

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (H.R. 2800), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment and requests a conference with the House.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Golden Gavel has long served the Senate to mark a Senator's 100th presiding hour and continues to represent our appreciation for the time these dedicated Senators contribute to presiding over the United States Senate, a very important duty. On the evening of Friday, October 17th, Senator JOHN SUNUNU reached his 100th hour of presiding. As a Presiding Officer, his dedication and dependability are to be commended. I am truly grateful for his willingness to preside as scheduling conflicts arise especially on the not-so-popular Fridays and Mondays. He and his enthusiastic scheduling staff make every effort to do their part to carry their share of the presiding load with a smile. It is with sincere appreciation that I announce the second recipient of the golden gavel award for the 108th Congress, Senator JOHN SUNUNU.

TRIBUTE TO E. LINWOOD "TIP" TIPTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend E. Linwood Tipton. Tip, as he is known by

friends, will have devoted 38 years of his life to the dairy industry upon his retirement later this year.

Growing up on his family's farm in Missouri, Tip's interest in agriculture developed at a young age. He attended the University of Missouri where he earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and a master's degree in Economics. After serving his country as an officer in the U.S. Army Finance Corp, Tip returned to the dairy industry where his talent and leadership were recognized and he quickly advanced.

In 1987, Tip was appointed president and CEO of the Milk Industry Foundation and the International Ice Cream Manufacturers Association. Under his direction, the International Dairy Show began in 1988 and evolved into the Worldwide Food Expo, an event that currently features over 1,000 exhibitors from 150 different countries. He also created Dairy Forum, a major annual conference for dairy producers and processors. In 1990, he rallied the milk industry to form the International Dairy Foods Association, IDFA, an organization that encompasses the Milk Industry Foundation, the National Cheese Institute, and the International Ice Cream Association. Tip's innovative ideas and strong leadership have stimulated the growth of IDFA. Tip led the way in the creation of the extremely successful "Milk Mustache" and "Got Milk?" marketing campaigns.

His knowledge of the dairy industry and the economy has encouraged Secretaries of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representatives of both political parties to seek his counsel. In 1984, President Reagan appointed Tip to the National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy. He has been active on Capitol Hill by testifying numerous times before congressional committees and initiating the annual Capitol Hill Ice Cream Party.

Nondairy organizations have also benefited from Tip's leadership. He founded the International Sweetener Colloquium so sugar and sweetener-using industries could assemble and discuss sugar policy. Tip is a past president and chairman of the board of the National Economists Club and the National Economic Education Foundation. He also has been active in the D.C. community by serving on the "Main Street" restoration project's board of directors.

Tip is truly a visionary in the dairy industry. From regulating dairy food retail packaging to implementing marketing campaigns, he has delved into every aspect of the dairy business. Tip's leadership should be commended and, therefore, I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable man's dedication to the food industry, his community, and his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND MEREDITH SCHROEDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay special tribute to two individuals whose foresight inspired a mecca in America's Heartland. Bill and Meredith Schroeder's interest in quilts has led to an exciting and beneficial business venture for the City of Paducah, KY, and the surrounding area. In 1984, the Schroeder's founded the American Quilter's Society, AQS, after discovering the need for worldwide recognition of the beauty of quilting as an art form and as a statement of our history and society.

The Schroeder's created a multi venue environment to promote the art and craft of quilting. Through the American Quilter's Society, they established a membership organization with participants from every U.S. State and territory, as well as from 80 countries. They created the AQS Quilt Show & Contest, the largest cash-juried contest in the world. Held each April in Paducah, KY, now recognized as "Quilt City USA®", the annual show brings millions of dollars to the tourism industry of western Kentucky. In 1991, the Museum of the American Quilter's Society opened. The museum has hosted hundreds of thousands of quilters and quilt lovers, and has enjoyed a history of growth and development.

Bill and Meredith Schroeder are extraordinary individuals who had a vision and worked hard to bring it to fruition. In appreciation for the Schroeder's commitment to fostering the respect of the general public for quilts and quilt makers, and for their unselfish desire to develop the economy of western Kentucky, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions they have made to their community, to Kentucky, and to our Nation.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I was not present for the vote on S. 139, the Climate Stewardship Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea." •

FOREST FIRE UPDATE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to give the Senate an update on the wildfires sweeping across Southern California—as the Senate continues to debate legislation to change our Nation's forest policy.

The situation in my State is at a critical juncture. If the weather continues to improve—as it is expected—then firefighters may be able to get a handle on the fires which continue to burn. This would be good news indeed.

I would also like to report that FEMA will shortly be announcing 6

permanent field sites where victims of the fire can go for assistance and 4 additional mobile sites.

It is critical that the FEMA centers get opened as soon as possible—so that the help gets where it is needed most.

There are nine large fires currently raging in the State—all of which have caused considerable damage.

In total, these fires have burned over 650,000 acres—about the size of Rhode Island. Twenty people have been killed. This includes a firefighter from Marin County who was killed by a fast moving wall of fire associated with the Cedar fire. Twenty-four hundred homes have been lost in five counties, and thousands more structures have been burned.

There are some 13,000 firefighters waging a battle against the fires. True to form, these firefighters have given everything they have to put out the fires and are exhausted.

Our thoughts and our prayers go out to these men and women—and to the family of the firefighter who died—we know that these firefighters are doing everything possible to save lives, homes, and private property.

Let me now go through some of the fires to let you know what is happening.

