

I have had occasion to go underground. I must say it is an eerie, desolate feeling to take one of those elevators down about 20 stories and then hunch over, in the miner's gear with a little light on your cap, and lean backwards in a rail car which moves several miles underground because you can't sit up straight, there isn't sufficient room. I have marveled at the courage and the tenacity of the miners who go into those deep mines, day after day after day, risking life and limb.

There was a time not too long ago when a thousand miners a year were killed there. Fortunately, with mine safety, that situation has improved materially, but it is still a very risky line of work.

I got through today to Mr. Ron Hileman who lives in Gray, PA, and talked to him about his experiences. As you might imagine, he is a real hero. When I said to Mr. Hileman that he was a hero, he dissented, but that is the way heroes are. They do not acknowledge being heroes.

We talked about being in that enclosed area with 60 million gallons of water pouring in. A miner of 27 years with a wife and two children, of course, the joy in the Hileman family was overwhelming. Mr. Hileman expressed his own very deep gratitude.

I asked him what had happened. I asked him if the maps might have foretold the problem.

He said no because the maps did the best they could. But when other miners came in adjacent, as Mr. Hileman put it, some of the miners would snatch a little extra coal—go a little extra distance and go beyond the line which they had and into another area. Then, when the miners went down there last week, they ran into an old mine shaft. The old mine shaft had caused the enormous problem with the flooding.

I want to pay tribute to Pennsylvania's Governor, Mark Schweiker, an international figure, a hero in his own right—and for good cause—on the job, persevering, leading Federal, State, and local officials, meeting with the families. I talked to him over the weekend and he was there, on the job, and certainly deserves the commendation, not only of Pennsylvania but the commendation of the Nation, the commendation of the world.

This accident points up the need for greater concern for miners' safety as they are performing very important work, providing energy, providing coal, providing a resource in our effort to try to free ourselves from the dominance of OPEC oil. With progress in clean coal technology, as I have said on this floor on many occasions, the coal industry across America, Pennsylvania, West Virginia to Wyoming and beyond, could provide that alternative source of energy.

When I look over what we have done on the subcommittee for the Department of Labor appropriations going back to September of 1981, there were efforts to reduce the mine surface in-

spections from twice a year to once a year. Many of us resisted, and that was stopped.

We had a mining hearing August 1991 where there were operators who were tampering with coal mine dust devices. Then there have been efforts made to cut the Mine Safety and Health Administration repeatedly.

This body, the U.S. Senate, and Senator HARKIN, as ranking member in 1995 when I took over the chairmanship, and now Senator HARKIN as chairman, on a bipartisan approach has maintained the safety funding so that where there have been efforts to cut, we have resisted. We maintain the black lung clinics.

I believe that this is a good day for the United States and the U.S. Senate to pay tribute to the coal miners of America for what they are doing for the Nation by providing needed energy for domestic purposes and also for national security.

Especially thanks for the rescue of the nine mine workers; and we pay tribute to those men and their families and to the heroic rescuers led by Governor Schweiker that brought them to safety.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, how much time remains on our side?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Seven minutes 43 seconds remaining.

Mr. ENZI. Thank you. I have a more extensive speech, but I will limit my remarks so that the Senator from North Dakota will have his full time.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I just returned from a normal weekend. On Fridays, my wife and I usually go to Wyoming, and we come back on Sunday night, which actually turns out to be Monday morning by the time we make the trip. This time I was able to concentrate a little bit of time in the area just outside Yellowstone Park, on the east side of Yellowstone Park between Cody and the park. I was there last year.

There was a fire inside Yellowstone Park. I wanted to see how the new fire plan was working. I got a very extensive and excellent tour. It was educational, but it pointed out some problems that need to be taken care of in the West.

Of course, those problems wouldn't be quite as extensive except for the drought we are having. This is the third year of the drought in Wyoming. One of our lakes in the northern part of the State that drains up into Montana is dropping almost 2 feet a week. It is down 125 feet from its normal level. Most lakes in the Nation would be dry if they were down 125 feet. This one still has some water, but it doesn't have boating anymore. That not only affects recreation in the area; it affects

the communities in the area because they do not get the revenues they would normally get from tourism and visitors.

