money. I would remind my colleagues that it is thoroughly disingenuous to rise today to demand clean accounting practices by the private sector, while failing to ensure even basic general accounting standards for the federal government.

In closing, consider the thoughts of George Will on capitalism and ethics. Mr. Will wrote that a properly functioning free-market system is ''a complex creation of laws and mores that guarantee, among much else, transparency, meaning a sufficient stream, a torrent, really, of reliable information about the condition and conduct of corporations. By casting a cool eye on Enron's debris and those who made it, government can strengthen an economic system that depends on it.''

I am confident that, despite these recent abuses of the public's trust, our economy and our system remain fundamentally sound and strong. The vast majority of businesspeople respect legal norms and live by them. We will make our free enterprise system better for them, and for all Americans, by penalizing those who did wrong and repairing creaky enforcement mechanisms. The President has acted. The House has acted. Now it is time for the Senate to act, to return trust, accountability and transparency to our financial institutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The Senator from Nevada.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for 10 minutes each.

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

DROUGHT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the effects of a natural disaster that lingers across much of the west, drought. There is not a segment of the New Mexico population that will not be touched, in some form or fashion, by drought this year.

People in other parts of the country have turned on their television sets over the past few weeks and have seen the blazes of catastrophic wildfires that are again devastating the western United States. This may be the only effect of the drought that many are aware of. Let me tell you, the devastation is even more profound.

Ranchers are being forced to sell off livestock because they can't find enough water for them and can't afford the significant feed costs. Other agricultural businesses are being forced to shut their doors because the agriculture sector as a whole is hurting.

Most of the National Forests in New Mexico are closed to the public. This has added to a decrease in tourism. Let me mention a couple of specific examples. First of all, there is a small railroad, the historic Cumbres and Toltec Railroad, that takes people through a very beautiful part of the State. The railroad contributes to the tourism and economic stability of a very poor part of the State. That railroad has had to close because it runs through National Forest system lands and the fear that the railroad might spark and start a wildfire is a threat to imminent to risk. A second example is the river rafting operations that have been forced to cease operations because of the drought conditions and lack of river flows.

Municipal and private wells are running dry. In the City of Santa Fe, emergency wells for municipal water use are needed because Santa Fe's water storage is at 18 percent capacity, the spring run off is only at 2 percent, and current wells are pumping 24 hours a day. The City of Santa Fe is at a Stage 3 water shortage emergency, which allows outdoor watering once a week, but the City Council is considering going to Stage 4, which would eliminate all outdoor watering. To put this in perspective, the last substantial rain for the area was in late January.

A recent article in the New York Times accurately depicts the dire situation. It talks about how gardening in a desert is challenging, especially during a drought and at a time of mandatory water restrictions. The article went on to talk about people spray painting plastic flowers and artificial turf, while also using freeze dried plants to beautify porches and other areas.

Santa Fe is only one of the numerous municipalities that have imposed restrictions on water use. The article also notes that these restrictions are enforced by ''water police'' and that violators face steep fines ranging from $20 for a first offense to $200 for a fourth offense and stay at $200 for each repeat violation.

A second article appearing in the Albuquerque Journal, referenced a ''drought reduction'' cattle sale. The sale took place last week on the edge of the Navajo reservation. While most livestock sales generally take place on the reservation during September and October, this year emergency sales are being held almost every weekend. Hundreds of cattle, horses and sheep have already died as a result of the severe drought conditions.

The article goes on to describe the severity of the conditions. ''Stock ponds have gone dry, fish have died in evaporating lakes, and grass has disappeared. Sand blows across reservation roads, and the stiff bodies of dead cattle litter the land.''

The seriousness of the water situation in New Mexico becomes more acute every single day. I reiterate that every single New Mexican will feel the impact of this drought in one way or another—whether they are selling off the essence of their livelihood—livestock, or losing daily revenues in other small business, whether they are actually having to refrain from watering their own lawns and washing their cars to looking for alternative recreational opportunities this summer, the drought and its devastation is very real.

There is a need out west and I stand ready to do what I can. It will be a monumental and expensive challenge, but one we cannot avoid. I ask unanimous consent that the two articles referenced in my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, July 8, 2002]

IN SANTA FE, IT'S TIME TO PAINT THE PLANTS

Gardening in a desert is challenging. Gardening in a desert in a drought is tough. Gardening in a desert in a drought at a time of mandatory water restrictions is ridiculous.

It's enough to make a hard-core gardener break out the spray paint and feather dusters. Why? To brighten the artificial turf and plastic flowers, of course, and to keep the cobwebs off the freeze-dried evergreens.

