

heavy rainfall or snow melt. Many Iowans see this as just good common sense.

Increased spring water releases could easily cause the wild Missouri, and its many tributaries, to once again flood low-lying areas, including farmland and communities. Floods would cause a severe economic hardship on those affected. Farmers would be unable to plant crops, and home and business owners would experience property damage. Economic activity in the flood areas would decrease or cease during and immediately after the flooding, causing a loss of income for those impacted.

Many Americans forget what it was like to live along the Missouri prior to the construction of the dams. They forgot that the Missouri was truly wild. They forgot what it was like not to be able to safely plant your crops, grow them with some security that there would not be summer floods, and then be able to harvest them safely. They forgot what it was like to lose all or part of a crop. That meant the loss of your investment in time, labor, seed and other inputs. And that meant no income coming in after the harvest.

The folks in town were hurt, too. Houses and businesses were swept away. Basements were flooded with water, muck and other debris. Sometimes the water level went higher than that to the first floor, or even higher. Furniture and family keepsakes were destroyed. Businesses lost inventories. They could not serve their customers if the store was closed. Public drinking water system suffered damage, as did sewer systems. The economic devastation was high. The quality of life suffered. Increased spring water releases would also cause less water to be released during the summer months. The lower river levels would halt river barge transportation. Barges are a key part of the agricultural transportation system. Loss of barge traffic would deliver the western part of America's great grain belt into the monopolistic hands of the rail roads. Iowa farmers have clearly told me that this is unacceptable.

Loss of the use of barges to transport agricultural commodities will drive up farm transportation prices. That in turn will drive up the overall price of our agricultural goods that must compete in the international marketplace. This is unfair to our hardworking farmers, as it puts them in jeopardy of losing markets.

While the farm crops travel downriver to reach markets, the loss of barge traffic would also affect bulk commodities and other items that travel up-river to Iowa. They include fertilizer for farm use, salt for highways in winter, steel for processing plants, and the like. The potential for moving cement for construction purposes would also be lost with lower summer water levels. I have talked to many Iowans who live along the Missouri River. They have told me of the

devastation left from past floods. That devastation was more than economic. It produced heartache and broken dreams. Though Iowans are a strong people, the past floods have left their scars on individuals and in community life. Those Iowans have joined together on a nonpartisan basis to say, "No more floods!" That is the message for the President to consider as he deliberates on the energy and water appropriations bill. The President is in a powerful position to either do good or to inflict harm. It is almost as if he were actually God, able to exercise the power to flood or not to flood. That is how powerful he is on this issue. It is an awesome power that I hope that he uses wisely. It is my hope that he will decide to prevent flooding. It is my hope that he will listen to our farmers and not make their jobs more difficult than they already are. It is my hope that he will sign this bill.

Mr. President, let the people live in their homes, work in their businesses and farm their farms in safety.

Clearly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has violated Federal law in its ordering of the Corps of Engineers to begin a spring flood. It ignored the process set forth in the Endangered Species Act. These processes are there to protect everyone, and they were not followed. It has also based much of its opinion on speculation, not facts. The President must depend upon facts and protect due process. H.R. 4733 is good legislation which should be signed into law. It does not deserve a veto. Mr. President, please sign this important legislation.

President Clinton, one time, in private conversation with me, you told me how you understood the problems of the farmers more than most Presidents ever did because you had studied them so much.

Mr. President, you have been in the White House 8 years. I do not know how long it has been since you have visited a supermarket. But remember, food grows on farms, it does not grow in supermarkets. You have an opportunity here to help the farmers in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri to be able to put their crops in in the spring, to be able to take those crops out in the fall, to be able to ship the harvest down the river when it is most needed, so that the farmers are not the captives of a monopolistic railroad if the barge traffic isn't there for competition.

So, Mr. President, show us that you do, in fact, understand the problems of the farmers and sign this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know Members are waiting to determine whether or not we are going to have a vote today. The majority leader has indicated we likely will have one. From the minority's perspective, we badly want to move to the Transportation appropriations bill which, as we speak, the House is discussing.

But we have a number of Members who are rightfully unwilling to do that until we get the legislation and are able to look at the conference report, which we don't now have. I hope we can start talking about the conference report, with the hope of getting the actual document as soon as possible so that Senators can look at it.

I know one Senator indicated he would like to be able to have a day to look at the conference report. I will check with this Senator and others to see if that can be expedited, if they have an opportunity to review the conference report.

In short, the minority is saying that we are ready to move forward and we are willing, in the late days of the session, to expedite things as much as we can, but there are certain basic things we need to read, such as a bill or a conference report, before we vote on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my sad duty to report to the Senate and to the Congress that I learned a few moments ago that one of the greatest servants of the American people in the Congress in the 20th century passed away last night.

Sidney Yates was a Congressman from the city of Chicago who was elected in 1948 and served until 1999, with only 2 years that he wasn't in service. His was an amazing story. I guess it was a great story of America. His mother and father were Russian immigrants who came to this country in the beginning of the last century. He grew up in the city of Chicago and went to law school. Before that, he distinguished himself, as hard as it may be to understand today, in athletics. He was a semi-pro basketball player and was a member of a Big Ten basketball team when he was a student at the University of Chicago. His semi-pro basketball team was called the Lifschultz Fast Freighters. I used to joke with him about this trucking company and the fact that he was the basketball star for them in the city of Chicago.

On an impulse, in 1948, he decided to run for Congress. It didn't look like a very good year. Tom Dewey was supposed to be elected President, and this young man who had never run for office before was going to try to be elected to the House of Representatives. People didn't give him much of a chance, and his style of campaigning was in sharp contrast with what we do today. I asked him how he ran for office in 1948. He said he had a buddy who

played a guitar and they went from one ward meeting to the next singing ethnic folk songs for the groups there. If there was a German group, he sang in German. If it was a group of his fellow Jewish Americans, he sang something they would find appealing.

