

model for international cooperation against all types of crime that extend beyond the boundaries and the capabilities of individual countries. It will not be long, I would venture to predict, before its counterpart in the area of international business crime begins to attract substantial support in the world community.

Such a suggestion was indeed made at the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held in Naples, Italy in November, 1994 and repeated at a conference on International Corruption which I attended last month in Buenos Aires, Argentina under the sponsorship of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Why are these extraordinary mechanisms necessary? One observer has identified the "Basic challenge [to be] how to control growing domains of transnational activities that either ignore or take advantage of national borders when the powers of the state remain powerfully circumscribed by the political, geographical and legal limitations that attend notions of national sovereignty."

The international community has already responded to the threat of drug trafficking by relinquishing portions of state sovereignty through the adoption of the UN Drug Enforcement Convention. If the world is to take full advantage of the prospects for economic growth we have examined today, a similar effort against international business crime and official corruption must be mounted with the same vigor.

* * * * *

As the nation in the forefront of the commitment to the rule of law and the containment of crime, it is to be hoped that the United States will continue to play a lead role in the endeavor to send a consistent message to international criminals, however sophisticated, that "You can run, but you cannot hide" from effective law enforcement.

To do otherwise might well forfeit the unprecedented opportunity we have to help bring the full benefits of free markets and an improved quality of life to portions of the world desperately in need of both.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

1997 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR RECOVERY FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, AND FOR OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS, INCLUDING THOSE IN BOSNIA

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished chairman of the committee, Senator STEVENS, in urging the Senate to adopt the disaster assistance supplemental appropriation bill upon its receipt from the House. The funding levels contained in that bill are the same as those adopted by the Senate in the conference report on H.R. 1469 on June 5 by a vote of 67 to 31. That conference agreement, however, also contained a number of extraneous provisions to

which the President objected and which he advised would cause a veto. Upon receipt of the conference agreement to H.R. 1469, the President did, in fact, veto the measure. Subsequently, continuous efforts have been ongoing to resolve the differences on those extraneous provisions in a way that will allow the disaster assistance funding contained in this supplemental to reach the hundreds of thousands of victims of the recent disasters that have beset the Nation over past months.

In all, 33 States will be eligible for the disaster assistance funds provided in the bill. As explained in more detail by the chairman, title I of the bill contains appropriations totaling \$1.8 billion in support of our men and women in uniform engaged in peacekeeping operations around the world, particularly in Bosnia. Title II of the bill contains disaster assistance appropriations for a number of departments and agencies throughout the Federal Government with jurisdiction over the emergency relief efforts. Those appropriations total some \$5.5 billion. The bill also contains an appropriation of over \$937 million for veterans compensation and pensions.

In all, the bill totals some \$8.6 billion, the budget authority of which is fully offset by the rescissions of appropriations which are also contained in the bill.

Regarding the extraneous matters which caused the Presidential veto, it is my understanding that they have all been resolved to the satisfaction of the administration and in a way which will allow the President to sign this bill. While I regret that the enactment of this disaster assistance appropriation bill has required many weeks and a Presidential veto in order to achieve its ultimate enactment, I recognize that the proponents of the extraneous provisions that caused the delay feel very strongly about the merits of their provisions, and I appreciate their willingness to allow the removal or modification of them in a way that will allow this bill to go forward so that its benefits can then be forthcoming to the American people for whom they are intended.

In closing, Mr. President, I urge all Members to support the bill, and I congratulate the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Mr. LIVINGSTON, and my House counterpart, Mr. OBEY, for their efforts in reaching this agreement, as well as the distinguished chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Mr. STEVENS. In addition, I also thank our distinguished minority leader, Mr. DASCHLE, who has worked tirelessly day and night in resolving these issues. The majority leader, Mr. LOTT, is also to be commended for his efforts on this bill.

How much time do I have, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia has 29 minutes and 30 seconds.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair. I yield to the distinguished Senator from North Dakota, 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator BYRD.

Mr. President, this legislation comes as an enormous relief. As the occupant of the Chair knows well, I have come to the floor many times to plead with my colleagues to deliver this assistance and deliver it as quickly as possible. We have been hung up here, now, in the 54th day since the dikes broke at Grand Forks. A town of 50,000 was completely evacuated; tens of thousands of people still, today, are not back. We have people still who are sleeping on cots, living in cars; thousands of people who are wondering when is help going to come.

We heard over the weeks that there was money in the pipeline. I can tell you, from a local perspective, the money has not been getting through that is necessary for rebuilding and recovery. So this legislation that has now come from the House represents an incredible victory for the people in the disaster areas because the offending provisions, those that caused the President to veto the bill, are now removed. What we have is a clean disaster relief bill, which is what the people of the disaster areas have asked for sincerely, and in many ways with, I think, real patience, because 54 days have elapsed before we are finally going to see this legislation pass and be signed by the President of the United States. Mr. President, a clean disaster relief bill, thank goodness; many of us wondered if this day was going to come and here it is. This bill represents real help that is going to make the difference, a real difference in the lives of people.

I just remind my colleagues, this is what we look at in Grand Forks today. This is the rubble that is left by the devastation of downtown Grand Forks. Remember, we experienced a multiplicity of disasters. We had, first of all, 10 feet of snow this winter, the most snow we have ever had, followed by the most powerful winter storm in 50 years that eliminated electricity for 80,000 people for more than a week, followed by a 500-year flood, by far the worst flood ever in our history. It was absolutely devastating. Then, in the midst of that, a fire that burned much of downtown Grand Forks.