The Cedar Fire in San Diego has become the largest wildfire in California history. It has burned 250,000 acres—and 6 days old, it is only 15 percent contained. Thus far, 22 injuries have been reported as a result of this fire, and 7 civilian fatalities confirmed by the San Diego Sheriff's Department. Additionally, 1,300 structures have been destroyed.

The fire has destroyed 90 percent of the town of Cuyamaca, and today, it threatens the communities of Pine Hills, Mt. Laguna, Ramona and Julian. Plans to aggressively protect the historic town of Julian are in place. Overnight, 300 structures were destroyed in Cuyamaca and Harrison.

The Old Fire in San Bernardino is also burning out of control and continues to pose a major threat to Lake Arrowhead, Big Bear, and other mountain communities. This fire also began 6 days ago. It has consumed 60,000 acres thus far and is only 10 percent contained.

Massive resources have been expended to fight this fire, including 2,175 firefighters, 10 helicopters, 40 fire crews, 280 engines, and 7 air tankers.

There have been three injuries to date and two civilian deaths. Conservative estimates suggest that 550 residential structures and 10 commercial structures have been destroyed. But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

There are 50,000–60,000 homes and 2,000 commercial properties in the area threatened by this fire. More than 50,000 people have been evacuated from communities like Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear. Firefighters are doing what they can to protect these communities from going up in flames, but this is difficult because of the thousands of trees

killed by the Bark Beetle, which have become kindling in this fire.

The Grand Prix fires also continues to rage in San Bernardino, near the community of Fontana. This fire has consumed 70,000 acres, destroyed 60 residences and 60 other structures, and has resulted in 27 injuries. This fire began 10 days ago, and is 40 percent contained. Today, 1,600 firefighters, 12 helicopters, 42 fire crews, 159 engines, and 30 bull dozers are committed to this fire.

It is hoped that weather conditions will allow firefighters to get better control of this fire today.

Moving North, the Simi fire threatens the community of Stevenson Ranch. The good news with this fire is that it did not move into the canyons and cut a path toward Malibu. But when the wind shifted, the fire turned toward a sub-development on the northern end of Los Angeles County.

This fire has consumed 105,560 acres and destroyed 16 structures and 64 other buildings. Thus far, there have been 5 injuries as a result of this fire, and the fire is only 35 percent contained.

Now, firefighters are trying to keep this fire away from homes and have thus far been successful. Today is a critical day for this fire. Cooler temperatures may allow a fire line to be completed along Potero Canyon, and this would go a long way toward bringing this fire under control.

Like the other fires, massive resources have been deployed to fight this fire, including: 1,389 firefighters, 9 helicopters, 236 engines, 6 air tankers, and 27 bulldozers.

The Piru fire continues to burn in Ventura county, near the community of Fillmore.

Thus far, 62,000 acres have been consumed, and the fire is only 30 percent contained.

The fire began a week ago, has caused 20 injuries and destroyed 8 structures.

But this fire remains dangerous. The fire is moving towards fuel-laden areas in the Los Padres National Forest, and we have to watch this one closely.

The Padua fire—near Claremont, CA—is smaller than the other ones, but it has caused considerable damage nonetheless.

Latest reports show that it has burned almost 10,000 acres, and the good news is that it is 50 percent contained.

This fire has caused 15 injuries, destroyed 59 structures, and threatens 500 homes in the community of Mt. Baldy.

The resources directed at this fire include 691 firefighters, 17 fire crews, 80 engines, and 4 bulldozers.

Some good news from the Whitmore fire, near Shasta, CA.

This fire which has burned approximately 1,000 acres is 80 percent contained. There have been no injuries as a result of this fire, and it is expected to be contained today.

It is my great hope that this happens.

Good news also with the Tuk Fire, 10 miles east of Orick, CA, south of Crescent City.

This fire has burned only 315 acres and is 80 percent contained. Officials are hoping that this fire will be fully contained today as well.

The mountain fire, which burned just under 10,000 acres in Riverside, CA, has been 100 percent contained.

Fire officials will continue to complete burnout operation in near the fire edge, and pending favorable weather, should be completed soon.

This fire was serious—it caused 6 injuries and 61 structures.

Fire crews and equipment are coming in from other States. The governor of New Mexico has offered equipment, and I understand that other States have offered help as well.

As crews become weary and fatigued, it will be increasingly important to get reinforcements from other States—and I will do what I can to make sure this happens.

In terms of victim assistance, help is on its way. As I mentioned, FEMA will be establishing four permanent centers in affected communities, and four mobile centers.

Additionally, if any Californian needs help, they can call my San Diego or Los Angeles office, and we will do anything we can to ensure that they get the appropriate assistance.

This is a terrible time for Californians, but in times of crisis, people pull together and do what they can to help one another.

It is my hope that these fires can be quickly contained—with limited casualties and loss of property.

This event has truly been a wake up call, and I hope that we learn how critical it is to manage our lands, to ensure that catastrophic fires like these can be prevented.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and, as the month is coming to an end, it is appropriate that we take some time to celebrate the progress we have made against this devastating disease and, at the same time, acknowledge how much further we have to go.

Breast cancer has taken a tremendous toll on far too many Americans and their families. There are very few people in this country who haven't lost a family member, friend or coworker to this cancer. More than 200,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year alone, and, regrettably, about 40,000 of those diagnosed will die from the disease. Across the country, one woman in eight will develop breast cancer at some point during her life. While we have made great progress, we must continue to work to find new and more effective ways of preventing, detecting and treating breast cancer.

Astoundingly, of the 3 million American women who are living with breast