''Isn't this a hoot?'' said Kay Hendricks, a 70-year-old interior designer who cheerfully pointed out a now-dead wisteria vine as she stuffed a plastic sprig of purple lavender into a pot of freshly painted silk red flowers. ''A little red paint will make any flower a geranium.''

In a whirlwind tour of her home, Ms. Hendricks showed off a bouquet of what may have once been silk purple zinnias, now painted red to match an American flag hanging on her garage; a potted four-foot-tall plastic cactus with fake thorns; and English ivy with fake dewdrops draped from another pot.

With drought gripping several Western states this summer, Santa Fe is one of a number of municipalities that have instituted mandatory restrictions on lawn watering, car washing and other uses of water. The restrictions are enforced by ''water police,'' who can impose steep fines and even decrease water flows to scofflaws' homes. Phone lines have been set up so people can report wasteful neighbors to city officials.

Fines for illegal watering here start at $20 and go up to $200 after the fourth offense, and then stay at $200 for each repeated violation.

''There is a guilt to watering things,'' said Mary Thomas, manager of the American Country Collection furniture store in downtown Santa Fe. She used to plant colorful annuals in pots outside her store each spring, but now she has 18 freeze-dried miniature evergreens instead.

''They don't have to be watered and we can paint them if they lose their color,'' she said. Ms. Thomas said her parents liked the freeze-dried trees so much that they bought some for their own patio.

The city is at a Stage 3 water shortage emergency, which allows outdoor watering once a week, but the City Council is considering going to Stage 4, which would eliminate all outdoor watering. Reservoirs that the city relies on for water are at 23 percent of normal capacity, and the last substantial rain was in late January, said Chandra Marsh, a water conservation educator and compliance specialist with the City of Santa Fe Water Department.

Not every plant here is fake or dead. Established low-water perennials are surviving, and hollyhocks and lilies can be seen blooming here and there. But, Ms. Marsh said, it is difficult to establish many plants without regular watering.

It seems as if everyone in this town is either adding a few silk and plastic plants to their yards, or knows someone who is doing

so while letting the grass die in the baking dry heat.

Mary Branham, 71, has switched from pots with nearly 200 red geraniums to all silk and plastic plants and flowers this year. ''It seemed irresponsible even when we can water once a week,'' she said. Ms. Branham's terra cotta pots now have blue hydrangeas, ornamental grasses, orange marigolds and pink and purple lilacs ''planted'' in the soil.

She said she now dusts her flowers twice a week.

[From the Albuquerque Journal, July 7, 2002]

IT'S LIKE THE SAHARA

(By Leslie Linthicum)

Life-draining drought drives ranchers on Navajo reservation to sell off gaunt livestock.

About 200 people filled the stands of the Naschitti Livestock Association arena on the eastern edge of the Navajo reservation last week, waiting for the start of what was being billed as a ''drought reduction'' cattle sale.

Livestock auctions usually take place on the reservation in September and October, when sheep and cattle are fat.

But this is a year when the reservation is baking in one of the worst droughts anyone can remember, and hundreds of cattle, horses and sheep have already died. This year, emergency sales have been cropping up almost every weekend.

In a place where harmony is prized and people live close to the land, hot afternoon winds carry fear and uneasiness as the landscape becomes ever drier and prayers for rainfall go unanswered. Stock ponds have gone dry, fish have died in evaporating lakes, and grass has disappeared. Sand blows across reservation roads, and the stiff bodies of dead cattle liter the land.

''It's bad, really bad,'' said John Blueeyes, director of the tribe's agriculture department. ''Mother Nature's not too nice to us lately.''

Sagebrush turns black.

Livestock are not the only victims of the lingering drought.

Last week an elk cow wandered into The Gap, a community on the edge of the Grand Canyon, desperate for water.

She jumped a fence and sought relief in a sewage lagoon, where she died and lay floating three days later.

Many Farms Lake on the Arizona side of the reservation usually spreads across about 1,500 acres, shimmering in the summer sun and inviting fishermen to try their luck catching bass and catfish.

With no water flowing in the creeks and washes that feed it, the lake has gone completely dry. It is now a 2½-square-mile, crackly graveyard for tens of thousands of fish.

At the base of Gray Mountain just east of the Grand Canyon, usually hardy sagebrush has turned black.

Elsewhere, sand blows across highways in a rippling reminder that rain is a distant memory. The last rain most people can remember was last October.

Last week on the two-lane highway that links Canyon de Chelly to Monument Valley a road that sees plenty of tourists' cars during the summer a front-end loader scooped buckets of sand into dump trucks bound for a construction site at a nearby community.

Chancellor Damon, a heavy equipment contractor from Window Rock, was doing the work under hire by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to keep the road safe from sand dunes that had been encroaching on the roadway since the spring.