I tell you, we began to think this was apocalyptic. But still, today, we are living with the results. This is the picture of just one boulevard. On every street in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, this is what you see: The rubble piled, 5, 6 feet high. You can go down the streets and you can see what kind of washer and dryer everybody had in Grand Forks, because they are all out in the boulevards. Every item of personal furniture and clothing is out on these boulevards. People left at 1 o'clock in the morning with only the

clothes on their backs, because the dikes failed at that hour.

Again, this is another typical street. You can see the junk piled all up and down the streets of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, ND. These people are living through a slow-motion disaster because the disaster occurred, the natural disaster, but now we are still living with the results. That is why this money is so desperately needed.

I can tell you, there are many people we want to thank. Senator BYRD, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, has been a staunch ally throughout this fight. We deeply appreciate, Senator BYRD, your assistance, and the assistance of your able staff—Jim English I want to name specifically, because he has been a rock. We will never forget the assistance that you, Senator BYRD, have provided and that Jim English has provided as well.

I also want to thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS, because he, too, listened and heard our plea. And we appreciate it very much.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time? The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, first of all I thank the distinguished senior Senator from North Dakota for his kind words concerning me, and especially with reference to my very capable staff.

How much time does the Senator from Minnesota require?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I have had a chance to speak on this often. Five minutes, I think, will do it.

Mr. BYRD. I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I don't have any rehearsed remarks. I am trying to think exactly what to say. I want to thank my colleague from North Dakota, both Senators from North Dakota, and the Senators from South Dakota. It has been a pleasure to work with you.

I certainly want to thank the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, who has done a great job.

Jim English, I am going to say the same thing about you. I want to thank Jim for just incredible work. Larry Stein has been phenomenal as well.

I would like to thank Sarah Neimeyer who has worked with me in my office.

We have had so much help. Senator BYRD, thank you so much for your support. And I would like to thank my Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their support.

Finally, we have come together. Finally we are going to pass a disaster relief bill. Mr. President, all I can say right now is that this has been a long and sometimes bitter fight. I wish it had not been such a long, protracted fight. I wish it had not been a bitter fight. I do not think I am in the mood

at all to point fingers today. I think it is better just to say to everybody here, we finally have come together.

Senator STEVENS, thank you for your help. And I think that what matters is not who wins or who loses here in the Senate or in the House. I don't really care. I don't think it's very important. But I do think the people back in Minnesota and the Dakotas win, and that does matter a great deal to me. People are trying to get on with their lives. They are trying to rebuild their lives. And they need the certainty. They need the certainty of knowing whether or not this assistance is going to be available. I think, finally, today, as a Senator from Minnesota, I can look people in the eyes, go back home and meet with people and say, "This is passed, the help is going to be forthcoming. I hope and pray that this will help you and this will help your children and this will help your families."

I am proud of my colleagues on this side of the aisle. I thank colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their support now. Finally, we are together. I am proud of my Democratic colleagues because I think we did the right thing. I think we used the rules of the Senate. The expert—I have to get his attention—the expert who knows more than the other 99 Senators combined is Senator BYRD.

Senator BYRD, I want to get your attention. You do not have to respond. I would say I am proud of my colleagues, I am proud of the Democrats. I said one of the things I am most proud of is I think we did the right thing to be out here fighting for people, and I think it was important to use the rules of the Senate to fight for people. I was saying that you are, of course, the master teacher to all of us. Again, I thank you for what you have taught us.

It feels good to be able to know the process and use the rules, if you can use your leverage to fight for people. I think we did that. But I think most important of all, it is the people who will benefit. We have come together, finally, finally. I think the U.S. Senate, and I hope the House of Representatives and therefore the Congress, will look good to people after what has been a terrible period of time. I do not believe the last several weeks have been a good several weeks for the Congress. They have not built up a lot of respect for our institution. People have not been able to understand the delay. I think, in a way, this is an important victory for people in our States and it is also, I think, a very good thing that finally, finally the U.S. Senate has come through for people.

Mr. President, I have spoken many, many, many, many hours, have given enough speeches to probably deafen all of my colleagues and I do not need to say any more. I am so pleased, I feel so good that we finally are able to pass this bill and we are finally going to be able to help people—really good people who really need the help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska yields 5 minutes to the Senator from Minnesota.

The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I am very pleased that Congress and the President have finally agreed to the compromise proposal I offered earlier this week to smooth the way for passage of emergency flood relief for the people of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

My compromise calls for separate votes on the emergency disaster relief bill and on legislation to protect the American people from a Government shutdown. Today's vote confirms that was the best way to build the necessary consensus in Washington to deliver flood relief as quickly as possible.

The people of my home state of Minnesota have been waiting with increasing impatience for Washington to stop talking about delivering recovery aid and finally do something about it.

They have been waiting for Congress and the President to work together to finally bridge the gap that led to the veto that now holds up flood relief. I am pleased to say that today, the waiting ends and the rebuilding process can move ahead.

This flood recovery aid means more to us in Minnesota than simply dollars. It sends the message that the people of Minnesota and the Dakotas, who have endured so much during this critical time, have not been forgotten by Washington, and that the promises made by Congress and the President to our States will be promises kept.

But our work does not end with this vote. Once we pass this bill and the President signs it into law, we must keep a watchful eye to ensure that the recovery and rebuilding process in Minnesota and the Dakotas can go forward without any further delays caused by gridlock in Washington.

That is why I believe that Congress must pass the Government Shutdown Prevention Act, which will protect Minnesotans from a Government shutdown as we rebuild our State from the damages caused by the flood.

Under my proposal, which we will adopt today, we can have that vote, free from any procedural delays, and give the people of Minnesota and the Dakotas that important assurance.

Mr. President, this has been a stressful time for individuals, families, farmers, and businesses in the Midwest devastated by the flooding. The delays from Washington did not help anybody.