Ranchers are having to sell off their herds. They don't have any grazing because of the drought. This is the third year they have had to diminish their herds. Most of them are completely wiped out from that aspect.

We have another little problem. That is the way the Tax Code is arranged. The Tax Code says if you have to do an emergency sale and you have some revenue in the next 2 years you can apply that so you don't have to pay taxes. They have been wiped out with the herds, and they are going to have to pay taxes because there is no revenue to take it against.

There are many peripheral issues that happen with the drought.

We need to concentrate in this body on fire prevention in our forests. This is what some of the forests look like right now—just tremendous blazes. You can see the way the tinder lays up in layers. It forms a chimney, and it goes to the top of really big trees. When it gets to the top of the trees, the fire itself creates a wind. The wind will sway the trees, and the trees throw the crown a half mile away to start another fire. Once a fire starts, it can be very extensive.

We have a new plan that says put it out as soon as you can. That is helping tremendously. We used to let it burn. We tried to do some of what they call natural foresting. When natural foresting was actually natural foresting, there weren't people inhabiting those areas.

In this particular area near Yellowstone, there is a huge pine needle forest because of pine bores. They bore into the trees when they are young. They eat a circle around the tree, and it kills the tree. Then the tree looks rusty. The next year and the year after, all the needles are gone, and it is just a standing dead pine tree.

Of course, the best time for it to burn is when it is all rusty. When the needles are dried out and they burn, they form a chimney effect, going up to the top of the tree. That is how huge parts of the forests are between Yellowstone Park and Cody, WY, right now.

Those trees need to be taken out. If they are not taken out, a Boy Scout camp, 12 lodges, and 68 homes will go up in smoke.

Last year, when there was a fire in the park, they pointed out the pine needle forest and the need to get those trees taken out. I have been working on that since then. We haven't been able to get it done. There are a few very easy court actions that can prohibit that sort of thing from happening. But it is absolutely essential.

Those lodges have post-evacuation plans. As the fire starts, they have to call all their guests in and explain how they are going to be able to get out of this valley to keep from being trapped by the fires, fires such as these where

you can see the animals are having a little bit of concern about how they could be trapped by the fire.

That cuts into the tourism. People don't go home and tell about the great experience they had. They go home and tell about the extreme pressure they were under with fires. Consequently, they spread the advertising in a very negative way. We want it to be in a positive way.

There are things that can be done and that should be done. I will be taking some more time to explain what they are and steps that are being taken by the Forest Service at the moment. But more extensive steps need to be taken.

Senator DASCHLE has an amendment on a supplemental spending bill to take care of some of the problems bordering Wyoming in the Black Hills. It very explicitly allows them to go in and cut down those trees, which will reduce the amount of tinder. There are some ways that we can do that.

I introduced a bill, S. 2811, the Emergency Forest Rescue Act of 2002. That gives the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior the ability to recognize emergency conditions that exist in the forests and allows the land managers to act to protect them from the extreme threat of fire, specifically those suffering from drought and high tree mortality. Those two circumstances have to be present. It also requires the approval of the Council on Environmental Quality.

I have some protections built in and some ability to move forward quickly so we don't burn up huge valleys and extend the fire into Yellowstone Park, which is one of our great natural treasures. In fact, all of our forests should be national treasures. Present conditions do not make them as usable as they could be or as pretty as they could be.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, how much time remains?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 20 minutes under the order.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Alaska would like to use the last 5 minutes. I ask unanimous consent that he be recognized for the final 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, in the coming days I assume there will be a lot of suspender-snapping, back-thumping, chortling, and crowing about the

new fast track trade agreement that was announced in the weekend press.

There was a conference in the House and Senate. They came out with a new trade agreement. The moniker is trade promotion authority. It is a fancy way of saying fast-track trade authority for President Bush.

I didn't support fast track trade authority for President Clinton, and I don't support it for President Bush. This is not a victory for our country.

