

weather in July in North Dakota. This is an article that appeared in the Grand Forks Herald. It said this:

Fields of wheat, durum and barley in the Dakotas this dry summer will never end up as pasta, bread or beer. What is left of the stifled crops has been salvaged to feed livestock struggling on pastures where hot winds blow clouds of dirt from dried-out ponds.

Some ranchers have been forced to sell their entire herds, and others are either moving their cattle to greener pastures or buying more already-costly feed. Hundreds of acres of grasslands have been blackened by fires sparked by lightning or farm equipment.

"These 100-degree days for weeks steady have been burning everything up," said Walter Johnson, Steele's mayor. "I'd go for 2 feet of snow than this."

Farm ponds and other small bodies of water have dried out from the heat, leaving the residual alkali dust to be whipped up by the wind. The blowing, dirt-and-salt mixture is a phenomenon that hasn't been seen in south central North Dakota since the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, Johnson said.

More than 60 percent of the United States now has abnormally dry or drought conditions, stretching from Georgia to Arizona and across the north through the Dakotas, Minnesota, Montana and Wisconsin, said Mark Svoboda, a climatologist for the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

An area stretching from south central North Dakota to central South Dakota is the most drought-stricken region in the nation, Svoboda said.

"It's the epicenter," he said. "It's just like a wasteland in north central South Dakota."

Conditions aren't much better a little farther north. Paul Smokov and his wife, Betty, raise several hundred cattle on their 1,750-acre ranch north of Steele, a town of about 760 people.

North Dakota's all-time high temperature was set here in July 1936, at 121. Smokov, now 81, remembers that time and believes conditions this summer probably are worse.

"I could see this coming in May," Smokov said of the parched pastures and wilted crops. "That's the time the good Lord gives us our general rains. But we never got them this year."

Brad Rippey, a federal Agriculture Department meteorologist in Washington, said this year's drought is continuing one that started in the late 1990s. "The 1999 to 2006 drought ranks only behind the 1930s and the 1950s. It's the third-worst drought on record—period," Rippey said.

Svoboda was reluctant to say how bad the current drought might eventually be.

"We'll have to wait to see how it plays out—but it's definitely bad," he said. "And the drought seems to not be going anywhere soon."

Herman Schumacher, who owns Herreid Livestock Auction in north central South Dakota, said his company is handling more sales than ever because of the drought.

In May, June and July last year, his company sold 3,800 cattle. During the same months this year, more than 27,000 cattle have been sold, he said.

"I've been in the barn here for 25 years and I can't even compare this year to any other year," Schumacher said.

He said about 50 ranchers have run cows through his auction this year.

"Some of them just trimmed off their herds, but about a third of them were complete dispersions—they'll never be back," he said.

"This county is looking rough—these 100-degree days are just killing us," said Gwen

Payne, a North Dakota State University extension agent in Kidder County, where Steele is located.

The Agriculture Department says North Dakota last year led the nation in production of 15 different commodity classes, including spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, oats, canola, pinto beans, dry edible peas, lentils, flaxseed, sunflower and honey.

North Dakota State University professor and researcher Larry Leistritz said it's too early to tell what effect this year's drought will have on commodity prices. Flour prices already have gone up and may rise more because of the effect of drought on wheat.

"There will be somewhat higher grain prices, no doubt about it," Leistritz said. "With livestock, the short-term effect may mean depressed meat prices, with a larger number of animals being sent to slaughter. But in the longer run it may prolong the period of relatively high meat prices."

Eventually, more than farmers could suffer.

"Agriculture is not only the biggest industry in the state, it's just about the only industry," Leistritz said. "Communities live or die with the fortunes of agriculture."

Mr. President, this is an article that was repeated in newspaper after newspaper across my State. This is a disaster that is virtually unprecedented. South Dakota is even worse. That is why we simply have to achieve a result. I again ask my colleagues, please, just give us a vote. These people deserve at least that.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I have just been told now by leadership staff they are going to do everything they can to try to get this Agriculture appropriations bill up tomorrow and that I would have an opportunity to offer an amendment and get a vote. I have been assured they are going to bend their best efforts to accomplish that tomorrow. I appreciate that effort. I hope it occurs. Of course, that was supposed to happen today.

I am also informed they want to adjourn the body for the day, and I certainly will not stand in the way of adjourning. There are many here who have families they wish to go home to, and I certainly don't want to stand in the way of that, especially with these assurances that now, once again, have been given to me that they will bend their best efforts to try to get to the Agriculture appropriations bill tomorrow and give me an opportunity for a vote.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the first concurrent resolution on the budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2006 budget through September 30, 2006. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2006 concurrent resolution on the budget, H. Con. Res. 95. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the attached report excludes these amounts.