But with this agreement today, we have reduced the chance that a man-made disaster this fall, in the form of a Government shutdown, will follow the natural disaster that victimized so many people this past spring.

Again, I am pleased that we could work out this agreement and act on my proposal to pass emergency flood aid to Minnesota and the Dakotas. With this compromise, the blame game can end and the rebuilding can continue. It is time to move forward.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). WHO YIELDS TIME?

Mr. BYRD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask the distinguished Senator from Alaska if he has any problem with my yielding time at this point?

Mr. STEVENS. I am happy to have him yield time.

Mr. BYRD. I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN], and I am going to be off the floor temporarily because I have someone waiting in my office down below. In the meantime, I ask Mr. DORGAN to yield time on my behalf.

Mr. DORGAN. I will be happy to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, this is an occasion of some happiness for those of us who have spent a substantial amount of time in the Senate pushing very hard to try to get a disaster relief bill finished.

I today compliment the Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS, the Senator from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, and other members of the Appropriations Committee. I have said repeatedly that when this legislation passes, it will contain a substantial amount of assistance for those who have been hit by natural disasters, especially for those in our region who were devastated by the circumstances of blizzards, floods, and then fires.

There have been a substantial amount of impatience on my part and the part of many others in Congress in the recent 3 or so weeks. We have been impatient because we have constituents who have been impatient. We know that their lives have been on hold, decisions have not been able to be made on a timely basis.

My colleague, Senator CONRAD, my colleagues, Senator WELLSTONE, Senator GRAMS and others, Senator DASCHLE and Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota, we know from going home, our citizens who are victims of these disasters have, in many instances, been living in other communities with relatives, in tents, in camper trailers, in shelters, on cots, and they have been very concerned about the inability to put their lives back together. We have repeatedly pushed for a timely resolution for this matter.

Today, it appears that we will see a piece of legislation through the Congress, and it is my hope to be invited to participate tomorrow morning in a bill-signing ceremony. I hope that

President Clinton will have a brief ceremony to sign this legislation, after which a substantial amount of help will be available to people of our region.

What kind of help is it? Well, it is a substantial amount of money to help people who lost their homes. In Grand Forks, ND, alone, 600 homes have been totally destroyed, another 600 to 800 homes have been severely damaged. Those families are not back in their homes and will not be back in their homes. Many of those homes will never again be inhabited, and those families need some help. This legislation reaches out to them to say we want to help you.

The legislation includes some resources for people who have lost livestock in the blizzards this winter. A substantial number of blizzards paralyzed our State. The last blizzard was the worst blizzard in 50 years. We had cattle on their feet suffocating from snow, and white-out conditions where they could breathe nothing but snow. I mentioned the other day that a fellow was in a community and someone said, "Well, what are you going to be doing next?" He was a rancher. He said, "Well, I'm going home to shoot some calves." He had to shoot calves because these are calves whose feet were frozen in the blizzard, cows whose udders were frozen in the blizzard, cows froze to death standing up, cows froze to death in stock ponds when ice gave way and the cattle died in the ice cold water.

I don't need to describe in any greater detail the ravages of blizzard after blizzard, the last being the worst blizzard in 50 years, and then the flood that resulted from 10 feet of snow, 3 years' worth of snow dumped on our State in 3 months. The result: a disaster of significant proportions that has upset the lives of so many thousands of families.

The creation of this bill then was a response to that, and although we have gone through enormous angst as a result of delay, today, when this aid begins to flow, we say thanks to a lot of folks who joined hands in this Chamber, on the Appropriations Committee and off, in the leadership, who said we want to be part of a solution.

I know, as I said earlier today, I have worn out my welcome on the floor of the Senate. I know there are some here who are tired of seeing me on the floor, tired of hearing my message and hope that they will not have to suffer much more—the constant drumbeat and the constant urgency that I express on behalf of my citizens, but I make no apology for that. I came here to represent a group of people who need help, and I am pleased that help will be in this legislation when it passes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota controls time on his side.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I yield myself 1 additional minute.

The point I was making was while we feel very strongly about these issues,

because our constituents are involved—and they are not just constituents, they are people, families trying to put their lives back together—at the end of the day, when the day is done and the job is done, and this will at least complete this portion of the job for a Congress responding to this disaster, we must stop and say thank you for the help that others have given us.

As we proceed to begin to rebuild and to recover and to have families put their lives together and to have communities rebuild, we will undoubtedly see things that need to be done in next year's appropriations bills, as well.

Mr. President, today when this passes, on final passage, and tomorrow, when the President signs this legislation, I will be enormously pleased that finally disaster relief will be available to many Americans who desperately need it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to give a little history of what we are dealing with in this 1997 supplemental appropriations bill.

In February of this year, we received a request for \$2.1 billion from the President to deal with the funding that had been advanced in the Bosnia peacekeeping efforts overseas in a way that would repay the funds to the various accounts in the Department of Defense from which those moneys were taken. That was \$2.1 billion, as I said.

That February budget request also contained mandatory veterans compensation and pensions of \$800 million and other requests, mainly a WIC request, women, infants, and children request of \$1 billion. It was \$100 million. The total of the budget request in February was \$3 billion. There was no disaster attached to that request.

We received a formal request on March 19 for \$2 billion related to the disasters. Again, on April 23, we received a request of \$300 million. And on June 9, we received a major request of \$2.4 billion. Again, Mr. President, that was June 9. Our total formal budget request that is covered by this bill is \$7.7 billion. Some of those amounts we had anticipated in the bill that was presented to the Senate previously, but the formal budget request was received June 9 for more than 25 percent of this bill.