I assume, this week, because the conference report has passed the House, it will come to the Senate. We will have speeches by people wearing dark suits who talk about how wonderful this is for our country, what a wonderful thing it is that we now have fast-track trade authority. So some of our trade negotiators can go overseas somewhere, go into a room, close the door, lock it, keep the public out, and negotiate in secret a new trade agreement, and then come back to the Congress and say: Here it is. Take it or leave it. No amendments. Up or down. No changes.

The people who apparently believe in this do not believe in the first law of holes; that is, when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. They believe, if you find yourself in a hole, keep digging, look for more shovels.

Let me talk for a moment about where we are with our trade deficits. This chart shows the record trade deficits we have seen over the past decade. When the year 2002 figures are posted, they will be way off the chart up here: about a \$480 billion trade deficit in goods. That is money we owe to others, money we owe to people outside this country. They will have a future claim on America's income. This is very serious for our country. Yet we have people walking around here saying: We just need to do more of the same.

One of the more recent trade agreements we did was NAFTA. They promised us hundreds of thousands of new jobs, if we melded the economies of the United States and Mexico, for trade purposes. I have a chart that shows what has happened as a result of NAFTA: 700,000 jobs lost.

Incidentally, prior to NAFTA, we had a very small trade surplus with Mexico. After NAFTA, we turned that small surplus into a huge deficit. We had a modest trade deficit with Canada. It turned into a very large deficit. So we have this very large trade deficit now with Canada and Mexico, and people say: Gosh, that is wonderful; isn't it? No, it is not wonderful. It is moving in the wrong direction.

It is not that I don't believe in the global economy and the ability of nations and businesses to exchange goods and services back and forth. I studied economics, taught economics for a while, and understand the doctrine of comparative advantage: Doing that which you do best, and trading with others who do what they do best. All of that makes sense to me.

But I also think the rules have to be fair, and open markets have to be

opened. The rules have to be transparent and fair. And they are not.

If I might just give some examples of these rules and the problems with the rules.

I use, often, the example of automobile trade with Korea. Korea is a good friend of the United States. South Korea has been an ally of ours for some long while. We have a trading relationship with Korea. But let me show you what has happened between the United States and Korea in one area of trade.

Last year, the Koreans shipped 618,000 cars into the United States—Hyundais, Daewoos—Korean cars. So 618,000 Korean cars came here from Korea, and we were able to ship Korea 2,800 cars; in other words, 217 to 1. Is it because our cars are bad cars? No, that is not it. It is because if you try to ship a Ford Mustang to Korea, they will throw up all kinds of trade barriers. They just do not want United States cars shipped to Korea. They want only for Korean cars to access the American marketplace.

Is that fair? No, it is not fair. Does anybody in this country have the backbone and nerve to stand up to another country and say to them: Look, we like you a lot. You are allies of ours. We are good friends. But I will tell you what. In international trade, we have a notion of fairness. Open your markets to us, and we will open our markets to you. But if you close your markets to the United States, ship your cars to Nigeria or perhaps Iran, and see how quickly they sell.

Let's talk about beef exports to Europe. Go to Europe. The Presiding Officer has been in Europe. Pick up a newspaper in Europe—I have been there this year—and you read about European trade restrictions on U.S. beef, allegedly because of hormones. The way they picture it, it is as if we are shipping them beef that came from cows with two heads. That is the way it is portrayed in the European press. They keep United States beef out of Europe.

So our country actually tried to do something about that. We said: Look, you either allow United States beef into Europe or we are going to take action against you. So, finally, a little bit of backbone from our trade representatives, right? Finally, we have some nerve. Finally, we have the good old American spirit and we are going to stand up for our producers. We couldn't get beef into Europe, so we took action.

Our trade representatives filed a case at the WTO against the Europeans for their restrictions on our beef. The WTO actually ruled on it, which itself is a surprise. The WTO said: Europe, you are wrong. You must allow United States beef into Europe. Europe said: It doesn't matter. We are not going to do it. So our trade negotiators said: We are going to take action against the Europeans. Do you know what we are going to do? We are going to retaliate by imposing tariffs on European truffles, goose livers, and Roquefort cheese.