

credit demand since the mid-1980s. As of April 23, our State FSA offices had delivered more than \$179 million in credit assistance.

Due to bad weather, low prices and poor outlooks, the need for Government-guaranteed credit has increased substantially this year. Our agricultural industry is on a deadline with Mother Nature, and it cannot wait any longer.

The timeliness of this legislation cannot be overemphasized. For those of us in Southern States, our planting time has already come and is just about gone. We are in dire straits. All farmers across this Nation are in dire straits. It is so very important for us to act in this body in a timely fashion in recognizing this problem.

In addition, I take this opportunity to express to my colleagues that agriculture is vitally important to all of us across this Nation and to the rest of this world. It seems that every time I turn on the television, there is another story applauding the unbelievable success of our Nation's economy.

Unfortunately, not every segment of our society is sharing in this period of economic bliss. The agricultural community nationwide is suffering.

USDA economic projections for 1999 do not offer much hope for relief in the immediate future, and it will fall upon our shoulders to explore the short-term, as well as the long-term, policy resolutions to farm revenue problems.

It may not be the most popular issue of the day, but every one of us enjoys the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supply in the world today produced by American agricultural growers.

This safe and abundant food supply will not be there for this Nation or for the world if we do not support our family farmers at this critical time. Once those family farms are gone, they will no longer be back in production.

I certainly thank the President for allowing me to talk about this and to reiterate to my colleagues how absolutely important it is.

IN HONOR OF SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to do something that I know my fellow colleagues in the Senate will be very interested in, and that is to pay tribute to one of the Senate's esteemed graduates and a role model for all Americans, former Senator David Pryor.

As a young woman and a former Congresswoman from Arkansas, I have always looked up to Senator David Pryor for his intelligence, his dedication, his tenacity and his compassion for his fellow man.

Now, I have found a new reason to admire my former colleague and longtime friend. For those of you who don't

know, last week David Pryor left his current post at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

No, he didn't take a job at Yale or even an Ambassadorship. He has gone to Kosovo. Not as a diplomat or as a U.S. official, not even as a Harvard professor, but as a hands-on volunteer who is helping care for Kosovo refugees in Albania.

I am sure that many of you who served with David Pryor and already know him as a great humanitarian are not in the least bit surprised by this.

Senator Pryor recently signed on with the International Rescue Mission, a New York based group which was started by Albert Einstein to help those suffering under Hitler's regime. The organization is currently building shelters and assembling sanitation systems to improve living conditions for thousands of displaced Albanians.

Senator Pryor loaded up his suitcase with gifts for the refugee children—candy bars and crayons. And he told the International Rescue Mission that he was going there to work for 30 to 60 days.

Some may ask what prompted David Pryor to take this step. By all accounts, he has had a remarkable career—serving as a Senator and the Governor of my home state and the state legislature as one of its youngest members.

He has been able to continue his love of politics by teaching young people at Harvard's esteemed school of Government. And he has a wonderful family, who he enjoys immensely and who loves him dearly. It all sounds like a pretty full life.

When asked by a friend why he made the decision to go to Kosovo, Pryor responded that he was too young to fight in World War II and he was too involved in his own career during the civil rights struggle to contribute much in that event.

Now, later in life he was struck by the reports and pictures coming out of the Yugoslav region. He was concerned for the thousands of children and families who were in need and who he wanted to do something for. So, after a week of deliberating within himself, he woke his wife in the middle of the night and said, "Honey, we've got to talk." A week later, off he went.

Since he has been in Albania, Senator Pryor has reported once back to his family and sent a fascinating letter to friends, family and former staff. He works in a camp digging latrines and assisting the Red Cross efforts to secure supplies. Last Saturday he bought 5,000 bars of soap and diapers for 1,000 babies.

"Being here a week makes me wonder about our world and how people can do such unthinkable, brutal things to other humans," Senator Pryor wrote. "It is a world of unreality."

He says of the men "All their incentive and pride has been stripped from them and they having nothing left."

About half of the dislocated refugees in the camp where Senator Pryor works are children. They are scared. They are tired. They are hungry. And above all, they are devastatingly sad. They mourn lost loved ones and ache to return to their homeland.

Senator Pryor also shared with his family the stories of two women, one whose daughter had been raped at the hands of a Serb police officer; the other a young mother has been separated from her three children, all under the age of 5, for more than a month. She was forced to flee her home, abandon her life and possessions in Yugoslavia, and now continues to desperately search for her family, her small children.

These are just some of the images Senator David Pryor is seeing on his trip. They are even more heart wrenching than any of us could imagine.

Whether or not you support U.S. involvement in the Kosovo region, none of us can imagine or ignore the human tragedy that is unfolding along its borders. Every day our televisions and newspapers carry new images of the suffering—new reports of atrocities by Yugoslav troops.

I, for one, feel better about the humanitarian conditions and the thousands who are suffering, knowing that David Pryor is lending a hand and leading with his heart.

My generation has yet to see the kind of nationwide mobilization and spirit of volunteerism that swept our country during World War II and the Korean War. My mother has often told me of rationing gas and preserving food. She told me of joining together with friends and family to plant a victory garden and to make morale-boosting gifts to send to our troops overseas.

I have such enormous respect for the efforts of all Americans during that time and I hope we as a nation can join together in support of our troops and the humanitarian efforts to help the Kosovo refugees now.

I commend Senator David Pryor's efforts, wish him well, and urge all of us to take note of his selfless example.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent beginning at 9:30 on Friday there be 30 minutes for debate only with respect to the Social Security lockbox issue, and at 10 a.m. a cloture vote occur pursuant to rule XXII.

