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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Listen to this remarkable promise from the Prophet Isaiah:

Then you shall call and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, "Here I am."—Isaiah 58:9.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You also said through the Prophet Isaiah that when we call, You will answer and while we are speaking You will hear—Isaiah 65:24. We thank You that prayer begins with You. It originates in Your heart, sweeps into our hearts, and gives us the boldness to ask what You desire to give.

Today, may constant conversation with You hone the desires of our hearts until they are Your desires for us and for our work together. Then, dear Father, grant us the desires of our hearts. May our human understanding be surpassed by Your gift of supernatural knowledge, our inadequate judgment with Your omniscient wisdom, and our limited expectations with Your propitious plans for us. We yield our minds, hearts, wills, and imaginations to be channels for the flow of Your divine guidance.

Bless the Senators in the decisions they must make and the votes they will cast. Give them, and all of us who work with them, Your strength to endure and Your courage to triumph in things great and small that we attempt for the good of all. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators to speak up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of three Senators. Under a previous consent agreement, from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. the Senate will be in recess to allow the weekly policy luncheons to meet. At 2:30 today, it is the hope of the majority that the Senate will be able to discharge from the Labor Committee and begin consideration of S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act. This legislation is not controversial. It is hoped that the Senate will be able to consider and pass this important bill in a short period of time. Senators can therefore expect rollover votes during today's session of the Senate. As always, Members will be notified accordingly as any votes are ordered with respect to any legislation or executive matters cleared for action.

I thank the Members for their attention.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 1000, H.R. 908

Mr. THOMAS. I understand there are two bills, Mr. President, due for their second reading, and I would ask that they be read consecutively.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (H.R. 1000) to require States to establish a system to prevent prisoners from being considered part of any household for purposes of determining eligibility of the household for food stamp benefits.

A bill (H.R. 908) to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding on either of these bills at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bills will be placed on the calendar under general orders.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. THOMAS assumed the chair.)

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER RELIEF BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, those who are watching the activities of the Congress now understand that the Congress, after some delay, passed a disaster bill to provide disaster relief to victims, especially the victims of the blizzards and the floods in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Minnesota, but to provide disaster relief on a much broader scale to those who have been victims of disaster in many States around the country.

The Congress did something different this time on disaster relief. In this circumstance, on this disaster relief bill, which is called a supplemental appropriations bill, the Congress decided to attach some very controversial provisions that don't have any relationship to the bill, that are totally extraneous, unrelated to the disaster bill. They attached these provisions that weeks ago the President said he would not accept.

The result was the disaster bill became a political vehicle asking flood victims and disaster victims to wait: "Hold on over there, we're going to have a political exercise on the disaster bill." And, in fact, this weekend, following the passage of the disaster bill by the Congress last Thursday night, instead of sending the disaster bill to the President then, this weekend it was held over in the House of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Representatives, and then the Republican National Committee went on paid radio ads in North Dakota, for example, to make a political issue of this so that the bill could be sent down to the President on Monday, so that they would hope the President would pay a political price for vetoing the bill.

I don't care about one or the other. I don't care about this side, that side, your side or my side. What I care about are disaster victims, and disaster bills ought not be the product of political games. In any event, I ask those who would construct a political strategy on the disaster bill, how on Earth could you construct a strategy by which everybody loses? What kind of a political game is that, a game in which you have constructed an approach so that everyone loses, most especially, the losers are the victims of a disaster? Thousands of them this morning who woke up not in their own homes, because their homes are destroyed, but woke up in neighbors' homes, in a neighboring city, relatives' homes, a shelter, a tent, a camper trailer. That is where they are living. They are the first victims of a strategy that plays politics with disaster relief, but there are others.

The other losers are all the folks in the political system. There are no winners here, only losers, and the biggest losers are those who can least afford it: victims of this disaster.

I intend, in just a moment, to ask unanimous consent to call up a bill that I introduced in the Senate yesterday. It is identical to the bill that Congress passed providing disaster relief, except for two things. It takes out the two major controversial provisions to which the President objects. I say, by doing this, let's pass a clean disaster bill, pass it now, get it to the President, get it signed and get disaster relief to the victims who so desperately need it.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. DORGAN. I will be happy to yield for a question.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me say to my colleague, I can, as said by the President, feel your pain here, because in 1993, my congressional district was inundated in a Midwestern flood.

There are many natural disasters which can befall America and a family. One of the most insidious is a flood. It just never goes away. Some disasters strike quickly, with a tornado or an earthquake or fire, and by the next day, people are starting to reassemble their lives and clean up the mess and put it behind them. A flood lingers, and as it lingers, I have watched family after family in my district reach a level of depression, then desperation. About the only thing that sustains them is not only all of the good neighbors and volunteers who come to their assistance, but the belief that this Nation stands behind them; that, as a family, America says, "We will come to your aid, too. We will assist you."

