

Sometimes when people think of the Postal Service they think the Postal Service is not really innovative; they don't come up with a bunch of ideas. It turns out that they are even more innovative than I and a lot of other people thought they were.

I want to mention a couple of things they have begun doing that I think are noteworthy. They ought to be able to do more. If they could, they actually could make money and have the money to make capital investments and not be a burden to taxpayers of this country.

This morning in San Francisco, CA, at around 3 a.m., in 32 ZIP Codes, the U.S. Postal Service delivered groceries to people. They delivered them to homes, in some cases to businesses, to apartments, to high-rises. They delivered groceries. They also delivered the mail later in the day, but from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. the Postal Service in 32 ZIP Codes delivered groceries. They have been doing it for over a month, and I understand they are doing it for Amazon. I understand Amazon is pleased and the Postal Service is pleased with it. Amazon customers like it, and the Postal Service can do this and make money. They are not doing anything else with the trucks from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m., and it just works. It just works.

The Postal Service is doing this for Amazon, but they are reaching out to 100 grocery chains across the country and saying: This is what we do for Amazon in San Francisco. How would you like us to do this for you?

My guess is this will turn into a good piece of business, but they need the vehicles to enable them to do this, and they need money for capital investment.

Some people think the only thing the Postal Service has done creatively in years is flat-rate boxes. You know, if it fits, it ships. It is a great product. It is still growing. It has grown by around 4 or 5 percent a year. But there are a bunch of other things they can do and want to do. They need money for capital investment.

About a year ago they started delivering for Amazon—not everywhere but in a couple hundred ZIP Codes—on Sundays. It worked pretty well. And this past Sunday they delivered packages and parcels through Amazon—not to 200 ZIP Codes but I think to over 5,000 across the country. It enables them to do next-day delivery that includes Sunday. It is a nice piece of business and it is growing, but in order to continue to grow it, the Postal Service needs vehicles that are right-sized for that sort of business and a lot of them—potentially a lot of them.

Another thing the Postal Service is doing—and this is a product which I have used and a product which I think is going to have growing utilization across the country. It is called Priority Mail Express.

I went to a post office in Delaware not long ago. I wanted to send my sister a Mother's Day gift.

I said: I want this to get there in 2 days.

They asked: Do you want it insured?

I said: Not really.

They said: Well, if you send it by Priority Mail Express, we can guarantee delivery in 2 days, we can guarantee delivery in 1 day, or we can guarantee delivery in 3 days. We can track it for you for free.

And I think they said the first \$100 of insurance is free.

I said: This is great. I will take 2 days. The insurance is fine.

As it turns out, I am not the only person who is using Priority Mail Express. It is available not just 2 or 3 days a week, it is available for delivery 7 days a week. If somebody has something they want to mail this Saturday and have it delivered on Sunday, they can do so with Priority Mail Express. They can do it and get next-day delivery. They can do it and get free tracking. They can do it and get insurance up to \$50 or \$100 on whatever is being mailed. That is going to be a great product. I think it is going to make flat-rate boxes—well, not look like a second-class citizen, but it is going to make flat-rate boxes look modest by comparison.

These are the sorts of things our folks at the Postal Service would like to do—to deliver not only mail but to deliver groceries, to be able to deliver tomorrow, deliver on Sunday. And it is ironic that in a day and age that we worry about postal service going from 6 days a week to 5, that right now they are a 7-day-a-week operation. I think there is reason to believe they will grow even more.

There are some who say that rather than passing the sort of legislation the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported out on a bipartisan vote earlier this year, there is some alternative legislation. We should simply say to the Postal Service: You cannot close any more mail-processing centers for another year.

As it turns out, that is not going to give the Postal Service the money to do this, or, frankly, the money to invest in any other number of new products that have the great potential of generating revenues and enabling them not just to be open or remain alive but to actually become vibrant and to be part of our growing economy in this country.

I wish to close by saying that I am more hopeful about the Postal Service than I have been in all the years I have worked on this as an issue. As I talked to my colleagues, I am encouraged to hear from Democrats and Republicans that they want to be part of the solution, and they realize the idea of just leaving the Postal Service twisting in the wind for another year is not a good thing.

If the Postal Service has a choice to say don't close these 60 or 70 or 80 mail processing centers, that is not what they need. They need to not necessarily unleash them—better ensure

that they have the resources they need to not just right-size the organization but to modernize and recapitalize the organization and enable them to do things in the 21st century that will actually build off their age-old delivery network and find new ways to make money doing so.

As we close here today—a lot of people are scattering to head back to their home States in anticipation of elections and that sort of thing, and to do other things—I wanted to mention on a more hopeful note, and I say to the members of our committee, and especially to the Presiding Officer, thanks for trying to make sure the Postal Service continues to be a linchpin within our economy, whether it happens to be Alaska, Delaware, or even South Dakota.

Senator THUNE is waiting for me to stop talking.

They have the opportunity to be a big, important part of our economy going forward, and my hope and prayer is that is exactly what we will enable them to do.

With that, I will yield the floor. I don't know if the Senator from South Dakota would like to take the floor, but if he wants to, it is his.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today along with my colleague from South Dakota, Senator JOHNSON, to commemorate South Dakota's 125th anniversary of Statehood. One hundred twenty-five years ago, on November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the Act of Admission Papers for North and South Dakota to ensure that no one knew which State entered the Union first. To this day, we still don't know which act President Harrison signed first.