I have seen and heard people on the television telling us how we should be getting on with our work. As a matter of fact, I think in terms of supplementals, for us to handle supplemental requests from March 19, April 23, and June 9 by today, which is June 12, I think is not tardy. We have had informal OMB reestimates of \$400 million since those others were received. We had an informal increase for mandatory veterans compensation and pensions reported to us on June 3, another \$200 million. The total Presidential request before the Senate is \$8.2 billion. This bill is \$8.9 billion.

The \$700 million comes about by the community development block grant, the CDBG moneys, for the disaster of \$300 million. We have an SSI provision in this bill, supplemental amount for legal aliens of \$200 million. There is an additional \$700 million for the Federal Highway Administration, and other minor adjustments made by congressional amendments amount to \$200 million. In other words, the total congressional impact on this bill is \$700 million.

The bill, for the first time in history, is totally offset. This report offsets in the Defense Department \$1.9 billion. It offsets, in domestic offsets, \$6.1 billion. There is an additional amount of mandatory spending, mainly veterans compensation and pensions, that is covered by the bill and amounts to \$900 million. It does not score under the Budget Act. Those are moneys that were already covered under entitlement provisions.

Mr. President, I made the statement before and I asked unanimous consent that the agreement that applies to this bill is that the statement of the managers that accompanied the conference report for H.R. 1469 would be the legislative history for this bill that is going to be presented to the Senate.

The reason for that is that I did not want it to be just a statement of one person, myself, to make that legislative history. It is the statement of the Senate now on a unanimous-consent basis that the provisions of the managers' report that accompanied the former conference report, to the extent those provisions are in the bill, are the legislative history for this bill.

There are three items that have been deleted from the bill: the continuing resolution language, the census language and the language that pertained to Revised Statute 2477, the right-of-way provision. I regret deeply being put in the position where that has to be withdrawn. We do, however, have a commitment from the President of the United States that within 180 days, there will be presented to the Congress a bill proposing a legislative solution to the problems that have beset the West since the announcement of the policy by the Secretary of Interior in January of the change in the historic concept that these rights-of-way were to be determined by State law and the statement of policy from the Department of Interior that says they have to be rights-of-way developed by vehicular traffic. Both of the changes are very oppressive, as far as my State is concerned, and we look forward to receiving the legislation that the President has committed his administration to submit to us on that subject, and I hope the Congress will act on that during this session of Congress.

But, Mr. President, it is important that everybody understand that other than the three provisions that have been deleted from the bill, the managers' report that accompanied the conference report is the legislative history for this bill. There were condi-

tions and terms set forth in that managers' report that we expect the administration to comply with. They are now listed as being the formal statement of this Senate as a whole on how the conference report is to be interpreted. I think that is only fair. That is what we intended in the event the conference report had been signed by the President. This is the same bill except for those three provisions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the fiscal year 1997 supplemental appropriations requests and congressional action.

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

FY 1997 Supplemental Appropriation Requests and Congressional Action

[In billions of dollars, by fiscal year 1997 budget authority]

February budget:	
Bosnia/peacekeeping	2.1
Mandatory Veterans compensation and pensions	0.8
Other requests (mainly WIC)	0.1
Total February budget	3.0
Formal budget requests:	
March 19, 1997	2.0
April 23, 1997	0.3
June 9, 1997	2.4
Total, including formal budget requests	7.7
Informal OMB reestimates (April 14, 1997)	0.4
Informal increase to mandatory Veterans compensation and pensions (June 3, 1997)	0.2
Total, President's request	8.2
Congressional adjustments (House and Senate floor amendments included in conference agreement; plus conference adjustments):	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	0.3
SSI—Legal aliens	0.2
Federal Highway Admin. (non-add obligation limitation)	(0.7)
Other adjustments	0.2
Total H.R. 1469 conference agreement	8.9
Defense offsets	-1.9
Domestic offsets	-6.1

Mandatory spending, mainly Veterans compensation and pensions ... 0.9
Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from North Dakota. We have finally reached a point this afternoon that has been awaited for some time by the people of South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, and 30 other States that have been seriously and negatively impacted by the blizzards and floods of this past winter and spring. It had been my hope the passage of this legislation could have been accelerated and without the con-

tention we had to deal with over this past month.

But I do at this point today want to extend thanks to Senator STEVENS for his assistance on this legislation, certainly to Senator DASCHLE, the Democratic leader; Senator BYRD, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee; Senators DORGAN and CONRAD of North Dakota, my colleagues from the north; and Senator WELLSTONE from Minnesota, in particular who have played a critical role on this floor helping educate the Members and the American public about the urgency and the severity of the crisis that our region faced here and continues to face.

And certainly a thank you as well to President Clinton and his administration, who has responded in a timely fashion to the disaster requests from our Governor, from our State, affirmatively responding both to the blizzard and to the flood disaster requests on the very day that he received the requests, having visited our States, both in the south personally and with the Vice President and his Cabinet officials, and has become very acquainted in a direct way with the immense damage that was done in my State of South Dakota and throughout the region.

So there are a lot of thank yous to be extended for the work on this legislation. But I think that we cannot underestimate the scope of the harm done and the reality that even this legislation, as significant as it is, will not make people whole.

We are looking now, with the most recent estimates in the State of South Dakota, of livestock losses in excess of 300,000. We have an incredible level of damage to fences, to roads, and local governments bankrupt from the snow removal now finding themselves without even matching money to come up with the repair of the roads. That is one of the reasons why the CDBG, the community development block grant, aspect of this will be so critically important.

We have families looking to relocate. We have levees to be rebuilt. We have mayors asking about the repair of their waste water treatment facilities and water treatment facilities. We have rural water projects and systems throughout the State that have been damaged in significant ways.