It is interesting to me that during the course of our history, time and time again, without exception, we have said we are going to waive the rules, we are going to drop the politics, we are just going to focus on helping people. We aren't going to ask them whether they are rich or poor, Democrat or Republican, Independent; it doesn't make any difference. They are Americans, they are neighbors, they are in need.

Let us get on with the business of being a nation of people who care about those in need. Why then are we going through this exercise? Why haven't we passed the disaster bill to help the victims of the flood in North Dakota and South Dakota and Minnesota, and other places? Unfortunately, it is because some of the leaders here believe that this is the kind of bill that puts pressure on the President. Send him a bill that he has to sign, like a disaster bill, and then like a Christmas tree, put on these ornaments, little things totally unrelated to disasters. "Let's send this to him and, boy, we'll force his hand. No President is going to veto a disaster bill with homeless people. We will force him. We will put a provision in there that says we are going to violate the budget agreement, we are going to set up a new standard here for funding agencies."

What does that have to do with disaster assistance? If you were out of your home, if you had seen all of your Earthly belongings inundated with a flood, if you and your kids were huddled in some shelter, would you really want the Congress of the United States of America to get involved in this kind of political gamesmanship?

Even worse, there is a provision in this bill that relates to the taking of the census. Boy, there's a real timely emergency; we better get on this one. Shoot, take a look, it is only 36 months from now that we are going to have to deal with it; 36 months away we are supposed to take the census. The Republican leadership said, "Let's put a provision in this bill that will force the hand of the Federal Government when it comes to taking the census."

This is sad. This is really sad for so many people who have been victimized by this flood to now be victimized by politics on Capitol Hill. And it is outrageous. Senator DORGAN is correct, let us not violate the standard which we have established which says when there is a disaster and a need in America, we will rally behind the victims, our neighbors, our fellow Americans regardless of party label, regardless of agenda.

We are losing it in this debate because the Republican leadership insists on amendments to this bill which have nothing to do—nothing to do—with disaster victims.

I salute my colleague for his efforts. I tell you, I have been there, and I know what it means to go home weekend after weekend and see these families struggling, looking at homes that have been inundated with floodwater

and mud, everything in their life washed away—the wedding pictures, everything, it's gone—and then to have to tell them, "I'm sorry, another week has gone by and Congress has not met its responsibility."

I salute my colleagues. Let us hope that just for one brief shining moment that this body will rise above politics and support your effort to bring a clean disaster bill to the table, pass it today, pass it in the House, move it on to the President and get it signed this evening. We can then say to the people huddled in those shelters worried about their future and what they have been through that we have met our responsibility. I thank the Senator.

Mr. DORGAN. Let me make two additional points—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota has 2 minutes, 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. DORGAN. Let me make two additional points before I propound the unanimous-consent request. I ask unanimous consent for an additional 2 minutes.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, let me read an editorial from this morning's Fargo Forum, North Dakota's largest newspaper in the Red River Valley. It is, in most cases, a conservative voice. Here is what they say about what is going on, how they observe what is going on in Congress:

The result [of all of this] is to aggravate the tragedy of the flood by extending uncertainty about relief. Last week, community leaders from Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, Minnesota—many of them longtime, loyal Republicans—urged Congress to quit fooling around with the lives of flood victims. Clean up the disaster bill, they said, so the president can sign it.

Their words were ignored. Instead, Republican congressional leaders and the two governors tried to shift the blame for delays on the president. In a callous display of partisan arrogance, they said his veto would be the delay, not the amendments.

It won't fly here in the Red River Valley—

The Fargo Forum says—

where people are trying to put their homes, businesses and lives back together.

The president made it clear weeks ago: Unless the disaster aid bill was clean, he would veto it. Nevertheless, Republican leaders fouled up the legislation with unrelated riders, knowing the president's veto was certain. So instead of considering the crucial needs of valley flood victims, they opted for a purely partisan agenda. The onus is on them.

Apologists for the GOP leadership insists adding unrelated matters to popular bills is routine. Maybe so.

But the flood of this century in the valley is not routine. A disaster of such magnitude is not routine. The pain and destruction are not routine. The short construction season for rebuilding is not routine. Surely, the least flood victims can expect is for Congress to put aside its routine nonsense when circumstances are this extraordinary.

This from the Fargo Forum, not a liberal newspaper, normally speaking for conservatives.

Finally, this point. There are those here who say it doesn't matter that we

have messed around with this bill because there is money in the pipeline; no one is being disadvantaged. I heard them spin that yarn for weeks.

We kid people in our part of the country about whoppers. You know the whoppers: Yes, I won this belt buckle in a rodeo riding bulls; my pickup truck's paid for. Now I heard this other whopper: There's money in the pipeline. Tell that to the folks in Grand Forks.

