

You can see how this lake has been expanding and expanding very, very dramatically.

This is one of my favorite pictures, Mr. President, because this shows the little town of Minnewaukan, ND, of 400 people, and they have a sewage lagoon—you can see the outlines of it—surrounded completely now by Devils Lake. When the Federal officials came to Devils Lake, they said to the mayor of the little town of Minnewaukan, “Gee, why did you build this sewage lagoon so close to the lake?” And the mayor and the local officials laughed and they said, “Well, when we built this sewage lagoon, it was 8 miles from the lake”—8 miles. That is how this lake has expanded. Mr. President, this is truly an extraordinary circumstance.

This next picture shows a seed company and what has happened to their operation. It is completely surrounded by water now in this area of Devils Lake. And this water is deep, by the way. It is just amazing how this lake keeps rising.

This picture shows one of the key roads, Highway 57, that connects the city of Devils Lake to the Spirit Lake Nation and to the communities south of Devils Lake. You can see the wave action. These are 5-foot waves on this lake completely breaking over the highway. In fact, if we were to go and take this picture today, this entire road now is under water. That is how rapidly this lake is rising. In fact, it has come up 4 feet already this year. And now remember, we are not talking about some little tranquil lake, we are talking about a huge expanse of water, a lake that is nearly 200 square miles in size now. That is what we are dealing with here, and the water keeps rising.

Mr. President, those are the pictures I wanted to show our colleagues. An important point I wanted to make is that in this disaster supplemental bill, there are a number of measures to address this crisis, in addition to the crisis we have in the Red River Valley, where we had the 500-year flood. We also have provisions to deal with this crisis at Devils Lake.

First, is a provision for an emergency outlet. The Corps of Engineers has determined that one of the things we need to do to fight this disaster is to have an emergency outlet, because we are very close to the point at which this lake will find its own outlet. And if it does, it will be out of the eastern end of the lake where the water quality is, by far, the worst, and it will go over into Stump Lake. At that time, Stump Lake will immediately rise 40 feet. It is hard to get your mind around these numbers because this is so massive. But when this finds its natural outlet at 1,446.6 feet—it is right now at 1,442 feet—at 1,446.6 feet, it spills over into Stump Lake, raising that lake immediately 40 feet.

At 1,457 feet, it spills over into the Sheyenne River Valley, and, as I

showed the cumulative impact, we are then talking about over \$400 million of cost to the Federal Government. The emergency outlet requires \$5 million for the work that needs to be done this year, and that is in this disaster supplemental bill.

Second, we need to raise the levy protecting the city of Devils Lake, and this legislation directs the Corps to expedite action to raise the levy system protecting the city of Devils Lake. The city right now has a dike that is protecting it to about 1,445 feet. This provision will move the protection to 1,450 feet, with 5 feet of free board to deal with the wave action on this very large lake.

Third, there are provisions for emergency funding for Federal Highway Administration to raise roads, because, as I showed, the main linkage point here is already under water. That road—Highway 57—has to be raised and needs to be raised as quickly as possible because it provides the emergency access to all of the communities south of Devils Lake and the Spirit Lake Nation to the regional hospital and the regional shopping center that is in the city of Devils Lake.

Fourth, this legislation provides for the Ramsey County rural sewer system some \$600,000 to mitigate damages from the Devils Lake flood to the Ramsey County rural sewer system. As you can imagine, Mr. President, this is a situation in which the rural sewer system is about to float. That is a very bad thing to have happen. All of those underground pipes, as the water table rises, puts enormous hydrological pressure on that rural sewer system, and they are desperately worried that at any time, those pipes will burst through the ground and float. At that point, the entire rural sewer system is destroyed. It is critically important that that money be approved and be approved as quickly as possible.

Fifth, and finally, this legislation includes \$15 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service to purchase floodplain easements for frequently flooded farmland. Landowners in the Devils Lake basin would be eligible for this voluntary floodplain easement program.

Mr. President, I wanted to take this time to describe this disaster so there is an understanding that not only are we dealing with the crisis in the Red River basin, the cities of Grand Forks and other cities up and down the Red River, but that we have a second disaster as well, a slow-motion disaster, and that is the disaster that is occurring at Devils Lake and that there are very important matters that are included in this disaster supplemental bill that deal with those problems.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. BENNETT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Utah.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator DORGAN, the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 3 p.m. today.

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

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair recognizes the Senator from North Dakota.

DISASTER RELIEF IS URGENT

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague, Senator CONRAD, who has spent an enormous amount of time and effort dealing with the flooding issues that have afflicted our region of the country. It seems to me that there is some good news on the horizon, and it appears that finally the logjam may be broken. It appears finally, perhaps today, the Congress will pass a bill that contains much-needed disaster relief that the President will sign and that hope and help will be offered and restored to the people of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota who are victims of this disaster. Even as it appears there are these signs this may happen today, I want to, once again, describe a bit about why we have maintained that it is so urgent that disaster relief be provided for disaster victims.