So in so many ways this legislation is going to be critical in helping people get their lives back together, to making decisions about the future of their homes, of their families, of their farms and ranches and of our public infrastructure.

This legislation will come as badly needed assistance, a hand up, and consistent with a tradition that has marked the American approach to disasters in any part of the country. Whether it has been earthquakes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, we have a long tradition in this country of setting aside our partisan differences and working together with a hand up so

that people can get back on their feet, at least have the resources to begin that long trek back.

But I think that the winners of this final resolution of the conflicts that we have had are more than just the people of the Dakotas and the Great Plains and all the States that have been affected by these disasters. The American public in general has won this debate over the last several weeks. There was a sense on the part of the American public that we need to handle one issue at a time, that when it comes to disasters, that ought to be a clean bill sent to the President of the United States.

That ultimately is what has transpired, I think in large part because of the great concern and attention given to this legislation by Americans from one coast to the other, many of them living in States that have not had significant disaster problems this past year, but recognize that that hand up is part of the American tradition and also recognize that in the past when we have had emergency legislation it has been devoid of controversial extraneous matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time yielded to the Senator from South Dakota has expired.

Mr. JOHNSON. If the Senator would yield an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield an additional 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. JOHNSON. So we have maintained that precedent and not moved away from the tradition in this country that we have had in this body of dealing directly with legislation so that it may in a timely fashion get to the people who need it.

It would have been, I think, a tremendous loss and would have been a bad precedent for the future if we had not in fact voted down legislation with controversial issues and used disaster legislation as a political vehicle. So I think that we have won the short-term battle to get help to people who need it but also won the long-term battle for people who need legislation.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield 30 seconds to the Senator from North Dakota, Senator CONRAD.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Senator from North Dakota.

There are a number of people I would like to additionally thank. I would like to thank the President for his support. I would like to thank the Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, for really brilliant leadership in a very difficult fight. I would also like to thank very much his colleague, Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota, Senator WELLSTONE of Minnesota, my own colleague, Senator DORGAN of North Dakota, who serves on the Appropriations Committee and served on the conference committee that came up with this disaster relief package. He has been extraordinary throughout this fight. I will never forget both his

friendship and his advocacy of the State of North Dakota.

If I could have an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield the Senator an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. CONRAD. I would like to thank our colleague in the House, Congressman POMEROY, who really stood up and was counted at a critical time for our State.

I also would like to thank staff members, my own staff people that spent night after night here, Derik Fettig, Kirk Johnson, Bob Van Heuvelen, my own chief of staff Kent Hall, and one person I did not thank, somebody on Senator STEVENS' staff, Steve Cortese, who was of great help in resolving this matter as well.

I want to thank them all. They have made a difference in the lives of people who desperately need help.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. STEVENS. I yield such time as the Senator from Texas desires.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Thank you, Mr. President.

I, too, want to thank a few people because I have been very involved in this supplemental emergency appropriations. I have seen the back room negotiations hour after hour, night after night.

I want to thank first the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. There is not a person who has stood truer to principle than the majority leader on all of the issues in this emergency appropriations. He was prepared at all times to make sure that disaster victims were able to get the money that they needed in absolute due course. He was prepared to make sure that all of the money in the defense accounts would go in.

He also was standing on a principle to set the process in place so that at the end of this fiscal year the people who work for the U.S. Government, the people who look to the U.S. Government for services such as passports and all of the other Government services, and the people such as veterans who have earned pensions would know that there would not be a disruption in Government.

I think there has been a lot of rhetoric that has blurred the facts on these issues. In fact, there was never a question of the actual amount that would go to the flood victims of North Dakota. They have been getting the millions of dollars that they need to start the process of rebuilding their State. And we want them to have that. They deserve it. They have it. It is ongoing right now. And it never was in question.

But, Mr. President, I think it is very important as we get ready to vote on this issue to see exactly what is on the table. We have a supplemental appropriations bill that is not only emer-

gency disaster relief, but it is supplemental appropriations. There are many people who are concerned about how big this appropriations bill is. I am concerned as well. I think that it grew too much. But since it is the first appropriations bill of this year—and this is June; we are halfway through the year—a lot of people felt that we had to replenish the coffers before we would get to the 1998 appropriations. So there is that issue and that concern.

We have now a separate opportunity to deal with the anti-Government-shutdown provisions. I think we are going to have a day of reckoning on this because there are those on the floor who have said, "We don't want to shut down Government, but this isn't the right bill."

So now we have an agreement that we will take up, without a filibuster, the issue of shutting down Government. We will send a bill to the President that gives him the opportunity to tell the people of America once again that he does not want to shut down Government. The President has said this on many occasions, but he did not like this bill to have the anti-Government-shutdown provisions. So he is going to get this bill separately, and we are going to vote on an anti-Government-shutdown bill. It has been agreed to by both sides that that will happen without any more political games.

I think the people of America should wake up and see who is trying to play political games with the anti-Government-shutdown issue. We are trying to prepare in an orderly way for the appropriations process in this Congress. We are trying to assure the people who depend on Government, the people who work for Government, and the people who have pensions that are supported by Government that there will not be a disruption if Congress and the President have not agreed on some part of the appropriations bills.

So we have now set the process. We are going to vote on a supplemental appropriations, and we are going to vote on an anti-Government-shutdown provision; and we are going to see if the President of the United States is sincere about wanting to work with Congress in a negotiation with a level playing field that will set a process in place so that we will not have a Government shutdown.

I think the test is yet to come. I hope that the people of America will look to see how people vote when we have a straight up-or-down vote, which the President has asked for, which Congress has acceded to giving the President what he has asked for, and see if the President is sincere about wanting to work with Congress.

