is from 1996 to 1999, just those 3 years. You can see that the Europeans really have "assumed" the high ground. They are outspending us seven to one. They are winning their competition the old-fashioned way. They are buying these markets. That is what the Europeans are up to.

Unfortunately, we are engaged in unilateral disarmament. We are cutting in the face of massive superiority on the other side. One of the chief trade negotiators for the Europeans told me several years ago: Senator, we believe we are in a trade war in agriculture. We believe at some point there will be a cease-fire. We believe there will be a cease-fire in place, and we want to occupy the high ground. The high ground is market share.

That is exactly what they are up to. And how do we do it? Why are we giving up, in 20 years, from being major importers to being major exporters. In fact, they have surpassed the United States in terms of agriculture exports. One of the ways they have done it is to spend enormous sums of money to put themselves in a position of superiority.

This chart shows how the European Union is flooding the world with agricultural export subsidies. This is the European share of world agricultural export subsidies, accounting for nearly 84 percent of all world agricultural export subsidies; the United States' share, this little red piece of the pie, is 1.4 percent. They are outgunning the United States 60 to 1.

It is no wonder farm income is declining. It is no wonder exports are declining. It is no wonder our farmers are under enormous pressure. They are under enormous pressure because our European friends have a plan and a strategy to dominate world agricultural trade. Again, they are doing it the old-fashioned way: They are buying these markets. They think the United States is asleep. They think we will not fight back. They have told me: Senator, we think you are so prosperous in so many other areas, you will give up on agriculture.

So far, we are proving them right. We are engaged in unilateral disarmament in a trade confrontion. We would never do it in a military confrontion. Why do we do it? Why are we giving up and letting them dominate world agricultural trade? What are the implications this fall when we go to negotiate with them? I can tell you what I believe the implications are. I believe we are headed for a guaranteed loss.

I was referring to the trade negotiator for the Europeans saying to me they believe we are in a trade war. They believe at some point there will be a cease-fire. They believe there will be a cease-fire in place, and they want to occupy the high ground. The high ground is market share. He is right.

That is the high ground. We are headed into negotiations with them this fall, and we have no leverage. How will we possibly get a good result when they have Americans outspending 7 to 1 in overall support, 60 to 1 in export subsidies? How are we going to win that negotiation? What is our leverage to change this relationship? There is no leverage. We are going to lose unless we do something.

I personally believe we have to rearm agriculture, to put more resources into the fight, to send the Europeans a clear and unmistakable message that the United States is not going to roll over; we are not going to surrender; we are not going to wave a white flag and turn over world agricultural trade to them; we will insist on a level playing field.

In the last trade negotiation, that gap existed as well. The Europeans have never given us support to even one percent of what they have. Did that gap close? Did our level of support go up? Did the European level go down? Did the gap close? No, it did not. Instead, we got equal percentage reductions on both sides from an unequal base, leaving the Europeans in the superior position.

If we look back at the last trade negotiation, we got a 36-percent reduction in export trade subsidy and a 24-percent reduction in internal support on both sides. But the Europeans were at a much higher level. When there are equal percentage reductions from unequal bases, the Europeans remain in a superior position. It does not take a whole lot to figure out that if we continue to do that, we will continue to leave the Europeans in a superior position; we will continue to have our farmers at a competitive disadvantage; we will continue to sign the death warrant of tens of thousands of family farmers.

That is the hard reality of what we confront. We have before the Senate a disaster response. It is clearly called for. It is clearly necessary to meet this disaster response. It has to deal with the bad policy of putting our farmers at a severe disadvantage to their European competitors.

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. COCHRAN. I do not recall when the Senator began talking, but we were to go back on the bill at 10:30. I understand we are not on the bill. I was going to ask if the Senator would yield for that purpose.

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield. I just reached the conclusion.

I am happy to yield with the concluding thought that we do need to respond. We need to respond to this disaster emergency. We also need to respond with a longer-term policy change.