Senator CONRAD and I represent the State of North Dakota in the U.S. Senate. We are a small State, in many ways. We are 10 times the size of the State of Massachusetts in landmass. It is a pretty big State geographically, but about 640,000 people live in our State. It is a wonderful place to live, and we have a lot of wonderful things to talk about with respect to North Dakota.

Regrettably, the only thing people from the outside who don't come to North Dakota regularly see about our State is to tune in on the morning shows perhaps on a February morning or January morning, and they see that someone says that there is a blizzard or it is cold in our part of the country. It gets that way sometimes. Other times in January or February, it is quite nice. I don't suppose that we could really, in good faith, tell people that in January and February in North Dakota it is balmy and sunny and warm and an equivalent vacation spot to California or Florida. I don't suppose we could do that with great credibility. It does get a little cold sometimes.

In fact, we had a fellow who was in jail in North Dakota, and from his jail cell, he petitioned a judge to extend his jail sentence for 90 days because he alleged that his rights would be violated if he were released from jail in December in North Dakota. He said it was too cold, didn't have clothing, so on and so forth. He asked the judge if the judge would extend his jail sentence for 90 days. The judge promptly told him, no, that he won't extend his jail sentence.

I don't want the actions of one prisoner to allow people to think that it is so cold, you can't exist in our State. It is a wonderful State. But it is true that sometimes in the winter we have some snow, some cold weather, and some wind, and this winter particularly.

Those who have watched what has happened in our State know that we were hit with a devastating winter. In North Dakota, we had the equivalent of 3 year's worth of snow dumped on our State in nearly 3 months. Nearly 10 feet of snow fell in the State of North Dakota. We suffered, as a result of that, a real disaster—blizzards, roads closed, lives lost because of white-out blizzards where no one could move, ambulances couldn't get through. And then we had, in addition to the blizzards, finally, a 50-year blizzard, the worst in 50 years, and then the melting of all of that snow and the flooding.

While people in North Dakota are patient and tough and resilient and have a wonderful spirit, this winter has been tough for them. Most of what they can do for each other they have done for each other. But sometimes you cannot do it all by yourself.

I have told my colleagues before of the kinds of individual acts of heroism that occurred every day this winter in North Dakota. I told of Don Halvorson, who is a hero of mine. I have not met him. I only talked to him by telephone. But he symbolizes the spirit of the people in North Dakota, saying to others who are in trouble, "Let me help you. You are a neighbor. Let me help."

Don Halvorson was at home one night sleeping at around 3 in the morning near Grafton, ND, out in the country in a farmhouse. Jan Novak was working in town in Grafton, ND. At about 10:30 at night, driving out to her home in the country, it was blizzarding, and the blizzard got worse, and it became a whiteout blizzard. You cannot see in a whiteout blizzard; you cannot see the hand in front of your face with heavy snowfall and winds of 40 miles per hour, temperatures with 60 and 80 degrees below zero windchills.

Well, Jan Novak, on the way home, could not see and ran off the road and became stuck. Her husband became worried, in the middle of this blizzard, and could not find her and called the sheriff up in Grafton, ND. The sheriff sent out some people to look for her. They could not see to drive on the roads.

Finally, they had to call off the search. So they began calling all of the homes along the roads where they thought Jan Novak might have driven. One of the homes they called at 3 in the morning was Don Halvorson's. They said, "A woman is missing. Have you seen a woman driving on your country road past your place?" Of course, he could not see the road anyway because of the whiteout blizzard, but Don said, "No," and then he went back to bed.

But then he said he could not sleep. So at 3:30 in the morning he got back

up, got out of bed, in the middle of the blizzard, and put on his winter clothes and trudged out to his tractor. He had a cab on his tractor. He got in that tractor cab, started up the tractor, and with his tractor lights started driving.

About 3 hours later Jan Novak—when I called her she said she had been in the car all of that night, starting the engine to try to keep warm, and finally it was not starting very well. And the temperature and the blizzard was such that she would freeze to death. She began to worry she might not survive through this.

She prayed all night long, she said. At about 6:30 in the morning she had almost given up hope. Her head was bowed in her car, and she was saying a prayer, thinking she would not survive, when a tractor drove up to her car. The tractor lights, in the middle of that blizzard, were about 5 feet away when they became apparent to Jan Novak. It was Don Halvorson, 3 hours in the middle of a blizzard, not being able to see beyond the front fender of his tractor. He drove all around his part of the country looking for this woman who was lost and whose life was in danger.