I hope very much that the President and Congress will be able to work together. I think Congress has shown for its part that Congress is willing to work with the President and to bow to his wishes. We have given him everything that he has asked from this Congress in a budget resolution, and now

in a supplemental appropriations. I hope that this good will goes both ways.

Last, Mr. President, I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Senator STEVENS from Alaska, who likes to describe himself as a bear but who, in fact, is actually one of the most fair, even-handed people I have ever seen in a committee chairmanship in this Congress. He deserves a lot of praise for his patience in working, not only with the President, but with the Democrats and with the Members of the House of Representatives to have a bill that would make sure that we cover the costs of Bosnia, of the flood victims in North Dakota, of the tornado victims in Texas, who will have some little bit of help from this bill, and the many others who have suffered disasters in our country.

I want to thank my cosponsor, Senator JOHN MCCAIN, for standing up on the principle that we would not have a Government shutdown. I will tell you that Senator MCCAIN and I will not let this issue die. We are going to be back. We are going to have a clean vote. We are going to put the President to the test to see if he really wants to set a process that does not shut down the Government. Senator MCCAIN and I are very sincere in wanting to make sure that never again will we have the debacle of 1995.

So I thank the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator STEVENS. I thank especially Senator LOTT and Senator MCCAIN for standing on the principles that will make our appropriations process work in a responsible way.

Thank you.

Mr. STEVENS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays at this time.

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

Mr. STEVENS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, will the chairman of the Appropriations Committee yield?

I worked with the chairman and the chairman of the House Commerce Justice State Appropriations Committee during the supplemental appropriations conference to craft report language that requires the Department of Commerce to take into account a very important forthcoming GAO study which analyzes the cost of maintaining four National Weather Service regional headquarters offices in the continental United States versus consolidation into three offices by closure of the Southern Region Headquarters office. The language requires the Department of Commerce to take this report into account. It is my wish that it will cease its ef-

forts to close the office now so that it may take the report into consideration, as this language requires them to do.

I want to ensure that this legislative history will be carried forward with the Senate's supplemental appropriations bill. Mr. Chairman, can you give me this assurance?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes, that is the case. And it is my hope that the Department of Commerce will assent to the Senator's wishes in this matter to have this report fully considered.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to begin by congratulating the people of the Dakotas and Minnesota for their hard work and perseverance through this ordeal. Their resolve speaks volumes about the American spirit, and the American work ethic. I am also pleased with the work of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These civil servants have helped those Americans affected by natural disasters through one of the worst times of their lives. But Mr. President, I am concerned with the way disaster relief has been handled by Congress and the President.

What has come to be known as the disaster relief bill, is, in reality, nothing of the sort. Yes, there is disaster relief included in this bill, but there are a number of other provisions as well. Two of these provisions are well known to the American public, and they happen to be two provisions that I favor, and I believe a clear majority of Coloradans favor as well. The most important is the Government Shutdown Prevention Act also known as a continuing resolution. The Government Shutdown Prevention Act would allow the President and Congress to continue good faith budget negotiations without the specter of another Government shutdown. Without this, if the President and Congress cannot agree on funding levels by the end of the fiscal year, the Federal Government will shut down. If this happens, retirement checks, social security payments, Government contracts could all be delayed, national parks would be closed, veterans services would be suspended, and Federal employees would be sent home with pay, a waste of valuable tax dollars. The President objects to the inclusion of the Government Shutdown Prevention Act and vetoed disaster relief, holding those victims of natural disasters hostage, because he did not want to live up to the commitment he made during his State of the Union Address.

Since the President has objected to riders unrelated to disaster aid, let's look at what is included in his idea of a clean bill minus what he considers to be unrelated riders. His version of a clean bill includes: Assistance to Ukraine; Language concerning buy-American products; \$140 million for the Health Education Assistance Loans Program; \$650,000 for the National Commission on the Cost of Higher Education to pay salaries and expenses;

\$33.5 million for the Botanic Garden to pay salaries and expenses; \$1.6 million for the Coast Guard to cover operating expenses relating to the TWA flight 800 crash; \$650,000 to implement the Cost of Higher Education Review Act of 1997; and changes to the Welfare Reform Act;

And of most concern to me: \$3.5 million for Housing and Urban Development implementation in New York; and \$500,000 for a parking garage in Kentucky.

Many of my colleagues have discussed these issues time and time again, and while many of these projects might be worthwhile, they have nothing to do with disaster relief. But the President overlooks each one of these, and finds fault in preventing the Government from shutting down. I ask the President to stop playing games with the American people by claiming that the Shutdown Prevention Act does not belong in a disaster relief bill when there are multiple unrelated riders, to which he does not object, included in the same bill. I am told that a clean disaster relief bill would be in the area of \$3.3 billion. With or without the Shutdown Prevention Act, this is not a clean bill, let us stop playing political games with America.

The President vetoed the bill because of extraneous provisions, mainly the Government Shutdown Prevention Act. Because this provision is not included, and because of the other provisions unrelated to disaster relief included, I must vote no. A clean bill would not have these additional provisions and I hope that my colleagues can agree that extraneous means extra, no matter whose projects they are. I yield my time.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am voting in favor of the Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1997. I commend our colleagues, the chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, Senator STEVENS and Congressman LIVINGSTON, for their determination, hard work, and leadership on this important bill.

And, as a member of the Senate-House Conference Committee, I appreciate the cooperative efforts of my counterpart, Congressman KOLBE, the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government. I also appreciate the valuable work of my colleague, Senator KOHL, who serves as the ranking member of the Treasury and General Government Subcommittee.