I yield the floor.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

August 3, 1999

19103

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimates for S. 244, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Kim Cawley, who can be reached at 226–2860.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

SUMMARY: S. 244 would authorize the appropriation of $224 million to the Department of Interior (DOI) to make grants to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System for the construction of a drinking water supply project. The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System is a group of cities and rural areas in southeastern South Dakota, southwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota. CBO estimates that implementing S. 244 would cost $22 million over the 2000–2004 period, with the rest of the authorized spending coming after 2004.

Estimated Cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of S. 244 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within the budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

<table>
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Basis of Estimate: For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the full amount of the authorization will be provided in 2000. We estimated the annual amount of spending on this drinking water system construction project using information from the local water system and historical spending rates for similar projects. Completion of this project is expected to take about 12 years.

Pay-as-You-Go Considerations: None.

Estimated Impact on State, Local and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller, Director of State and Local Government Affairs, CBO.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JENNIFER SHAFER ODOM

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of Captain Jennifer Shafer Odom. She died on a mountainside in Colombia, which we will be defending our Nation and our values.

This morning, her grieving family is at Dover Air Force Base—to bring their daughter home for the last time.

On July 23, Captain Odom was on an Army reconnaissance plane that was flying near a major drug-producing region of Colombia. During bad weather, the plane crashed into a mountainside—killing the five Americans and two Colombians on board. These brave soldiers were casualties in our war against drugs. They were fighting to keep drugs off our streets and out of our schools. They knew that this is essential to our national security and our national values.

Captain Odom grew up in Brunswick, Maryland. She was a valedictorian at Brunswick High School. She was active in so many areas—from sports to theater.

As a scholar, an athlete and a leader—it's not surprising that she chose to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She wanted to use her many talents to serve her country.

She graduated from West Point in the top quarter of her class. She served in the United States Army with valor and distinction—raising to rank of Captain.

But it is not just for her accomplishments that she will be missed. I've spoken to her family several times in the past few days. What comes across is their pride in the kind of person that she was. She was so dear to her friends and neighbors that the entire community joined in a prayer chain to pray for her and for her family.

Captain Jennifer Shafer Odom served our country with distinction. Her courage and her sacrifice remind us that our freedom abides in the heroism of pilots like Captain Odom.

Her death was a tragedy—but her life was a triumph. She leaves behind a grieving husband, and her heartbroken parents. I ask my colleagues to join me in keeping Captain Odom and her family in our prayers.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS’ ASSETS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Holocaust Era Assets Tax Exclusion Act amendment to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1999. I am pleased that this amendment was cleared on both sides of the aisle and has been accepted by the full United States Senate. The passage of the Abraham-Fitzgerald-Moyrian-Schumer Holocaust Era Assets Tax Exclusion Act amendment by unanimous consent, demonstrates beyond shadow of a doubt the United States Senate’s firm solidarity with those who suffered during the Holocaust. Documents like this, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Chairman Rottman for his leadership and support during this process, without which we might not have had this opportunity to pass such important legislation.

The passing decades have not obscured the horrors of the Nazi regime and the horrors it committed during its 12 years in power. Many people in America and around the world live every day with memories of atrocities they suffered during this terrible time. Ronded up, placed in ghettos or death camps, left to starve or tortured and murdered, millions had their lives taken from them, figuratively and literally.

We must never forget these atrocities. Thanks to the hard work of many, particularly within the Jewish community, we have numerous reminders of this inhumanity which can and must serve as our commitment to preventing any such events from occurring ever again. But there is more that we must do. Only recently has public attention been properly directed toward another great crime of the Nazi regime and those who cooperated with it: the systematic looting of Jewish economic assets. In addition to committing outright theft and looting, the Nazis seized liquid assets that could be converted easily into cash, such as insurance policy proceeds and bank accounts. Documents discovered over the past several years show that the Nazis specifically targeted insurance policies held by Jews as a source of funding for their expansionist, totalitarian regime.

I am sorry to say that some insurance companies also specifically (and illegally) targeted Jewish families. Knowing that Jewish policy holders soon would be taken to concentration camps, these firms sold specifically tailored policies, taking as much cash as possible up front, with no intention of honoring their obligations.

After the war, Holocaust survivors struggling to restart their lives tried