There is a woman living in a tent right now in Grand Forks with her family. There was a woman in the newspaper yesterday, she and her family are out of work and have been out of their home for 5 weeks living in a camper trailer, and they don't know when they are going to get back to their home and she doesn't know when she will have another job. Tell it to them, that there is money in the pipeline.

Better yet, get on a plane and go out there and try to live on that money in the pipeline. The money doesn't exist except in this bill, and the bill must get passed and must be a clean bill so this aid goes to disaster victims, and it ought to be done now. It can be done simply. I introduced a bill yesterday, and I will call it up now by unanimous consent, and if there is objection, it means the Congress will not allow a clean disaster bill to pass. If not now, when?

Let me call up a clean disaster bill where we take out the census issue and the Government shutdown issue and send this bill, as it was written by the Congress, to the President for signature.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to Calendar No. 18, H.R. 581, and that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 851, the clean disaster bill, be substituted in lieu thereof; that the bill be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THOMAS. There is an objection. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, the Senators both know there are negotiations going on now. This performance on the floor does not help at all. Our leaders are talking to your leaders. They are working toward doing it. As a matter of fact, if you want to carry on this thing, there may be some time where you can do it this evening. The fact is, this is not the way to solve the issue. The leaders are meeting, and I object to the request.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand under a previous order that I have 30 minutes under my control at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, first, I rise on another topic, but I want to say to the Senator from North Dakota that I fully empathize and sympathize with him on his position. The flood about which my colleague from Illinois spoke a few minutes ago is the same flood that devastated Iowa in 1993. This Congress and the President came to the assistance of the people of Iowa in a very rapid measure. To this day, the people of Iowa talk about how rapidly the funds got out there, the Government was there to help. And the same thing should apply to any disaster anywhere. And it should apply in North Dakota also.

I want to say to my colleague from North Dakota, he is right on the mark. This legislation ought to get through. The money ought to be sent out without all these other political ramifications. So I appreciate the Senator from North Dakota. Again, his position is the correct one. We ought to get the money through here. And we should not be loading it down with political considerations.

THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S CALL FOR THE VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF PEACE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I take the floor today with a couple of my colleagues to note a very important anniversary.

Mr. President, 34 years ago today, on June 10, 1963, President John F. Kennedy delivered a historic address at American University here in Washington, DC, regarding the need for the vigorous pursuit of peace. He declared that the United States has a critical interest in limiting the testing of nuclear weapons. We wanted to mark that occasion today by talking about the need to continue that progress and to bring to completion President Kennedy's dream and goal of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I yield at this time to my colleague from Illinois for his unanimous-consent request and for any comments he wants to make.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you Mr. President.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following members of my staff, Thomas Faletti and Robin Gaul during the pendency of this debate.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank my colleague from Iowa, Senator HARKIN, for reminding us of this important and historic anniversary. President John Kennedy's speech to American Univer-

sity in 1963, really I think demonstrated a vision of the future which no one believed at the time was really within our reach. We expect leaders in America to challenge us, to think ahead, and to think of a different world, a better world. Certainly President Kennedy did that at American University.

In the midst of the cold war, when it was starting to heat up with nuclear missiles being built at great expense in the Soviet Union and the United States, President Kennedy challenged the United States to think of the vision of a world that was a world of peace, a world where the leaders in countries like the United States and Russia would be focusing their resources on good and positive things rather than weapons of mass destruction.

We have tried through the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to reach a milestone on the road to the total abolition of nuclear weapons. This treaty prohibits all nuclear weapons test explosions or other nuclear explosions anywhere in the world.

It is verifiable. We have a global network of monitoring facilities and on-site inspections to make sure that each country lives up to its terms.

President Bush, obviously a Republican leader, initiated a test moratorium in October 1992. President Clinton continued it, and then signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty last year, along with 125 other world leaders. It has been endorsed by the United Nations. Now it must be ratified by the United States. The Senate must put its approval on this notion that we are going to eliminate nuclear weapons testing as part of a global plan to bring real peace to this world. Forty-three other nuclear-capable countries must face that same responsibility.

Why should we do this at this point in our history? Are we not making enough progress? Do we really need this? I think the answers to these questions demonstrate why we are here on the floor speaking to this issue. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty would curb nuclear weapons proliferation worldwide.

What does it mean? Not just those nations currently in possession of nuclear weapons, but those that dream—unfortunately dream—of being nuclear powers, they would be held back, too. Our monitoring devices in the test ban treaty will be at least a discouragement, if not a prohibition against their own nuclear testing to become nuclear powers, to join in some nuclear arms race at a new level different from the cold war.

There is another aspect of this that is so troubling. Fully \$1 out of every \$3 we spend each year now in the United States on what we call the nuclear weapons program is money spent to clean up the mess, the environmental degradation that is left over from our nuclear program. If we stopped the testing and put a halt to the construction of these weapons, we are going to