

(The remarks of Mr. GRAHAM pertaining to the introduction of S. 889 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 6

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending June 6, the United States imported 8,429,000 barrels of oil each day, 421,000 barrels more than the 8,008,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 56.6 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 8,429,000 barrels a day.

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION OF JERUSALEM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating Israel on the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and in welcoming Senate passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, which reaffirmed the Senate's views on this issue. This important event came about as a result of the 1967 Six-Day war, before which the city of Jerusalem was divided, with Jews denied access to the Old City and its holy sites.

We should not underestimate the significance of this event. Jerusalem has been undivided now for 30 years. As a result, people of all religious traditions have access to Jerusalem and all its religious sites. On this anniversary, and with Senate passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 21, we commit ourselves again to seeing that Jerusalem remains an undivided city in which the rights of every ethnic and religious group are protected.

This anniversary presents a good opportunity for us to assess progress toward peace in the Middle East. While the peace process is moving at a slower pace than many of us would like to see, it is important to acknowledge the difficulty of the task and the progress that has been made thus far under the Oslo accords. It is also important to point out the importance of security as the process unfolds. Previous terrorist attacks have provided graphic justification of Israel's security concerns. I urge the Palestinian Authority to see that its security forces cooperate fully

with Israeli security to thwart the work of the terrorists.

Again, I congratulate the people of Israel on the 30th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, and I commend them for ensuring that this holy and historic city is undivided.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Since there is no other Senator here, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to speak for 15 minutes.

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I further ask that, upon the completion of my remarks, the Senator from North Dakota, Senator DORGAN, be recognized for the 15 minutes that has been allotted to him as well.

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

DEVILS LAKE FLOOD

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have taken to the floor numerous times since the disasters that struck North Dakota and attempted to describe to my colleagues the really remarkable series of events that we have experienced: First of all, the greatest snowfall in our State's history; followed by a winter storm in early April that was the most powerful winter storm in 50 years, knocking out the electrical grid to 80,000 people for more than a week, leaving people with 15-foot snowdrifts, leaving people with the most powerful ice storm that we have ever seen that killed literally hundreds of thousands of cattle in North and South Dakota and also tied up the transportation system for most of our State, as well as much of South Dakota and parts of Minnesota. That was then followed by the 500-year flood, which was cataclysmic in Grand Forks. All of the dikes failed, a city of 50,000 was evacuated. Many of those people are still not back in their homes. In fact, 80 percent of the city of Grand Forks was in some way damaged by the floods. And, in the midst of all that, a fire broke out that destroyed much of downtown Grand Forks.

This is a series of events, unparalleled in our State's history, and it has left much of our economy in ruins. It has left people sleeping on cots, living in cars, wondering what will happen to them next. And, as I think everyone here knows now, the disaster bill has been delayed.

But the good news is, there are serious negotiations underway to resolve this issue and resolve it today, and for that we are extremely grateful.

Mr. President, I thought today, because I have spent a great deal of time describing the circumstances in Grand Forks, ND, and in the rest of the Red River Valley, that I would take a bit of time to describe the developing disaster in Devils Lake, ND, because not only have we had this remarkable series of events in the Red River Valley, but Devils Lake, a town of over 9,000 people, has had a slow-motion disaster occurring. This is one of only two major lakes in North America that has a closed basin—no inlet and no outlet. For the last 4 years, the lake has been rising inexorably.

This chart shows the historic water level of Devils Lake. This chart goes from 1867 to 1997, 130 years. You can see the recorded history is the blue line. Recorded history starts back in about 1890, and the lake was at about 1,423 feet. It then went into a period of steep decline where it went down to just over 1,400 feet. But look what has happened since the 1930's. That lake has been rising, sometimes falling, but in recent history, in the last 30 years, rising dramatically. And in the last 4 years, this lake has just gone up and up and up.

Some people might say, "Well, the lake is rising. You know, that's not that big a deal."

Mr. President, this lake is nearly 200 square miles. It is a huge lake. It is nearly three times the size of the entire area of the District of Columbia. This is a lake that is rising inexorably and is acting like a cancer. It is eating everything around it. It is submerging roads, it is inundating homes and bridges. It is just eating up the countryside. In the last 4 years, it has tripled in volume and doubled in size. It is very hard to understand or appreciate this circumstance, because nowhere else in the country do we face anything quite like it.

Mr. President, if I can just show this next chart, it shows the summary of damages in the Devils Lake area. As this lake level rises, you can see what happens to the cost in terms of damages. Already we have spent over \$114 million, and that is just from the Federal Government, addressing this disaster. But you can see as the water level rises, the estimates from the Army Corps of Engineers is that we would face over \$400 million in Federal costs if the lake level continues to rise. As I indicated, the Federal Government has already spent over \$114 million coping with this crisis.

This next picture shows the lake and how it has expanded. You can see, this is the luckiest guy in America today. He just got through on this road. He was driving along, and it looks like he escaped from the lake. You can see the lake coming over the road. This is actually a road, the Minnewaukan Flats Road, completely covered by water now. You can see the various tree lines.

You can see how this lake has been expanding and expanding very, very dramatically.

This is one of my favorite pictures, Mr. President, because this shows the little town of Minnewaukan, ND, of 400 people, and they have a sewage lagoon—you can see the outlines of it—surrounded completely now by Devils Lake. When the Federal officials came to Devils Lake, they said to the mayor of the little town of Minnewaukan, "Gee, why did you build this sewage lagoon so close to the lake?" And the mayor and the local officials laughed and they said, "Well, when we built this sewage lagoon, it was 8 miles from the lake"—8 miles. That is how this lake has expanded. Mr. President, this is truly an extraordinary circumstance.