When I read about what Don had done, I called Don and said, "Tell me how you happened to do this." He said, "When they called my home at 3 in the morning and said that this woman was missing—I didn't know her and obviously had not seen her—I went back to bed, but I couldn't go to sleep." He said, "I just couldn't go to sleep knowing there was a woman out there missing, and I went to search for her." Three hours later he found her.

You talk about a hero. Don Halvorson likely saved Jan Novak's life. That is one story of hundreds and hundreds of stories across our State this winter—the ambulance drivers in Mandan and Flasher, ND, who punched through a huge blizzard-related snowbank that had blocked a road and made all traffic impassable. They, along with the road crews from both sides of this snowbank, punched through in whiteout conditions and no visibility to go out and save a young boy and get him to a hospital. They risked their lives, all of them, and that young boy survived because of them.

All across our State those stories abound—individuals helping others because it is the spirit and the culture of what we do. We say, "Let's help each other."

Our country does that in a larger way. Sometimes one person cannot do enough to help another. Sometimes even a city or a State cannot do enough. Sometimes a flood or earthquake or fire or tornado it overwhelms the ability of one person to make the difference, so our country then makes the difference.

What happened when all of this snow melted in North Dakota, was the Red River Valley suffered a 500-year flood. When the dikes broke in Grand Forks, ND, and East Grand Forks, MN, and that water became a gusher running

down the streets to inundate two entire cities and they evacuated two complete communities, it was not a case where one person could solve the problem for another person. It then became a case of us having to say, as people now tried to recover from this calamitous flood, "We want to help you. The rest of the people of the country want to help you."

That is what this fight has been about on this disaster bill. I know I have worn out my welcome for a number of Members of the Senate in recent weeks. They are flat out tired of seeing me on the floor. They think I put too much pressure on them. Some are angry at my presentations on the floor.

But I have no choice. Thousands of people this morning in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, thousands and thousands of them this morning woke up not in their own homes, because their homes are destroyed. Their lives are on hold until we pass a disaster relief bill.

That bill has been delayed. And now it appears that that bill may today finally be on the road to the President in a manner that will result in a signature, and in the bill becoming law, and in the disaster aid being available to those who so desperately need it.

I want again to just read some of the messages of North Dakotans who describe why I am here on the floor and why I have been here for some weeks.

First, simply a drawing by a grade schooler that came in a large packet of drawings. It is pretty simple. Someone in a canoe says, "Save our town." Pretty simple expression that does not need much elaboration. "Save our town." We have the capability to help do that.

Mr. President, here is a Grand Forks resident who says:

I'm calling on behalf of my grandmother. She's 99 years old. She lost her home and everything in it. She's in Bemidji, MN, now staying in a house with four children. She doesn't know if she's going to get home again. She's in good shape, but I'm really concerned about the trauma at her age, and I don't know what I'd be like in that circumstance. She's pretty strong and she talked about how she was married in World War I, and she went through the Depression and the Dust Bowl and World War II. She lost two out of her three kids. She lost her husband. She's been through it, and all of these milestones in her life, and now she is going through uncertainty of not knowing whether she's going to have a home. Her husband left her well set with a home she could live in for the rest of her life and she's done well until now. And now at age 99 she's homeless.

Kari and Paul Kolstoe, who are from Grand Forks, ND, said:

Our daughter's 12th birthday was April 18. That was the day the Red River destroyed our home. We lost most of our possessions, but more importantly, we lost the place and our ability to live together as a family. The last 5 weeks we've lived in four different places. Our home has too much damage to be restored. And we now live in limbo waiting for a decision and the money to go on with our lives. * * *

We can deal somehow with the disaster that's happened to us in our town and we're trying to put our lives back together. * * *

But we lost everything. And don't prolong this disaster bill. Allow us to go on with our lives.

That is Kari and Paul Kolstoe from Grand Forks, ND.

There are so many letters.

Rodney and Judy Krause. I talked to Rodney and Judy a couple days ago, as a matter of fact. They are also from Grand Forks, ND.

April 19 [Rod writes] we were evacuated from our home, and it sat under water for a period of 10 to 12 days, with 56 inches of sewage and floodwater on the main floor. Currently, the house is sitting empty and we're waiting for a bill to be passed in Congress dealing with flood relief.

Rod Krause says:

I'm a staff sergeant in the Air Force, and my wife and myself also happen to be from Grand Forks. We're proud of this community, and we hate to see it as wasted as it is from this flood. Right now, as a member of the Air Force, even through all this mess, I have my bags packed and ready to go at a moment's notice to fight, possibly die, for this country, basically at your calling. But what Congress is doing now really hurts. I still need to make a house payment for a home that sits empty. And it keeps getting worse as the days pass. I can't do anything but wait. All we want is an answer. Why is this taking so long?