South Dakota is perhaps best known as the home of the Shrine of Democracy at Mount Rushmore, which opened to the public just 50 years after South Dakota attained statehood. This monument captures the way of life and governance structure that we have in South Dakota. Our elected officials take the concerns of their constituents to Pierre and ensure that our State is bettering the lives of its citizens in a fiscally responsible manner.

We believe in limited government which provides room for individuals and businesses to grow and thrive. Our model of free enterprise has allowed businesses to flourish in South Dakota, and as a result, is one of the best States in the country to start a business.

We consistently have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, which is currently at 3.7 percent. Our labor force and our economy are driven by our State's top industries of tourism and agriculture. The 28,000

South Dakotans who work in our tourism industry ensure that people from all over the world enjoy our great places. Tourists enjoy visiting Mount Rushmore, of course, but also seeing the sights throughout the Black Hills and the Badlands, the Corn Palace in Mitchell, the Crazy Horse Memorial, and the falls in Sioux Falls.

In addition to welcoming Americans from coast to coast, South Dakota is feeding our Nation and our world. Each year, one South Dakota farmer produces enough food to feed 155 people. South Dakota ranks in the top 10 States for wheat, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, and sunflowers. We are also in the top 10 States of bison, honey, sheep, and beef. In all, South Dakota's agriculture industry contributes \$26 billion annually to our economy.

While the productivity of our farmers and ranchers is unmatched, all hard-working South Dakota families contribute to our State's success. Whether they are educating our children, serving in our growing health care and financial services sectors, conducting research in our college laboratories, hard work is what binds South Dakotans together and has made our State's experiment in democracy one of the most successful in our Nation's history.

I am proud to call the great State of South Dakota home, and I am honored to have the privilege of serving all South Dakotans here in the Senate.

Today I wish to honor the spirit that has endured in our State for the last 125 years by celebrating this special anniversary.

CELEBRATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today, I join with my colleague, the junior Senator from South Dakota, in celebrating the birth of our home State, which entered the union 125 years ago on November 2. I'm a fourth generation South Dakotan, and my great-grandfather was a homesteader in what was then known as the Dakota Territory. As I have learned growing up in Canton and from the generations of my family that came before me, being a South Dakotan instills in oneself a unique kind of work ethic and a drive to do good unto others.

South Dakotans know how to deal with adversity and they know how to help each other when disaster strikes. Last year, a devastating blizzard hit much of western South Dakota, causing millions of dollars in damage and killing tens of thousands of head of livestock. Without blinking an eye, neighbors were out helping neighbors who lost power. They donated their time and money to help ranchers who lost their livelihoods. Recovery would not have been possible without the inherent attitude that South Dakotans have to help one another.

South Dakotans also have a lot to celebrate this year. The ag industry has driven our economy, creating jobs

and spurring economic development in rural communities. Our State also boasts some of the Nation's most popular tourist destinations including the Badlands, the Black Hills National Forest, the world's only Corn Palace, and some of the best pheasant hunting in the country. Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills also symbolizes democracy and enables all Americans to remember and celebrate our history. The Crazy Horse monument, which is still a work in progress, honors the legendary Lakota warrior. South Dakota is also home to nine Native American tribes, each having its own distinct cultures and traditions.

There is an awful lot to be proud of in our State, from the attitude we have as individuals to what we have built during our 125 year history. Throughout this past year, South Dakotans have taken part in a number of activities to celebrate our State's history, heritage, and culture, and those celebrations will continue in the weeks ahead. I am honored to play just a small role in this celebration by joining with my colleague in offering this resolution, and I urge all of our colleagues to join us in celebrating the birth of our State.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 566, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 566) celebrating the 125th anniversary of the State of South Dakota.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 566) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

TRIBAL GENERAL WELFARE EXCLUSION ACT OF
2013

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also wish to speak in support of S. 1507, the Tribal General Welfare Exclusion Act of 2013. I am a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation which passed the House of Representatives earlier this week.

This bill would codify that general welfare benefits provided to tribal members by Indian tribes—often in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment where these benefits are much needed—are exempt from Federal taxation.

The bill would ensure parity between the tax treatment of benefits provided by Indian tribes and those provided by State and local governments.

While the Internal Revenue Service has issued guidance on this issue, further action is needed to ensure that our tribal citizens are treated fairly with regard to taxation of certain tribal welfare benefits.

This bill establishes a tribal advisory committee to advise the Secretary of the Treasury on the taxation of tribal members.

This is a bipartisan amendment with support from the National Congress of American Indians and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Tribes and tribal organizations across the country, including the Great Plains Tribal Chairman Association and the Coalition of Large Tribes representing the nine tribes in my home State of South Dakota, are urging us to move forward with this legislation.

The Joint Committee on Taxation has estimated that this legislation would have a negligible impact on Federal revenue.

I hope before we adjourn that the Senate can pass by unanimous consent this legislation that was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this week under suspension and that we will reaffirm our commitment to Indian Country.

I hope we move this legislation and move it quickly and clarify once and for all this important issue.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. 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. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, October—next month—is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is not expected that the Senate will be in session next month and I would like to use this opportunity to visit just a moment about domestic violence in an effort to create a greater awareness and to work to eliminate this plight among many families and many individuals across the country.

Domestic violence is an issue that impacts way too many Americans. In fact, it affects so many homes, and yet it is something that is rarely spoken about publicly. Right now, because of actions of professional athletes, domestic violence is in the news and it is on our minds. But this attention needs to continue when the sports writers quit writing and when the news reporters and camera crews quit covering and they move on to the next story.