The estimates show that current level spending is under the budget resolution by \$11.869 billion in budget authority and by \$4.030 billion in outlays in 2006. Current level for revenues is \$6.590 billion above the budget resolution in 2006.

Since my last report dated September 5, 2006, Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007, P.L. 109-289. In addition to providing regular defense appropriations for 2007, this act appropriated \$200 million for firefighting activities in fiscal year 2006. Those appropriations were designated as emergency requirements in 2006 and did not affect the current level totals.

This is my final report for 2006.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2006.

Hon. JUDD GREGG,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2006 budget and are current through September 30, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions for fiscal year 2006 that underlie H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a

result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 on Table 2).

Since my last letter dated September 5, 2006, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109-289). In addition to providing regular defense appropriations for 2007, this act appropriated \$200 million for firefighting activities in fiscal year 2006. Those appropriations were designated as emergency requirements in 2006 and did not affect the current-level totals.

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (–) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,094.4	2,082.5	–11.9
Outlays	2,099.0	2,095.0	–4.0
Revenues	1,589.9	1,596.5	6.6
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	416.0	416.0	0
Social Security Revenues	604.8	604.8	*

¹ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed \$50.0 billion in budget authority and \$62.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2006 from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current-level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in the previous session and the emergency requirements in Public Law 109-176, Public Law 109-208, Public Law 109-234, and Public Law 109-289 (see footnote 2 on Table 2), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are also off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Note: * = Less than \$50 million.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2006

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in Previous Sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,607,180
Permanents and other spending legislation ¹	1,296,134	1,248,957	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,333,823	1,323,802	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	–479,868	–479,868	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions:	2,150,089	2,092,891	1,607,180
Enacted This Session:			
Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-176)	250	250	0
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program for 2006 (P.L. 109-204)	1,000	750	0
Native American Corrections Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-221)	23	23	3
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222)	0	0	–10,757
Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act (P.L. 109-227)	0	0	–1
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234)	–111	143	55
Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-235)	0	0	1
Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-236)	0	0	1
Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-250)	4	3	0
An act to provide funding authority to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109-268)	0	27	0
Total, enacted this session:	1,166	1,196	–10,698
Entitlements and mandatories:			
Difference between enacted levels and budget resolution estimates for appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–68,740	879	n.a.
Total Current Level ^{1, 2, 3, 4}	2,082,515	2,094,966	1,596,482
Total Budget Resolution	2,144,384	2,161,420	1,589,892
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ⁴	–50,000	–62,424	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,094,384	2,098,996	n.a.
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	6,590
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	11,869	4,030	n.a.

¹ P.L. 109-171 was enacted early in this session of Congress, but is shown under “enacted in previous sessions” as requested by the Committee on the Budget. Included in current-level totals for P.L. 109-171 are \$980 million in budget authority and –\$4,847 million in outlays.

² Pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the current-level totals exclude the following amounts:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Emergency requirements enacted in previous session	74,981	112,423	7,111
Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-176)	–250	0	0
National Flood Insurance Enhanced Borrowing Authority Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-208)	2,275	2,275	0
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (P.L. 109-234)	94,541	24,184	0
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 109-289)	200	0	0
Total, enacted emergency requirements	171,747	138,882	–7,111

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

⁴ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed \$50,000 million in budget authority and \$62,424 million in outlays in fiscal year 2006 from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current-level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in the previous session and the emergency requirements in P.L. 109-176, P.L. 109-208, P.L. 109-234, and P.L. 109-289 (see footnote 2 above), budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

Notes.—n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.
Source: Congressional Budget Office.

FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and their recent work to fight domestic violence. The organization is a gem among our midst. Founded in April 1890, it is one of the world’s oldest and largest women’s volunteer organizations. More than 150,000 women members in 5,000 local and 20 international clubs volunteer over 13 million hours and contribute approximately \$35 million through more than 160,000 club projects. I can’t underestimate how

powerful and influential this corps of volunteers is to the health of our Nation.

I am particularly proud that this year the international president, Jacqueline Pierce, has adopted “Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention” as her President’s Special Project for 2006–2008. Nannette White, a member from Louisiana, serves as the national chairperson of the President’s Special Project, and with the support of a national committee of women, promotes participation in this project. All across the Nation, local women’s clubs are

adopting battered women’s shelters and donating needed goods such as food, linens, health care items, and more. In Nevada, members sponsored a public service campaign on radio stations to promote important messages about violence prevention. In Mississippi, members distributed 2,000 fliers with information on the National Domestic Violence Hotline and helped raise funds for the Mississippi State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. This is just a small sampling of the good works being done.