

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1261. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Leg.]

YEAS—44

Akaka	Edwards	Lieberman
Baucus	Feingold	Lincoln
Bayh	Feinstein	Mikulski
Biden	Graham	Moynihan
Bingaman	Harkin	Murray
Boxer	Hollings	Reed
Breaux	Inouye	Reid
Bryan	Johnson	Robb
Byrd	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Cleland	Kerry	Sarbanes
Conrad	Kohl	Schumer
Daschle	Landrieu	Torricelli
Dodd	Lautenberg	Wellstone
Dorgan	Leahy	Wyden
Durbin	Levin	

NAYS—54

Abraham	Frist	McConnell
Allard	Gorton	Murkowski
Ashcroft	Gramm	Nickles
Bennett	Grams	Roberts
Bond	Grassley	Roth
Brownback	Gregg	Santorum
Bunning	Hagel	Sessions
Burns	Hatch	Shelby
Campbell	Helms	Smith (NH)
Chafee	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Cochran	Hutchison	Snowe
Collins	Inhofe	Specter
Coverdell	Jeffords	Stevens
Crapo	Kyl	Thomas
DeWine	Lott	Thompson
Domenici	Lugar	Thurmond
Enzi	Mack	Voinovich
Fitzgerald	McCain	Warner

NOT VOTING—2

Craig	Kennedy
-------	---------

The amendment (No. 1261) was rejected.

Mr. SPECTER. I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized for 15 minutes.

ONLY A DRIZZLE IN AN EMPTY BUCKET

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, farmers across America are experiencing hard times. This year, the difficulties of farmers in the northeast and central-Atlantic regions of America have been made worse by a serious lack of rainfall for many, many weeks.

West Virginia's farmers have been especially hard hit by the drought of 1999. No significant rainfall has drenched the scorched earth in my State since May 15. On May 28 the Gov-

ernor of West Virginia declared an Agricultural State of Emergency for West Virginia. At that time, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's State Emergency Board for West Virginia concurred with that decision. Now farmers await a decision by the U.S. Department of Agriculture that would permit much needed federal emergency assistance funds to be dispensed.

We know that here in Washington, in northern Virginia, in the Maryland suburbs, and on the farms nearby, the ground is dry. We can look out our windows and see that where there was once soft green grass growing, there is now a crispy, lifeless carpet of beige. Where there is no grass, cracked, dusty earth remains. I know that my tomato plants have needed extra watering to keep them growing up their stakes, but these are merely part of my backyard small garden that I sow for pleasure. My life will not drastically change if I fail to bring in a tomato crop. That is not true for those whose livelihood depends upon it.

Close your eyes and take a moment to imagine this: you have been looking to the sky for two months praying that the clouds will release a downpour, but no drops fall. Your corn plants that should be up to your shoulder by the fourth of July in a normal season, remain below your knees. They are short stems shriveling slowly on acres and acres of parched land. You have moved your herd to your last pasture. In a short period of time the animals have grazed it over so thoroughly that nothing remains but unpalatable dried-out grass stubble. Your pastures have been grazed over so thoroughly that you are now, during the middle of the summer, when lengthy pasture grasses should blow in the gentle summer breeze, and naturally produced resources should be plentiful, feeding your animals with purchased hay and grain as though it were the desolate season of winter. Even though they are being fed enough to gain weight, the extreme heat is causing them so much stress that they are losing weight. It is impossible to keep them cool and comfortable. The pond on your farm that you use as a source of water for your animals is slowly, slowly becoming a puddle. The stream that runs through the far end of your property first became a muddy trickle, but now is becoming dusty and cracked. When you turn on the tap, try to flush your commode, or bathe, no water flows. You instead must travel every day to a truck parked in the middle of your town to get a couple of gallons of water for you and your family to drink. Even if it rains today or tomorrow, you begin to wonder if it will make any difference to you. You have fallen on hard times before as an Appalachian farmer. Times are often lean in that region. Now, in desperation, you begin to think about what you could do if you were not a family farmer.

This is a very real situation for the farmers in West Virginia and in many areas of the country. The most serious

impact of the drought on farmers is having to purchase feed for their animals. Under normal conditions, there are regions in West Virginia where farmers can grow two or three cuttings of hay in a year. They use this hay to feed their animals.

Last year's cuttings were thin, and this year's have been even thinner, with farmers barely being able to make one cutting! So, as I mentioned earlier, the farmers have begun to purchase feed. This does not bode well for the winter, either, as farmers will have to rely on purchasing expensive hay and grain brought in from outside the drought areas, or face the prospect of selling off their underweight stock for little or no profit or at a loss. Farmers will not be able to afford to keep feeding their animals in this way. West Virginia's farmers fear that they may lose their farms—not just lose their crop, lose their farms—if they must wait until next spring to receive U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance, which is how long it would take for the funds we appropriate to reach them if appropriations are completed on time, as I hope they will be. West Virginia farmers need Federal assistance now.

And the same can be said for Maryland farmers and Virginia farmers and others. Nearly \$2.9 million in Federal emergency aid for energy assistance was released through the Department of Housing and Urban Development Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program on Monday, July 12. Hopefully our farmers who have been having a difficult time keeping their animals cool will be allowed a portion of these funds. However, this is a tiny drop of water in a very empty State bucket where it is estimated that the drought has caused \$50 million in damages.

