will be melting in the coming days and weeks, further threatening communities already under siege in northwestern Minnesota, and flood conditions continue to build along the Mississippi River as well, cresting any day now.

Some communities have already been hit and are under water and ice. In the town of Ada, nearly all the 1,000 residents have been forced to evacuate, including residents of a nursing home who had to be rescued by the National Guard. And, thank you, National Guard, for all of your fine work. Many of these people had little or no time to pack their belongings before fleeing. And when they return, little will likely be salvageable.

In Appleton, ice floe broke through the levee, and the river now has surged 21.5 feet in one-half hour, forcing a massive volunteer effort to halt the flow of surging water and further prevent housing damage. The Pomme de Terre River—let me repeat that—has surged 21.5 feet in just one-half hour.

The record flooding and cold temperatures have had a major impact on Minnesota. There have been widespread power outages throughout parts of the State, and with the flooding and the cold, emergency repair crews are unable to get to the affected areas. Many farmers are having trouble farming, and it is going to be a very, very difficult spring planting season.

I am very pleased, again, that FEMA Director James Lee Witt has done so much and will be coming to Minnesota to see firsthand the devastation. I believe he will be coming to South Dakota and North Dakota as well. As a Senator from Minnesota, I express my sympathy to Senators from the Dakotas. Of course, we will all work together.

I have been touched by the sense of community among many people in Minnesota. Many folks do not care who they are working next to as long as

they are working for their communities. People are working tirelessly, around the clock, to hold back the river. Neighbors are standing shoulder to shoulder, sandbagging. Volunteers are tirelessly serving sandwiches and hot coffee at fire stations.

When I was in Montevideo last week, it was just amazing. People who live on the high ground, they don't ever have to worry about the flood; they are out there, I mean really working to the point of exhaustion, sandbagging for others. High school students, I say to the pages, have volunteered their time, and they are doing a great job. That is the good news. The good news is the goodness of people in Minnesota. The good news is all the ways in which people are working together—I might add, to my colleagues, Democrats, Republicans, and others. The good news is the voluntarism of young people. The bad news is that in all too many communities, it really looks like a war zone.

The weeks and months ahead will include many more hours of hard work, cleanup, removal of sandbags, restoration of buildings, and ensuring that water supplies are not contaminated. People need not only the support of their neighbors, they need the support that only the Federal Government can provide.

It is interesting. Colleagues, Republicans and Democrats from other States, during the years I have been here in the Senate, have come to the floor and spoken about what citizens in their States have been confronted with. I think all of us are sympathetic and all of us try to provide the support.

I thank President Clinton for his very prompt response. I thank my colleagues in advance for the support I know they will give. I thank colleagues who have come up to me in the last couple of days and have asked me, how are people doing? What can we do to help? I am really proud—it is not a politician speaking—I am just really proud of people in Minnesota. I wish people did not have to go through this. I am emotional about it. I am really emotional about it. I just wish this was not happening, but it is, and it is so important that all of us at the Federal level try to provide assistance to people in communities not just in Minnesota but around the country when they are faced with these kinds of disasters. This really is a disaster.

I look forward to getting back home as soon as possible this weekend. I look forward to James Lee Witt and others coming to visit Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and other States that are going to need the help. People really need the help. People really need the help, and we have to make sure we provide it.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE FTC CASE AGAINST JOE CAMEL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced the Tobacco Disclosure and Warning Act. This bill will require tobacco companies to disclose the ingredients, including the carcinogens, that exist in cigarettes. Cigarettes are the only consumable product in America today, the only one, whose ingredients are not disclosed. All kinds of food products list all of the ingredients very specifically. I think it is wrong. The public should know what is in the cigarettes. We work hard and invest a lot of resources to stop our kids from doing things like eating lead-based paint or drinking water with lead. We should not let them smoke it.

This bill would also require large, blunt and centrally placed health warnings on cigarette packs of the types used in other countries. I look at this one, which is done in Canada. Very clearly, on the black portion here, it says, "Smoking can kill you." It is also printed in French to make sure that people understand the threat to their health when they take up smoking.

I want to particularly focus on the issue, now, of tobacco advertising and direct it towards the industry's use of Joe Camel. As you know, the Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction over the fairness and truthfulness of advertising. Today, I am sending a letter to the Chairman of the FTC, Robert Pitofsky, encouraging the Commission to bring a case against R.J. Reynolds for unfair advertising because of its portrayal of Joe Camel in its advertising campaign. I am joined by Senators DURBIN, KENNEDY, HARKIN, WELLSTONE, WYDEN and MURRAY.

I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, April 9, 1997.

Hon. ROBERT PITOFSKY,
Chairman Federal Trade Commission,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN PITOFSKY: We are writing to you today to encourage you to reopen an unfair advertising case against the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company for marketing cigarettes to children. The company's Joe Camel campaign is an outrageous attempt to attract children to their product—a product that is illegal for children to purchase.

Numerous new facts have been uncovered about the tobacco industry's marketing efforts since the Commission's 1994 decision not to bring such a case against R.J. Reynolds. The most recent development was the Liggett Group's admission that the tobacco industry does in fact target children in its marketing efforts.

In addition, the Food and Drug Administration has collected R.J. Reynolds docu-

ments that evidence a company policy to appeal to "presmokers" and "learners" ages 14 to 18. A 1993 company study indicated that 86% of children age 10 to 17 recognized the image of Joe Camel, and 95% of those children knew that Joe Camel sold cigarettes. Since Joe Camel was introduced, Camel brand's youth market share has jumped from less than 3 percent to as high as 16 percent.

For these reasons, we believe it is time for the FTC to step in to protect our nation's children from a product that kills one-third of its users. While tobacco companies have a right to advertise their product to adults, the peddling of illegal drugs to children cannot be tolerated.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
RICHARD J. DURBIN,
PAUL WELLSTONE,
EDWARD M. KENNEDY,
RON WYDEN,
TOM HARKIN,
PATTY MURRAY.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, the letter simply asks the Chairman of the FTC to revisit this case, because we believe that R.J. Reynolds is intentionally advertising a product to children which is illegal to sell to them. In 1994, the FTC voted 3 to 2 against bringing such a case against R.J. Reynolds. At that time, the Commission cited a lack of evidence. But since then, dramatic new evidence, new material has become public. Last year, 67 Members of the House wrote a letter asking the FTC to reopen the investigation. The FTC staff has recommended that the Chairman do just that, and he will be making a decision over the coming weeks.

Mr. President, Joe Camel is a prime example of advertising that ought to be stopped. If Joe Camel were real and smoked as much as he does in his ads, he would be a dead camel. He would have bit the dust from emphysema, lung cancer, and heart disease.

The R.J. Reynolds company promotes the line of cigarettes with a cartoon character that is named "Joe Camel." This character is seen in the advertisements promoting a "cool" and "smooth" image. He is often seen holding a cigarette out to the viewer of the ad. A picture I noticed most recently is he is in a beach chair someplace where the sand is nice and white and fresh, and he is sitting there.

Why would a tobacco company use a cartoon character to market its product? It does not seem like a cartoon is the best way to appeal to adult smokers. R.J. Reynolds claims it is marketing to adults with Joe Camel. It is hard to believe.

An article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association revealed that 6-year-olds—6-year-olds—were as familiar with Joe Camel as they were with Mickey Mouse. The Disney company has spent decades and a great deal of effort promoting Mickey Mouse, and if R.J. Reynolds is not marketing to kids, then it has pulled off perhaps the most successful accidental promotional job in mass media history.

I want to be clear, I do not think that children are being drawn to Joe Camel