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

Mr. LOTT. I further ask that following that vote, the Senate proceed to S. Res. 33 reported today by the Judiciary Committee regarding National Military Appreciation Month, and the Senate proceed to vote on the resolution without further debate.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask consent it be in order for me to ask for the yeas and nays at this time.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now ask for the yeas and nays on adoption of S. Res. 33.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. LOTT. There will be two rollcall votes on Friday beginning at 10 a.m. I thank my colleagues for their consideration of these issues.

As a result of the agreement outlined, there will be no further votes today. In addition, I am working with the minority leader, Senator McCain, and others to reach an agreement for consideration of the resolution Senator MCCAIN introduced regarding Kosovo. That could involve other votes or other resolutions. For now, we are working on exactly when the MCCAIN resolution would come up. I hope the Senate can reach consideration on this matter in early May. I expect a little debate yet today on the pending lockbox issue.

RECESS

Mr. LOTT. In light of a briefing that is ongoing, a very important briefing in the secure room with regard to the conflict in Kosovo, I ask that the Senate stand in recess until 4:30 so all Senators can attend this briefing.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:42 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. GORTON].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Presiding Officer, in his capacity as a Senator from the State of Washington, notes the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONGRATULATING THE ST. PIUS DECATHLON TEAM

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, with the recent tragic events in Colorado, it's good for us to remind one another that there are a lot of terrific young

people out there accomplishing great feats involving teamwork, academic study, and a lot of guts.

That's why today I want to salute the St. Pius High School academic decathlon team from my hometown in Albuquerque, NM. The St. Pius students just finished in 7th place at the national academic decathlon finals in California. That's the best finish New Mexico young people have ever scored at the decathlon nationals.

One of the St. Pius team members said it best about the contest. He said it's the only competitive event in high school where your best chance of winning involves going home and reading a book.

These outstanding young people were tested based on their knowledge and scholastic skills in fine art, music, history, economics, mathematics and literature.

It is with great pride that I salute the St. Pius decathlon team and their accomplishments. Congratulations to team members Caleb Benton, Nicholas Jaramillo, Stephanie Piegzik, Dennis Carmody, Mark Mulder, Matt Spurgeon, Louis Rivera, Ben Sachs, Jesse Vigil and their coach James Penn.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI pertaining to the introduction of S. 925 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

THE FLAWED ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my fellow Senators an extraordinary exchange that occurred last week in the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee when they were conducting a hearing under your chairmanship regarding the year 2000 budget for the Department of Interior.

As some of you here may know, Secretary Babbitt and I, while both being from adjacent Western States, have not agreed on a lot of land management, water, and endangered species issues affecting the West. However, last Thursday a most unusual and enlightening thing took place. We both agreed that, regarding the impact of the Endangered Species Act on desert States like New Mexico, the current implementation of the law does not work.

I ask unanimous consent Secretary Babbitt's testimony be printed in the RECORD. It is not yet an official record because the entire transcript has not been completed, but it is a literal translation of what he said that day.

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

DEPARTMENTS OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1999

U.S. SENATE, SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met at 9:33 a.m., in room SD-124, the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Slade Gorton (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding. Present: Senators Gorton, Stevens, Cochran, Domenici, Burns, Campbell and Byrd.

UNEDITED PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT

Senator GORTON. Senator Campbell?

Senator CAMPBELL. Mr. Chairman, Senator Domenici has to—he has another very tight commitment.

Did you want to ask a question before I go?

Senator DOMENICI. I would really ask if I could ask two questions. I have to preside at a committee hearing at 10:00 o'clock, and I will be a little late to that.

Senator GORTON. Fine, fine. Go ahead.

Senator DOMENICI. Thank you.

Mr. Secretary, I am going to submit some questions to you with reference to the drought in the State of New Mexico, which will essentially be asking you if you can make sure there is a coordination of all of the federal agencies, some under you, as to what might be done.

We are—we are clearly—I do not know if you know this, but we are destined this year to have the worst drought we have ever had. Our rivers are going to run dry, and a lot of things are going to happen that are very, very bad. And I will ask you about that in detail.

But now I want to raise an issue that is related to the drought and share it with you with reference to the Endangered Species Law, and I think you are aware of this.

Mr. Secretary, New Mexico, like Arizona, is a very arid state. Folks here in the Beltway are primarily unaware of the critical needs for water out there in the West. We are very grateful that you come from out there and you know about these needs.

With the lack of snow pack and precipitation in New Mexico, we are going to have a drought. In fact, parts of the Rio Grande River which you are familiar with, which historically has gone dry at various times, may dry up as early as this week, believe it or not.

The traditional stresses of water users are only made more difficult by litigation regarding the needs for the silver minnow endangered species. A recent notice of intent to sue by the Forest Guardians and others—that is an entity in New Mexico—threatened to force the release of stored water in any of Heron, El Vado, Abiquiú, and Cochiti Reservoirs to maintain—quote, "to maintain the riparian habitat necessarily for the survival," of the silver minnow and the willow flycatcher.

I am concerned about water necessary for the survival of New Mexico, our cities which use that water, our irrigators which have—as you know, under our water system, they have primacy as per the time they applied it to the ground, and they own much of that water.

In the lawsuit which sought to force immediate critical habitat designation, you, as the Secretary of Interior, in the lawsuit which I will make available to you, you argued that the Department did not have the data necessary to determine water amounts needed for the fish.