

see again. Times change, things change. My hope is the President will understand this is a very serious problem and will relent and decide he wants to help.

I am informing the chairman and ranking member of the full Appropriations Committee today that it is my intention to modify the amendment I added to the Agriculture appropriations bill to include the 2006 drought because we must, it seems to me, respond to this disaster. The failure to respond to it means that fewer and fewer people will be living out on the land in this country, and that takes something significant away from the character of this country. This is not new. We have always reached out in times of trouble.

I would ask anybody who thinks there is not trouble out there to just take a drive—take a drive in the drought area and then ask yourself, if you had 300 cows that were your responsibility on your ranch, what on Earth would you feed them? And if there is nothing to feed them, you are going to market and you are out of business. It is that simple.

So, first and foremost, my colleague, Senator CONRAD, and I, and others, have asked the Secretary of Agriculture to release haying and grazing opportunities on CRP lands. That is very important. It is important that it be done now, not later. The Department of Agriculture always drags its feet and always opens CRP land for haying and grazing too late, after the major 4-H opportunities are gone or after the 4-H capability is dramatically diminished. So my hope is that the Secretary of Agriculture will heed the call this time and open that land for haying and grazing immediately to give some relief to those ranchers.

As I said, this is not just about North Dakota. My colleague, Senator BOND from Missouri, and our colleagues from Illinois and others—Illinois, last year, had the third driest year since 1895. There are other areas of this country that are suffering the ravages of drought. Again, my hope is that this Congress will understand the urgency.

I was at this meeting in Zealand, ND, of 170 ranchers. They talked about the drought. Even without the drought, what is happening to them, the average farmer and rancher in North Dakota is spending \$18,000 a year in additional energy costs. The big, major integrated oil companies are walking to the bank with bundles of money sucked right out of the pocketbooks of working Americans, ranchers, and farmers, especially because they are heavy users of energy. It is unbelievable the toll it is imposing all across this country. But when you add a drought, which has destroyed pastures and destroyed the ability to feed your cattle, and then continue to impose this additional burden of energy costs, in my judgment, it is a recipe for destruction all across rural America.

Some people may think it doesn't matter. I have spoken before to my col-

leagues about a fellow named Rodney Nelson in North Dakota who is a cowboy poet and who wrote a long question for this country: Does part of this country's character depend on having folks on the farm and on the ranch as well? Farmers and ranchers, small towns and big towns, isn't all of that together part of the character of this country? He asked the question: What is it worth? What is it worth for a kid to know how to weld a seam? What is it worth for a kid to know how to overhaul a tractor, how to plow a straight furrow, how to teach a calf to suck from a pail? What is it worth for a kid to know all of these things? What is it worth for a kid to know how to grease a combine, how to hang a door, how to build a lean-to? What is it worth?

There is only one university in this country where that is taught and that is on the family farm. Those kids who come off our farms and go to small towns and big cities, who bring with them that nourishment of family values from America's farms and ranches to small towns and big cities is what renews our country. If this Congress ever decides that farms don't matter, those Americans who live out under a yard light trying to raise a family and raise a crop and raise some livestock, if this Congress ever decides they don't matter, we will have lost something very substantial for this country.

So for now, we need the Secretary of Agriculture immediately to release CRP land for haying and grazing so we can get some feed to those cattle in drought areas. No. 1. No. 2, we need this President to back away from his threat to veto disaster aid, and we need to amend the provision that I put in the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee to extend it to 2006, which I intend to do.

Mr. President, we have a lot of choices to make in this country. Our country has a responsibility in this world to respond to all kinds of things. We are a world leader. I think that it is important for us to respond around the world. But first and foremost, it is important for us to respond here at home and take care of things here at home.

I am just telling you when the sign at the bank and the sign downtown in your town shows 105 degrees or 102 degrees and the wind is blowing 30 miles an hour and the pasture looks like a bowling ball and there is nothing for the cattle to eat and you are suffering through a drought, this Congress has a responsibility to act—and sooner rather than later.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### SUPREME COURT DECISION REGARDING TERRORISTS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I will take the first 10 minutes to speak about the recent Supreme Court decision on the treatment of terrorists we are holding and their rights relative to trial. This is a classic example of a court that has seen the trees but has failed to see the forest.

We are confronted with a situation where individuals, whose purpose it is to kill Americans and destroy our Nation, are being held by our country in order to protect our country. These are individuals who don't function as part of an organized nation. There is no Nation to which they are accountable or which would be accountable to us should we be functioning in a state of war that was formal, such as occurred during World War II when the Nazi government and Germany and the German soldiers that were captured were held under the rules of the Geneva Convention and the people who were in that government were tried under the rules of Nuremberg. There is no such government. These individuals function separately from any formal structure that could be called governance. And there is no right to the Geneva Convention because the Geneva Convention presumes certain statuses of combat and that there are certain engagements, even though it is in war, that have rules relative to what can and should be done in a war that is appropriate.

None of these people are signatories to the Geneva Convention; they have no rights under the Geneva Convention; and they disavow the purposes of the Geneva Convention. Their purpose is to kill for the reason that they believe their life will be improved and their afterlife, as they see it in their perverse view of Islam—which is a great religion but is being perverted by these fundamentalists. Their purpose is to kill Americans and destroy Western culture. To ascribe to them certain rights, as if they were citizens of our Nation or citizens of some other nation that we were at war with, or as if they were participants in a group that was signatory to the Geneva Convention, is to undermine, first, the legitimacy of nations and what nations stand for; and, secondly, the legitimacy of treaties and what treaties stand for because you are essentially ascribing to these people rights and values which they reject and which they are fighting against.

Their purpose is to not support the Constitution or be governed by the Constitution of America. Their purpose is to destroy America and the Constitution. Their purpose is not to support the government of whatever Islamic nation they come from. Their purpose is, in most instances, to take that government over and to establish a religiously fundamentalist state which isn't governed at all by rules of Western or traditional civil societies. And their purpose certainly isn't to subscribe to the Geneva Convention.