''It's like the Sahara,'' Damon said. ''It's just been windy, hot and dry.''

Damon is a lifelong resident of the Navajo reservation and is accustomed to huge winter snows in the mountains that hug the New Mexico-Arizona border. Usually, a three-wheeler is needed to make it through the snow. This year, passenger cars had no trouble.

''Almost no snow. No rain whatsoever, It's bad,'' Damon said.

Hardship bargains

Elderly women in velveteen blouses, ranchers in Wranglers and toddlers in pint-sized straw hats helped to fill the stands during a 100-degree afternoon at the livestock auction while a handful of Anglo ranchers from out of state lined the top row.

The Navajos, out of water and feed, had come to sell.

The cattlemen, fortunate to have rain and pasture grass in Nebraska and Louisiana, were looking for some hardship bargains.

First, the invocation in Dine, the native language of the Navajo: ''Please give us rain. Please give us moisture. Let it be like it used to be grass green and high and rain every day.''

As the auction rolled on under a sizzling sun, stunted calves and skinny cows were paraded in and sold.

Some were to be fattened up in greener pastures; others were bound directly for the slaughterhouse. Prices were moderate and, considering that the cost of hay to continue feeding the cows hovers between $6 and $11 a bale on the reservation the auction satisfied both the buyers and the sellers.

The Becenti family from Naschitti had brought 30 calves and cows to the auction. Three weeks ago they sold another group of 30 cattle and sheep at an auction in Aztec.

Ilene Becenti is reducing her herds by about 50 percent, banking the money from the sales and hoping to buy more animals once rains come.

Like the rest of the animals on sale at Naschitti, Becenti's animals are healthy; they are just much lighter than they should be at this time, and it is costing more to feed them as hay prices rise.

''There's no grass. It's completely dry,'' said Patricia Arviso, Becenti's niece and one of the many family members who look after the animals.

''When I was growing up,'' Arviso said, ''it never looked like this.''

Becenti is not in the ranching business to make money, and she did not consider only economics when she made the decision to sell.

''There's no rain, no grass. We don't want these animals to suffer,'' she said.

She will not, under the advice of some of the tribe's range management specialists, sell all of her animals and wait out the duration of this drought with no livestock.

''It makes you feel good if you have livestock around your house. It's how we were raised,'' Becenti said. ''If you look outside your house and you don't see cows and sheep and goats and horses, it doesn't feel right. It's life to us.''

Too many animals.

About 700 cattle and horses were sold at Naschitti, less than one-fifth of what the tribe's range management specialists and tribal president had been hoping for.

''We want people to sell,'' said Blueeyes, of the tribe's agriculture department.

Rather than use hay to feed cows that are old, sick or not reproducing, the agriculture department wants owners to thin their herds dramatically, keeping only young and healthy animals.

The drought has brought into sharper focus an issue that has troubled natural resource managers for a century: The Navajo reservation, with so much land and so little vegetation, is being eaten away by too many animals.

The reservation is immense some 25,000 square miles spread over northwestern New Mexico, northeastern Arizona and southeastern Utah. Range surveys have found large portions where overgrazing and drought have combined to kill grass. Without grass anchoring the soil, it blows away.

As early as 1930, a federal survey described the Navajo range as ''deteriorating rather steadily and more rapidly each year.'' In 1933, tribal lawmakers approved a livestock reduction plan that, carried out over one traumatic decade, reduced the livestock on Navajo lands from 800,000 head to about 460,000.

Estimates of the number of sheep, cattle, goats and horses on the reservation today vary between 100,000 and 200,000.

They have symbolism that goes beyond their ability to provide meat and transportation. Sheep and goats are an integral part of family and ceremonial life; cattle are vital to the Indian cowboy tradition; and Navajo elders believe horses bring rain.

Last week Navajo President Kelsey Bagaye issued a statement to Navajos, imploring them to sell some of their animals.

''We need to help our Mother Earth recover so that it may yield and sustain green pastures again in the future when moisture comes to our land,'' Begaye said.

''Owning livestock,'' he said, ''is more a privilege and gift than a right.''

Grazing reforms have been suggested for years and never enacted. Blueeyes expects Navajos will haul water and buy hay for their animals and wait for rain to make things better, but will not be open to discussions of limiting their herds so the land can heal.

''It is the Navajo sacred cow,'' said Blueeyes. ''Nobody wants to talk about it.''

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 19, 2000 in Cambridge, MA. A Muslim student, who was wearing a praying cap, was returning to his dorm from Islamic prayer when two white men with shaved heads attacked him. The men grabbed the student from behind and punched and kicked him. One of the perpetrators used a racial epithet during the beating. The victim required medical attention and received stitches for a wound to his head.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.