There was a young lady watching that campaign by the name of Mary Bain. She had volunteered to work on the Truman campaign. She saw this young man in 1948 wandering around Chicago running for Congress and, frankly, took pity on him and said, "I am going to try to help this fellow." To everyone's surprise, he won in 1948 and came to the House of Representatives; he began a long term of service there. His term of service included many years on the House Appropriations Committee. He was a stalwart, a fighter, a person of real value and principle.

In 1962, Sid Yates was persuaded to leave the House of Representatives and run for the Senate. He ran against Everett M. Dirksen—no small task even in 1962. He lost that race, which was the only loss in his political life. In 1964, he returned to the House of Representatives and once again took up service on the House Appropriations Committee.

I was elected many years later, in 1982, and a couple years after that began to serve on that same Appropriations Committee. Probably the best fortune I had as a Member of Congress was when I decided to take a chair next to Sid Yates in the Appropriations Committee and sit next to this great man for more than a decade. I learned so much and had such a great time in that experience because of who Sid Yates was and what he stood for.

When you look back at Sid's career, there were several things that really made a difference to him, meant a lot to him, and made a difference in this country. He had a passionate commitment to the arts. You know, that gets to be controversial from time to time. The National Endowment for the Arts is occasionally a whipping boy here on Capitol Hill. But Sid Yates never faltered. He believed in the arts. He was a man of the arts. I used to love to listen to him quote the classics from memory. His knowledge of art and music was absolutely legendary.

When Sid retired from the House of Representatives, the tributes came pouring in, but particularly from people around the United States who understood that Sid Yates stood up and defended the arts in America when nobody else would. My daughter is an art student at the Art Institute of Chicago. She knew of Sid Yates. She never met him personally, but she knew what he stood for. He was always there fighting for the National Endowment for the Arts and for arts in America.

As chairman of the Interior Subcommittee of Appropriations, he also had the responsibility to protect America's national parks and many of our national treasures. He protected them with a vengeance. I can recall some of

the titanic struggles in the Appropriations Committee when people would want to exploit America's national treasures. They didn't have a chance when they fought Sid Yates.

There were so many other areas where he worked so hard. I recall the creation of the Holocaust Museum. Sid was devoted to the nation of Israel. So many people across America looked to him, and so many Members of Congress looked to him for guidance on important issues involving the Middle East. When he was asked to be part of the creation of the Holocaust Museum, you just knew it would be a success, as it has been here in Washington, DC. He was one of the founding members on the board of directors there and a person absolutely revered for his commitment in that regard.

Through it all, too, he was committed to the rights and freedoms of Americans. I know it wasn't always popular, but you could count on him to stand up, in good times and in bad, for the freedoms that were guaranteed under the Bill of Rights. Sid Yates was a great man, and he had a great partner in life in his wife Addie, who was always by his side during his public service.

I once asked him what his greatest achievement was in the Congress, and I was surprised that he said: Well, you would not think of it when you think of me as a Democrat, but back in the 1950s, the atomic submarine program was being debated in America, and a fellow by the name of Hyman Rickover was being criticized on Capitol Hill. I came to his defense because I thought he was a good man and had a good program. I am proudest of that moment.

I never would have guessed that, but that was just part of Sid's career. For over 50 years, Sid Yates was fighting for America, fighting for Chicago. He left his mark on the Chicago shoreline and the museums and institutions of that great city. But most of all, he left his mark in our hearts—those of us who had the good fortune of serving with him, learning from him, and standing today in tribute to his great memory.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be extended for 10 minutes.

Mr. MCCAIN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

SID YATES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to say, before my friend from Illinois leaves the floor, that I had the pleasure of serving with Sid Yates. I served with him in the House, of course, but didn't know him very well in that large body. I came to know him better after coming to the Senate and being a member of the Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations while he was chairman of that committee on the House side.

We worked very closely together. Everything the Senator from Illinois has said is absolutely true about Sid Yates. He was a distinguished man, and a distinguished looking man. When he left the House, he was almost 90 years old; handsome; stood tall; never faltered a word of his speech.

Being from the western part of the United States, I will never forget Sid Yates. He stood for the West. He loved the wilderness, and he helped us protect the pristine wilderness of Nevada and other places in the West. Native Americans never had a better friend in the Congress than Sid Yates.

I didn't know Sid Yates as well as my friend from Illinois, but I have great respect and admiration for Sid Yates, and I will never forget him.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I thank the Senator from Nevada for his comments. I think each one of us who served with Sid Yates on either side of the aisle will never forget him. When his retirement came about, Congressman RALPH REGULA, a Republican from Ohio, never missed a retirement event for Sid Yates. I think it showed that he reached across the aisle and established friendships and alliances that were not just good for Congress but were good for America. He was a wonderful man. I am blessed to have known him, to have served with him, and perhaps to have learned a few lessons at his side.

I think his legacy will be his efforts for education, for defense of the arts, for defense of the environment, and for the rights of Americans.

Our condolences go to Addie and his family. We wish them strength in this time of loss and tell them we stand by their side.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further morning business?

Morning business is closed.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, what is the business before the Senate?

NATIONAL ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2000—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 2557, a bill to protect the energy security of the United States and decrease America's dependency on foreign oil sources to 50 percent by the Year 2010 by enhancing the use of renewable energy resources, conserving energy resources, improving energy efficiencies, and increasing domestic energy supplies, mitigating the effect of increases in energy prices on the American consumer, including the poor and the elderly, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.