This next picture shows a seed company and what has happened to their operation. It is completely surrounded by water now in this area of Devils Lake. And this water is deep, by the way. It is just amazing how this lake keeps rising.

This picture shows one of the key roads, Highway 57, that connects the city of Devils Lake to the Spirit Lake Nation and to the communities south of Devils Lake. You can see the wave action. These are 5-foot waves on this lake completely breaking over the highway. In fact, if we were to go and take this picture today, this entire road now is under water. That is how rapidly this lake is rising. In fact, it has come up 4 feet already this year. And now remember, we are not talking about some little tranquil lake, we are talking about a huge expanse of water, a lake that is nearly 200 square miles in size now. That is what we are dealing with here, and the water keeps rising.

Mr. President, those are the pictures I wanted to show our colleagues. An important point I wanted to make is that in this disaster supplemental bill, there are a number of measures to address this crisis, in addition to the crisis we have in the Red River Valley, where we had the 500-year flood. We also have provisions to deal with this crisis at Devils Lake.

First, is a provision for an emergency outlet. The Corps of Engineers has determined that one of the things we need to do to fight this disaster is to have an emergency outlet, because we are very close to the point at which this lake will find its own outlet. And if it does, it will be out of the eastern end of the lake where the water quality is, by far, the worst, and it will go over into Stump Lake. At that time, Stump Lake will immediately rise 40 feet. It is hard to get your mind around these numbers because this is so massive. But when this finds its natural outlet at 1,446.6 feet—it is right now at 1,442 feet—at 1,446.6 feet, it spills over into Stump Lake, raising that lake immediately 40 feet.

At 1,457 feet, it spills over into the Sheyenne River Valley, and, as I

showed the cumulative impact, we are then talking about over \$400 million of cost to the Federal Government. The emergency outlet requires \$5 million for the work that needs to be done this year, and that is in this disaster supplemental bill.

Second, we need to raise the levy protecting the city of Devils Lake, and this legislation directs the Corps to expedite action to raise the levy system protecting the city of Devils Lake. The city right now has a dike that is protecting it to about 1,445 feet. This provision will move the protection to 1,450 feet, with 5 feet of free board to deal with the wave action on this very large lake.

Third, there are provisions for emergency funding for Federal Highway Administration to raise roads, because, as I showed, the main linkage point here is already under water. That road—Highway 57—has to be raised and needs to be raised as quickly as possible because it provides the emergency access to all of the communities south of Devils Lake and the Spirit Lake Nation to the regional hospital and the regional shopping center that is in the city of Devils Lake.

Fourth, this legislation provides for the Ramsey County rural sewer system some \$600,000 to mitigate damages from the Devils Lake flood to the Ramsey County rural sewer system. As you can imagine, Mr. President, this is a situation in which the rural sewer system is about to float. That is a very bad thing to have happen. All of those underground pipes, as the water table rises, puts enormous hydrological pressure on that rural sewer system, and they are desperately worried that at any time, those pipes will burst through the ground and float. At that point, the entire rural sewer system is destroyed. It is critically important that that money be approved and be approved as quickly as possible.

Fifth, and finally, this legislation includes \$15 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase floodplain easements for frequently flooded farmland. Landowners in the Devils Lake basin would be eligible for this voluntary floodplain easement program.

Mr. President, I wanted to take this time to describe this disaster so there is an understanding that not only are we dealing with the crisis in the Red River basin, the cities of Grand Forks and other cities up and down the Red River, but that we have a second disaster as well, a slow-motion disaster, and that is the disaster that is occurring at Devils Lake and that there are very important matters that are included in this disaster supplemental bill that deal with those problems.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. BENNETT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Utah.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator DORGAN, the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 3 p.m. today.

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

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair recognizes the Senator from North Dakota.

DISASTER RELIEF IS URGENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague, Senator CONRAD, who has spent an enormous amount of time and effort dealing with the flooding issues that have afflicted our region of the country. It seems to me that there is some good news on the horizon, and it appears that finally the logjam may be broken. It appears finally, perhaps today, the Congress will pass a bill that contains much-needed disaster relief that the President will sign and that hope and help will be offered and restored to the people of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota who are victims of this disaster. Even as it appears there are these signs this may happen today, I want to, once again, describe a bit about why we have maintained that it is so urgent that disaster relief be provided for disaster victims.

Senator CONRAD and I represent the State of North Dakota in the U.S. Senate. We are a small State, in many ways. We are 10 times the size of the State of Massachusetts in landmass. It is a pretty big State geographically, but about 640,000 people live in our State. It is a wonderful place to live, and we have a lot of wonderful things to talk about with respect to North Dakota.

Regrettably, the only thing people from the outside who don't come to North Dakota regularly see about our State is to tune in on the morning shows perhaps on a February morning or January morning, and they see that someone says that there is a blizzard or it is cold in our part of the country. It gets that way sometimes. Other times in January or February, it is quite nice. I don't suppose that we could really, in good faith, tell people that in January and February in North Dakota it is balmy and sunny and warm and an equivalent vacation spot to California or Florida. I don't suppose we could do that with great credibility. It does get a little cold sometimes.

In fact, we had a fellow who was in jail in North Dakota, and from his jail cell, he petitioned a judge to extend his jail sentence for 90 days because he alleged that his rights would be violated if he were released from jail in December in North Dakota. He said it was too cold, didn't have clothing, so on and so forth. He asked the judge if the judge would extend his jail sentence for 90 days. The judge promptly told him, no, that he won't extend his jail sentence.