Regulations allow farmers to become eligible for emergency assistance when they have suffered at least a 30-percent loss of normal production in a single enterprise. In West Virginia, which is not a large State and certainly not a large farming State, according to the most recent statistics available, which were calculated in the middle of June, in all but 3 counties 40 to 50 percent of grass hay production has been lost for this year. It has been lost. In 17 West Virginia counties, 35 percent of corn production has already been lost—already been lost; 40 percent of tobacco has been lost; 50 percent of pasture—50 percent of pasture has been lost. A dozen other counties have experienced at least a 10- to 20-percent loss of corn, tobacco, and tobacco crops; a 30- to 50-percent loss of pasture; and a 20- to 40-percent loss of their truck crops, such as apples and peaches, grown for table consumption. Twenty-three other counties have lost 10- to 30-percent of their alfalfa hay, 40- to 50-percent of their pasture, 10- to 30-percent of their corn, and 25- to 30-percent of other grains.

So I remind those listening and those who are watching through the electronic cameras that these statistics are

from the middle of June. Now, weeks later, after a continued period of scorching temperatures, and arid conditions, it is expected that a statistical report that will be generated later this week will show significant losses occurring in every one of the 55 counties of the great State of West Virginia.

The Federal Government has established mechanisms that are intended to aid Americans in times of crisis. However, when these mechanisms are slow to work, difficulties have a tendency to grow, and greater assistance becomes necessary. As we have often heard, "One stitch, in time, saves nine." In the case of farmers, if nothing is done, and the farmer is forced to abandon the land that he has worked, it is likely that this land will not be reclaimed next year or the year after as a family farm. A farm is not a machine that can be shut down temporarily until someone is ready to work on it again or conditions make it profitable. Farming is, by its very nature, a cyclical industry that every now and then needs the support of the Federal Government.

America can never afford to not help its farmers. Now is the time to help farmers and I speak particularly of West Virginia farmers, of course. If we fail to help them now, they will not be able to survive. Farmers are losing out on every side of their industry. Prices have been, and continue to be, low, the weather is slowing or eliminating crop production, crop insurance payback is so low that it may not even cover costs, and springs and farm ponds are drying up. There are no resources left from which to draw.

Farmers have always been an essential part of the fabric that makes America great. "God made the country but man made the town." And from the country is where America gets much or most of its sustenance—not just America but also the world, many nations in the world.

We cannot forget these farmers. We cannot forget them now like a child forgets a once-treasured security blanket that has become worn and he has now outgrown. Therefore, I am urging that West Virginia be granted Federal disaster area status so that farmers will receive immediate Federal assistance that will enable them to continue to work their land and raise their animals.

I have talked with the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Glickman, and he has indicated that as soon as he is supplied with the sufficient data from the State, adequate and careful and prompt consideration will be given. But I have to say that time waits for no one and the clock waits for no one and the farmers' problems cannot wait. We must have help. We need it and the sooner the better.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate and I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 6 minutes as in morning business.

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

RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to talk about the events that have weighed so heavily on all of us. Whether one knows Senator KENNEDY well or casually through contact in the Senate, one cannot but have respect and admiration for the contribution the Kennedy family has made to our public well-being for so many years. That is why I am sure others share the same feeling of grief as I do, and others who know the Kennedy family well, at the loss of John F. Kennedy, Jr.

When the news came—and I was on my way to Martha's Vineyard—that the young Mr. Kennedy's airplane was missing, we all, I am sure, had the same reaction—let's pray that it is not true, that there is some information that will come out that will prove to be worry-unfounded. Unfortunately, our worst fears were realized. This day, apparently, the discovery has been made that confirms the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr., 38 years of age.

One of the remarkable things we saw in this young man was the way he treated his position in life, coming from a famous family, with all of the celebrity status one could imagine, from a family that has seen tragedy after tragedy after tragedy.

I had an opportunity, a year ago Christmas week, to sit with Michael Kennedy and his young sons on the morning of the day he perished on the ski slopes below. We actually skied together for a while in the morning. I visited with his brother that night to see if I could be of any help to the family in managing the affairs they had to put in order. It was very sad.

When John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s life was just really beginning to flourish, it is hard to understand what it was that took this young man so full of life. The imagery of John F. Kennedy, Jr., was the same imagery that we had, in a way, of John F. Kennedy, Sr., President of the United States—attractive, intelligent, concerned about the well-being of our country, trying always to lift the opportunity and the spirits of those who in America depended so much on government and individual leadership. John F. Kennedy, Jr., evoked the same imagery—of this attractive young man, of this bright, intelligent, caring person, eschewing the

spotlight whenever he could, trying to become part of the society in which we all live.

His early death will prevent what all of us believe was so much talent and so much future. Any of us who have worked with TED KENNEDY—and I have now for 16 years—only gains respect the longer we know Senator KENNEDY. His accomplishments are legendary, but his commitment to people—rich, poor, those who have needed help—is without reservation. We have seen an energized Senator KENNEDY over at his desk, stating the causes and cases he is concerned about. And to see them, the whole Kennedy family, put into the grief can only be imagined by those who have their family intact without the trail of misfortune that has followed the Kennedy family.

So I just came in, for the RECORD, to make some comments to register my feelings, as I know so many others have, of grief for the families of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, and his sister-in-law, the Kennedys and the Bessetts.

We hope his life will inspire us to give whatever we can by way of service to our country, to recognize the advantages we have as citizens of the United States, not to be discouraged by this untimely tragedy but, rather, to be motivated to try to do better.

Mr. President, I hope we will reserve appropriate time, collectively, to acknowledge our share of feelings for the Kennedy family and the grief they are going through.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000—Continued

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Missouri, Mr. ASHCROFT, be made an original cosponsor of the Kyl amendment.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

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. DOMENICI. 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. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I note the presence on the floor of my colleague, Senator BINGAMAN. I will shortly send an amendment to the desk on