

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Minnesota should be aware that the time is presently controlled by the Republican leader.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask the Senator from Minnesota how long he is intending to speak?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I say to my colleague from Texas, probably about 3 minutes. I want to talk about disaster assistance in Minnesota.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be allowed to speak for approximately 3 to 4 minutes, after which I ask unanimous consent to be recognized.

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

FLOODS IN MINNESOTA

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, as any number of my colleagues may have noted, if they have been watching CNN, northwest Minnesota in the last 3 weeks has been deluged by heavy rainfall causing disasters in 13 northwestern Minnesota counties. We have had massive flooding.

Earlier this week, the President rightly declared these counties disaster areas, which will bring much needed FEMA assistance to individuals and businesses. More help is needed, and the Minnesota Farm Service Agency has estimated that we have 2 million acres in northwest Minnesota that are affected by the flooding, and the losses are expected to be about 70 percent. Most of the producers have carried crop insurance, but the crop insurance cannot come close to compensating for these losses. What I am worried about is FEMA can help us with public infrastructure and SBA can help some of our small businesses, but we need disaster relief for our farmers. Without disaster relief, there is no future for them at all.

The President and the administration are saying that there will not be any more disaster relief money and that whatever assistance goes to these farmers has to come from the farm bill. In other words, money has to be taken from other farmers, taken from corn growers, wheat growers, soybean growers. The President and the administration are saying that our farmers cannot expect any relief until the year 2008, no matter what. That is not going to work for northwestern Minnesota.

The farm bill which we passed is not a disaster assistance bill. It is a bill to stabilize farm income. It is a bill about the rural economies, but it is not about disaster relief. Disaster relief is all about "there but the grace of God go I"—fire in Arizona, drought in South Dakota, flooding in northwest Minnesota.

When the Congress decides to help areas affected by hurricanes and fires, we do not tell people to pull their emergency assistance out of somebody else's highway fund.

Sometimes the Federal Government needs to be there for people, and this is one of those cases. I will be visiting northwest Minnesota again this week on Saturday afternoon. It is very important that the administration provide this much needed assistance. I do not think as a Senator, in the almost 12 years I have been in the Senate, I have ever voted against disaster relief for any part of the country, because, again, I think this goes to the essence of who we are as a community. Nobody asked for the flooding. Nobody asked for 2 million acres of farmland, 70 percent of it, to be destroyed. Nobody asks for hurricanes or tornados. Nobody asked for the drought. It is "there but for the grace of God go I." We come together as a community and we provide the help for people. That is what disaster relief is about.

I come to the floor to call on the administration to change their mind and to make a commitment to providing this assistance. We had it in the farm bill in the Senate. It was taken out in conference committee for 2001. Now we are talking about even more damage for 2002.

There is no more important issue for the State of Minnesota than to get the help for these farmers. Otherwise, they will not be there. It will be all over. I appeal to the White House: Please change your mind on this matter. We need the help in Minnesota. There will be other States that will need the assistance, as well.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the Senator from Texas has an important measure, which I have reviewed. Given the current status of the bill, it is questionable whether it can be brought up on the bill. The Senator is anxious to speak about it. I suggest the Senator send the amendment to the desk and leave it there, making it part of the RECORD as a colloquy.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be brought up, and I will speak on it, after which I will withdraw the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is not currently on the bill. The Senate is in a period of morning business.

Mr. WARNER. At some point it may be reviewed in committee or by the Senate, but it is important to be part of the RECORD.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. When does morning business end?

Mr. REID. After the cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is scheduled to end at 10:30.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent it be in order for me to call up amendment No. 3928 to the Defense authorization bill.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I have no objection for calling the bill up as long as the amendment will be withdrawn subsequently.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. That is correct.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003—Resumed

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2514) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3928

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MILLER). The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], for herself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BUNNING, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAIG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. BOND, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BAYH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BURNS, and Ms. SNOWE, proposes amendment No. 3928.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent reading of the amendment be dispensed.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To specify additional selection criteria for the 2005 round of defense base closures and realignments under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990)

At the end of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2814. ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA FOR 2005 ROUND OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT.

(a) ADDITIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA.—Section 2913 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101-510; 10 U.S.C. 2687 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), and (f) as subsections (e), (f), and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection (d):

“(d) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—The selection criteria for military installations shall also address the following:

“(1) Force structure and mission requirements through 2020, as specified by the document entitled ‘Joint Vision 2020’ issued by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including—