This bill includes much needed assistance to our fellow Americans who have been hard hit by natural disasters. I am also pleased that the conferees agreed to include two of my provisions which are vital to my home State of Colorado.

The first provision includes \$1.95 million to support law enforcement efforts during the Denver Summit of Eight which is occurring later this month.

This historic economic summit, which includes Russia for the first time as an active participant, will draw the leaders of the world's leading economies and thousands of other participants and guests. The funding which this supplemental includes will reimburse our police officers who are on the frontlines in providing the necessary security for the Summit of Eight.

The second provision delays the implementation by the Health Care Financing Administration [HCFA] of a Medicare Competitive Pricing Demonstration project in Denver. The project, originally set to begin in January 1998, was ill-conceived in its design and had the potential to disrupt and reduce benefits for over 100,000 Medicare beneficiaries. My colleagues and I are all committed to successfully testing competitive pricing as an alternative reimbursement mechanism for Medicare risk contractors. It is for that very reason I sought a delay and appreciated the resounding support of my Senate and House colleagues.

In light of the importance of this supplemental appropriations bill, I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. How much time is remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska has 10 minutes and 21 seconds, and the Senator from West Virginia through the Senator from North Dakota has 5 minutes and 6 seconds.

Mr. DORGAN. I yield 4 minutes to the Senator from Florida, Senator GRAHAM.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, we have talked about the principles that are represented by our action in legislation. Let me talk about an important principle. That is the principle that when we are dealing with lives and we are dealing with the destruction and the aftermath of a catastrophe, it is not the time to inject political ideology on unrelated subjects. I suggest that has been the policy of this Senate, that has been the policy of this Federal Government.

Let me just give two examples of that policy. On September 21, 1989, Hurricane Hugo slammed into Charleston, SC, and 29 people were killed in South Carolina as a result of Hurricane Hugo. One week after Hurricane Hugo hit South Carolina, this Senate passed, by a vote of 100-0, disaster assistance legislation. On the same day, it passed in the House of Representatives, and the following day, September 29, 8 days after the disaster, President Bush signed that into law. A Democratic Congress, a Republican President, and in 8 days we responded to a major disaster within our Nation.

In my own State of Florida, on August 24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew devastated the southern part of our State, killing 40 people and destroying 25,000 homes. On September 8, President Bush requested \$7.7 billion of relief. Ten days

later, the House and Senate passed the President's recommendation. It was signed into law on September 23, 1992, 30 days after the hurricane had done such devastation.

Mr. President, that is the kind of schedule, that is the kind of cooperation between a Congress of one party and a President of another that we should expect, that all Americans should expect, in the event of a disaster that causes extensive damage and loss of life.

Contrast those two past experiences with what we are, hopefully, about to conclude today as it relates to the flooding in the Midwest. It was on March 19 of this year that the President made his official request for disaster funds. After that date, the disaster became even more severe as flooding occurred as a result of the severe winter. Today, on June 12, we hopefully will pass the legislation which will go to the President for his signature.

The principle is that we should not allow a repetition of what we are experiencing in this concluding chapter of the suffering of the people of the upper Midwest. They deserve to be treated with the same dignity, respect, and sense of urgency that we accorded the people of South Carolina in 1989, that was accorded to the people of my State of Florida in 1992.

Mr. President, I commend those who have worked so hard to bring this issue to a resolution. I wish we had been congratulating ourselves on this, not on the 12th of June, but many, many weeks earlier. I hope we have learned a lesson from this experience, and that lesson is, deal with the plight of people, not politics, when it comes to humanitarian relief.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. DORGAN. I yield 30 seconds to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota has a total of 45 seconds left.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to thank several additional people. There have been so many people involved in this effort. The mayor of Grand Forks, Mayor Pat Owens, who has been just remarkable through this series of disasters, and Mayor Lynn Stauss of East Grand Forks, who has come to Washington three times to plead for the assistance that the people of our area need, and two other people on my staff, Geri Gaginis, who is from that area of our State and has worked tirelessly to help the people of that area, and Scott Carlson of my staff, who was really the author of the provisions to help the livestock owners across the part of our country that have lost hundreds of thousands of head of livestock.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I understand we are waiting for the distinguished Democratic leader. Other than that, I had hoped we could get the vote started sooner. There are people that wanted to make connections and leave.

Pending that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Could I ask the Senator if he would grant me 15 seconds?

Mr. STEVENS. I yield to the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I, too, want to thank Mayor Stauss and Mayor Owens from East Grand Forks and Grand Forks for their very courageous voices. They never gave up and they continue to give people hope. They gave all of us here a lot of hope.

I thank my colleague for his courtesy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. I am happy to yield to the Democratic leader such time as he desires to use.

Mr. DASCHLE. Let me begin with the chairman. I want to thank the Senator for his kindness. We would not be here if not for the leadership and the extraordinary effort the Senator from Alaska has put forth to bring us to this point. I publicly acknowledge his work and his leadership on behalf of the people in South Dakota and our colleagues here in the Senate. I thank him for all of his effort.

I heard my colleague from South Dakota express what I hope to also express, and that is gratitude to so many people who are responsible for the fact that we are here this afternoon. I begin with our Governor, who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in ways that are recognized on both sides of the aisle, and Brenda Barger, the mayor of Watertown. Watertown is lucky to have a leader as talented and as gifted as she is. All across South Dakota organizations have come forth and put so much effort into ensuring that our communities and our people could hold themselves together in the way that they did. South Dakotans have endured much over the past months, but throughout these most difficult and unfortunate times they have shown courage and compassion. I also want to thank my colleagues for all of the effort they put forth in making possible this tremendous assistance.