Arthur Bakken, who is a councilman in Grand Forks, says:

People here have no homes, no jobs, no other homes to go to. They have no toys, no bikes, no clothes, or anything else for their children.

Mr. President, I ask for 5 additional minutes.

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

Mr. DORGAN. I mentioned yesterday a call from a man named Mark whose family has been separated, children living with the grandparents, his home damaged by the flood. His wife is in the hospital with a terminal illness, telling us that his wife has only a couple months to live perhaps, asking us to make the decisions that allow them to get on with their lives.

Here is another little drawing from a schoolchild who sent it to me. It probably says it is as well as any can. It is two different scenes. One is a scene of flooding and devastation and trees down; and it says, "If you do nothing." And the other side is a page with a scene with a park bench and grass and trees and sun and flowers; and underneath it says, "If you do something."

These are people who have voiced to say to us today, through my reading their letters, that they really need help. That is what this disaster legislation is about, reaching out and helping those who, through no fault of their own, have had to bear the burden of a natural disaster of enormous proportions.

I came to Congress some many years ago, and I have on behalf of the constituents in North Dakota on every occasion—on every single occasion—said, when there was an earthquake in California, "Count me in, and count my constituents in, because on behalf of North Dakotans I want so vote yes to provide disaster aid for you."

For flood victims on the Mississippi, I have said, yes, because I think it is important to provide disaster aid for you.

In every circumstance, every day and every way that we have been requested to provide disaster assistance, I have indicated that I felt North Dakotans would want to do that.

North Dakotans now feel that people in the rest of this country will want to do that for us as well—North Dakotans, Minnesotans and South Dakotans—who have suffered through the disaster.

Isn't every disaster unique and isn't every disaster difficult and traumatic? Yes, it is. There is no question about that. We have seen now through the new technology of television in the modern age the gripping scenes of devastation from disasters—death, and destruction. It breaks your heart to see that anywhere in our country.

This disaster was unusual in a couple of respects. First, we were enormously fortunate that we did not suffer a major or massive loss of life. Some lost their lives, but we did not suffer the loss of life of hundreds of citizens.

This combination of blizzards and floods and then fires in the middle of the flood that ripped the guts from a significant city in our State, this combination is a very unusual circumstance because a large city was completely abandoned and evacuated and completely inundated with water. The water came and stayed for a very long period of time.

Now we have hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of homes that will never again be lived in. We have families from every single one of those homes whose possessions are now out on the berm, somewhere out on the boulevard, on the driveway being hauled away in dump trucks—the dolls, the baby carriages, the pictures, all of the belongings of those families. They do not know what will come next for them, what their lives will be like, where they will live, how they will make a house payment on a house that is destroyed. That is why this legislation is so critically important.

Now, I have been very upset that we have not gotten this done. We are about 3 weeks late. I have said repeatedly that I appreciate enormously the cooperation on a bipartisan basis to put a disaster package in this bill that is very substantial and will be enormously helpful to these victims of this disaster. Most every Member of this institution deserves credit for what is in this bill, and I thank them for it.

I am upset that it was delayed. But if today this gets dislodged, and if today this bill gets passed by the House and the Senate and goes to the President for his signature, then we will finally be able to provide the answers that are necessary for these people to understand what the rest of their lives will be like, what will happen to their home, will their job be restored, will their community be rebuilt, will their region recover? Those are the questions

that will be answered by the hundreds of millions of dollars in the many categories in this piece of legislation. In fact, the disaster portion is something over \$5 billion in this legislation dealing with many, many States.

If and when this happens, and I hope it does today, it will be an enormous benefit to our region, and I will be forever grateful to the Members of the Senate who made it happen.

Mr. President, as I finish, I say to my colleagues, while I have worn out my welcome in recent weeks on this subject, I do not apologize for it. I speak on behalf of people who need a voice in this debate. Let us hope, at the end of this day, we will have some wonderful news for people who have been victims of this disaster.

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will stand in recess until the hour of 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:47 p.m., recessed until 2:58 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. ROBERTS].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

RECESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until the hour of 3:30 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:58 and 26 seconds p.m., recessed until 3:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. ROBERTS].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am prepared to ask for some unanimous-consent agreements here momentarily. I believe that the Democratic leader will be here. In the meantime, I thought I might just give the Senators some idea of what the time could be for the balance of the afternoon and then some thought about next week.

If we get the agreement we have here before us entered into and agreed to, we would begin debate, I believe, then at about quarter until 4 on the supplemental appropriations, with a vote occurring 1 hour from then. So that vote could occur around quarter of 5. We are looking at the possibility of, of course, getting agreement for committees to keep working, because we have a number of committees that are in very crucial markups—the Armed Services Committee, the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Finance Committee is meeting in a walk-through, although it is not a markup.