

face in Kansas and Nebraska and Colorado and Wyoming and South Dakota and Oklahoma are no less dire than those that our citizens have faced in other places in the country due to floods and hurricanes.

I ask my colleagues to join with us to find a way to provide assistance, to pursue drought assistance and disaster relief for farmers and ranchers across the country and to look for ways that we can do so in a way that is responsible and meaningful. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture and my colleagues across the country and with the administration and Senate to see that those goals are accomplished. No less than the future of rural America is at stake. Many of the farmers and ranchers in Kansas are in their sixties and seventies; and absent assistance from Congress this year, they will not be farming and ranching next year. Absent them having a livelihood, the communities that dot the landscape of our rural portions of the country will cease to exist and a way of life that has honored this country, that has been a backbone of this country, will disappear.

So I ask respectfully my colleagues for their assistance as we pursue the issues of drought assistance. The gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and I have introduced legislation; and we will be seeking support of our colleagues to address this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER J. RUSSELL GEORGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, all of us who serve in Congress depend heavily on skilled, capable and hardworking staff members to meet the demands of committee hearings, floor action and all the other activities of a national legislature. Over the past decade of my service in the House of Representatives, I have been blessed with a strong and effective group of staff members who have helped me meet the needs of both constituents and the Nation. My staff also has helped me engage in vigorous oversight of government programs as a subcommittee chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform.

J. Russell George joined my staff in 1995 shortly after Republicans won control of the House and I was appointed

to a subcommittee chairmanship. Since that time, Russell has been a key adviser to me and chief aide in directing the subcommittee through hundreds of hearings that investigated every department of the Federal Government. Russell helped me prod executive agencies into a serious and sustained effort to prevent any major breakdowns of government computer systems due to software problems related to the year 2000 changeover. Some called it Y2K.

I thank Russell for his dedication and hard work, and I wish him all the very best in what I know will continue to be a very distinguished career in public service. He was a key force in pressing for legislation to collect debts owed to the taxpayers and he has directed many other subcommittee initiatives, such as misuse of taxpayers' well-earned dollars. All of those efforts built on Russell's prior experience as a New York prosecutor.

When Russell George was a teenager, he worked in the office of Senator Dole. He knew that this young man cared about the public interest. Through Senator Dole's office, Russell secured his education at Howard University and then went on to Harvard Law School. He was a Phi Beta Kappa at Howard, majoring in political science and minoring in history. He wanted to help his community and he did it, in Queens, New York. When he was ten years of age, he was helping charities.

Senator Dole was with us today as he administered the oath of office for Mr. George's new responsibilities as the Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service. We hope that he will maybe come back to the Hill sometime. He has been in the executive branch under President George H.W. Bush, the father of the current President. Both have seen faith in Russell George.

He went back to the law firm in New York and we were able to get him to come down here because we knew what he had done earlier. In those days he was also assistant general counsel in the Office of Management and Budget and associate director for the policy in the White House's Office of National Service. Interesting, because that is the responsibility he has now. After serving all of that work in New York and in Washington, we thank him for his dedication and hard work and wish him all the very best in what I know will continue to be a very distinguished career in public service. He is a wonderful person and a sterling example of the men and women who serve our Congress.

#### REVISIONS TO THE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, Section 221 of H. Con. Res. 83, and Section 231 of H. Con. Res. 353, I submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD revisions to the 302(a) allocations and budgetary aggregates established by the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget.

The conference report on H.R. 4775, which was signed by the President on August 2 to become P.L. 107-206, contains emergency-designated appropriations. The fiscal year 2002 allocations to the Appropriations Committee were previously increased by \$29,427,000,000 in new budget authority and \$8,466,000,000 in outlays to reflect the amounts in the House-passed bill. I am adjusting the budgetary aggregates and the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations for the difference between the House-passed and enacted measures. This adjustment equals -\$4,713,000,000 in new budget authority and -\$1,645,000,000 in outlays. Accordingly, the 302(a) allocation for fiscal year 2002 to the House Committee on Appropriations becomes \$731,414,000,000 in new budget authority and \$734,775,000,000 in outlays. The budgetary aggregates for fiscal year 2002 become \$1,704,586,000,000 in new budget authority and \$1,651,428,000,000 in outlays.

Outlays flowing from fiscal year 2002 emergency appropriations increase the 302(a) allocation for fiscal year 2003 outlays. Under the procedures set forth in section 314 of the Budget Act, adjustments may be made for emergency-designated budget authority through fiscal year 2002, and for the outlays flowing from such budget authority in all fiscal years. The fiscal year 2003 outlay allocation to the Appropriation Committee was previously increased by \$10,715,000,000 to reflect the changes contained in the enacted measure, I am adjusting the outlay allocation by -\$2,322,000,000. Accordingly, the 302(a) allocation for fiscal year 2003 to the House Committee on Appropriations becomes \$748,096,000,000 in new budget authority and \$783,268,000,000 in outlays. The budgetary aggregates for fiscal year 2003 become \$1,784,073,000,000 in new budget authority and \$1,765,225,000,000 in outlays.

#### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I wanted to take to the floor this evening to talk once again about the prescription drug issue, both the problem in terms of more and more Americans not being able to afford the price of prescription drugs and the need to provide an expansion of Medicare to cover prescription drugs under Medicare for America's seniors and disabled.

I want to start out by saying that during the August break when I had a number of town meetings and forums