I appreciate very much the work of the administration—the President, the Vice President, James Lee Witt. People in the administration at all levels could not have been more responsive. They went out to the Dakotas and Minnesota not once, not twice, but on numerous occasions in an effort to fully appreciate the magnitude of the problem and to respond as quickly and as comprehensively as they could. The President, on at least two occasions, declared natural disasters in record time, trying as he could to respond in ways that exceeded virtually everyone's expectation.

It has all been said so eloquently by my colleagues but this help is desperately needed. People have waited too long. In some cases, lives have been lost. Throughout our region, hundreds of thousands of livestock have been

killed. The magnitude of this loss is only now being fully appreciated. We need this help and it will now at long last be on the way and in the hands of people who have been waiting patiently, in some cases, for more than 2 months.

The work is only beginning. The passage of this legislation starts the process by which rebuilding can begin. There is so much work to be done in such a short period of time. We have about 100 to 110-some days of construction time available to us. I call upon those in the administration who have already demonstrated such willingness to work with us to respond now in this second phase, making sure that we maximize the use of our time, making sure that we eliminate whatever bureaucratic encumbrances there are in an effort to get this assistance to those who need it the most, as quickly and as efficiently as we possibly can.

So there is much more work to be done and we need to expedite our efforts to ensure that it gets done in the most meaningful way in what time is left, this year, in order for it to be done right.

Again, Mr. President, I express gratitude to all of those who had so much to do with the fact that we are here now this afternoon. I appreciate very much the cooperation, the partnership, and the efforts made by all of those responsible to at long last send the help so desperately needed by so many.

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DASCHLE. I yield.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I did explain the important role of Senator STEVENS from Alaska and our gratitude toward him. However, I would be remiss if I did not tell the Senate the admiration we have for the Senator from South Dakota in his leadership on this issue. He has been faithful and determined on this issue and all of us know that his family has had some medical challenges in recent hours. We very much appreciate what you have done for the country and for our region of the State. Much of the reason we are here at this moment on the edge of victory in having disaster relief approved is because of the efforts of the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank my friend and colleague from North Dakota.

I yield the floor.

Mr. STEVENS. I yield back our remaining time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back. The question is on agreeing to the bill. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announced that the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] would vote "aye."

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Akaka	Dorgan	Lugar
Baucus	Durbin	McCain
Bennett	Feinstein	McConnell
Biden	Ford	Mikulski
Bingaman	Frist	Moseley-Braun
Bond	Glenn	Moynihan
Boxer	Gorton	Murkowski
Breaux	Graham	Murray
Brownback	Grams	Reed
Bryan	Grassley	Reid
Bumpers	Hatch	Robb
Burns	Hollings	Roberts
Byrd	Hutchinson	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hutchison	Roth
Chafee	Inouye	Sarbanes
Cleland	Jeffords	Shelby
Cochran	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Collins	Kempthorne	Snowe
Conrad	Kennedy	Specter
Coverdell	Kerrey	Stevens
Craig	Kerry	Thompson
D'Amato	Landrieu	Thurmond
Daschle	Lautenberg	Torricelli
DeWine	Leahy	Warner
Dodd	Levin	Wellstone
Domenici	Lieberman	Wyden

NAYS—21

Abraham	Gramm	Lott
Allard	Gregg	Mack
Ashcroft	Hagel	Nickles
Coats	Helms	Santorum
Enzi	Inhofe	Sessions
Faircloth	Kohl	Smith (NH)
Feingold	Kyl	Thomas

NOT VOTING—1

Harkin

The bill (H.R. 1871) was passed.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I think most Senators have been made aware of this by now. But that will be the last recorded vote of today. I have discussed having a voice vote on the birth defects legislation with the principal sponsor, Senator BOND. He agrees that there is no need for a recorded vote.

So we will just pass that on a voice vote.

BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Labor Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 419, a bill to prevent birth defects by developing and implementing new prevention and surveillance strategies, and that the Senate now proceed to its immediate consideration under the following limitation:

One substitute amendment in order to be offered by Senator BOND, no other amendments be in order to the bill, and there be 30 minutes equally divided for debate with Senator BOND in control of 15 minutes and the ranking member in control of 15 minutes; and, further, following the disposition of the amendment and the expiration or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on final passage of the bill, as amended, with no intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor so the Senator can begin the time on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 419) to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 371

(Purpose: To provide a complete substitute)

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment providing a complete substitute for S. 419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND], for himself and Mr. CRAIG, proposes an amendment numbered 371.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1997".

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Birth defects are the leading cause of infant mortality, directly responsible for one out of every five infant deaths.

(2) Thousands of the 150,000 infants born with a serious birth defect annually face a lifetime of chronic disability and illness.

(3) Birth defects threaten the lives of infants of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. However, some conditions pose excess risks for certain populations. For example, compared to all infants born in the United States, Hispanic-American infants are more likely to be born with anencephaly spina bifida and other neural tube defects and African-American infants are more likely to be born with sickle-cell anemia.

(4) Birth defects can be caused by exposure to environmental hazards, adverse health conditions during pregnancy, or genetic mutations. Prevention efforts are slowed by lack of information about the number and causes of birth defects. Outbreaks of birth defects may go undetected because surveillance and research efforts are underdeveloped and poorly coordinated.

(5) Public awareness strategies, such as programs using folic acid vitamin supplements to prevent spina bifida and alcohol avoidance programs to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, are essential to prevent the heartache and costs associated with birth defects.

SEC. 2. PROGRAMS REGARDING BIRTH DEFECTS.

Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended to read as follows:

"PROGRAMS REGARDING BIRTH DEFECTS

"SEC. 317C. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall carry out programs—

"(1) to collect, analyze, and make available data on birth defects (in a manner that facilitates compliance with subsection (d)(2)),