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SENATE—Friday, October 6, 2000

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, who has given us life, bless us today in the work we will do. We praise You for work that can be done as an expression of our worship of You. We bring the meaning of our faith to our work rather than making our work the ultimate meaning of our lives. With that perspective, we seek to do everything to Your glory. We pray for mental alertness, emotional stability, and physical strength to achieve excellence in all that we do. Thank You for Your companionship in tasks great and small. It is awesome to contemplate that You who are in control of the universe have placed us in charge of what You want to accomplish through us.

Fill us with Your joy and make us cheerful people who make others happier because we are with them. Make us a blessing and not a burden, a lift and not a load, a delight and not a drag. It's great to be alive! Help us make a difference because of the difference You have made in us. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES M. INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I say on behalf of the leader, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business the Senate is expected to begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the Transportation appropriations bill or the sex trafficking conference report. The House is expected to consider the Transportation appropriations legislation this morning. Therefore, it is hoped that a vote can occur prior to noon today. Senators will be notified as soon as votes are scheduled. The leader thanks our colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with time to be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Iowa.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Congress has wisely passed and will send to the President for signature H.R. 4733, the energy and water development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001. I strongly urge the President to sign this vital legislation.

Proper management of our Nation's rivers is a concern for many Americans. Our rivers provide us drinking water, transportation, and recreation. They also provide habitat for aquatic life, wildlife, and birds. Good management techniques provide that all of these purposes are taken into account and managed appropriately and fairly.

I firmly believe that H.R. 4733 provides for good river management. Specifically, section 103 prohibits the use of funds to revise the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual if the revision provides for increases in spring-time water releases during spring heavy rainfall or snow melt. Many Iowans see this as just good common sense.

Increased spring water releases could easily cause the wild Missouri, and its many tributaries, to once again flood low-lying areas, including farmland and communities. Floods would cause a severe economic hardship on those affected. Farmers would be unable to plant crops, and home and business owners would experience property damage. Economic activity in the flood areas would decrease or cease during and immediately after the flooding, causing a loss of income for those impacted.

Many Americans forget what it was like to live along the Missouri prior to the construction of the dams. They forgot that the Missouri was truly wild. They forgot what it was like not to be able to safely plant your crops, grow them with some security that there would not be summer floods, and then be able to harvest them safely. They forgot what it was like to lose all or part of a crop. That meant the loss of your investment in time, labor, seed and other inputs. And that meant no income coming in after the harvest.

The folks in town were hurt, too. Houses and businesses were swept away. Basements were flooded with water, muck and other debris. Sometimes the water level went higher than that to the first floor, or even higher. Furniture and family keepsakes were destroyed. Businesses lost inventories. They could not serve their customers if the store was closed. Public drinking water system suffered damage, as did sewer systems. The economic devastation was high. The quality of life suffered. Increased spring water releases would also cause less water to be released during the summer months. The

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.

lower river levels would halt river barge transportation. Barges are a key part of the agricultural transportation system. Loss of barge traffic would deliver the western part of America's great grain belt into the monopolistic hands of the rail roads. Iowa farmers have clearly told me that this is unacceptable.

Loss of the use of barges to transport agricultural commodities will drive up farm transportation prices. That in turn will drive up the overall price of our agricultural goods that must compete in the international marketplace. This is unfair to our hardworking farmers, as it puts them in jeopardy of losing markets.

While the farm crops travel downriver to reach markets, the loss of barge traffic would also affect bulk commodities and other items that travel up-river to Iowa. They include fertilizer for farm use, salt for highways in winter, steel for processing plants, and the like. The potential for moving cement for construction purposes would also be lost with lower summer water levels. I have talked to many Iowans who live along the Missouri River. They have told me of the devastation left from past floods. That devastation was more than economic. It produced heartache and broken dreams. Though Iowans are a strong people, the past floods have left their scars on individuals and in community life. Those Iowans have joined together on a nonpartisan basis to say, "No more floods!" That is the message for the President to consider as he deliberates on the energy and water appropriations bill. The President is in a powerful position to either do good or to inflict harm. It is almost as if he were actually God, able to exercise the power to flood or not to flood. That is how powerful he is on this issue. It is an awesome power that I hope that he uses wisely. It is my hope that he will decide to prevent flooding. It is my hope that he will listen to our farmers and not make their jobs more difficult than they already are. It is my hope that he will sign this bill.

Mr. President, let the people live in their homes, work in their businesses and farm their farms in safety.

Clearly, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has violated Federal law in its ordering of the Corps of Engineers to begin a spring flood. It ignored the process set forth in the Endangered Species Act. These processes are there to protect everyone, and they were not followed. It has also based much of its opinion on speculation, not facts. The President must depend upon facts and protect due process. H.R. 4733 is good legislation which should be signed into law. It does not deserve a veto. Mr. President, please sign this important legislation.

President Clinton, one time, in private conversation with me, you told

me how you understood the problems of the farmers more than most Presidents ever did because you had studied them so much.

Mr. President, you have been in the White House 8 years. I do not know how long it has been since you have visited a supermarket. But remember, food grows on farms, it does not grow in supermarkets. You have an opportunity here to help the farmers in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri to be able to put their crops in in the spring, to be able to take those crops out in the fall, to be able to ship the harvest down the river when it is most needed, so that the farmers are not the captives of a monopolistic railroad if the barge traffic isn't there for competition.

So, Mr. President, show us that you do, in fact, understand the problems of the farmers and sign this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know Members are waiting to determine whether or not we are going to have a vote today. The majority leader has indicated we likely will have one. From the minority's perspective, we badly want to move to the Transportation appropriations bill which, as we speak, the House is discussing.

But we have a number of Members who are rightfully unwilling to do that until we get the legislation and are able to look at the conference report, which we don't now have. I hope we can start talking about the conference report, with the hope of getting the actual document as soon as possible so that Senators can look at it.

I know one Senator indicated he would like to be able to have a day to look at the conference report. I will check with this Senator and others to see if that can be expedited, if they have an opportunity to review the conference report.

In short, the minority is saying that we are ready to move forward and we are willing, in the late days of the session, to expedite things as much as we can, but there are certain basic things we need to read, such as a bill or a conference report, before we vote on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY YATES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my sad duty to report to the Senate and to

the Congress that I learned a few moments ago that one of the greatest servants of the American people in the Congress in the 20th century passed away last night.

Sidney Yates was a Congressman from the city of Chicago who was elected in 1948 and served until 1999, with only 2 years that he wasn't in service. His was an amazing story. I guess it was a great story of America. His mother and father were Russian immigrants who came to this country in the beginning of the last century. He grew up in the city of Chicago and went to law school. Before that, he distinguished himself, as hard as it may be to understand today, in athletics. He was a semi-pro basketball player and was a member of a Big Ten basketball team when he was a student at the University of Chicago. His semi-pro basketball team was called the Lifschultz Fast Freighters. I used to joke with him about this trucking company and the fact that he was the basketball star for them in the city of Chicago.

On an impulse, in 1948, he decided to run for Congress. It didn't look like a very good year. Tom Dewey was supposed to be elected President, and this young man who had never run for office before was going to try to be elected to the House of Representatives. People didn't give him much of a chance, and his style of campaigning was in sharp contrast with what we do today. I asked him how he ran for office in 1948. He said he had a buddy who played a guitar and they went from one ward meeting to the next singing ethnic folk songs for the groups there. If there was a German group, he sang in German. If it was a group of his fellow Jewish Americans, he sang something they would find appealing.

There was a young lady watching that campaign by the name of Mary Bain. She had volunteered to work on the Truman campaign. She saw this young man in 1948 wandering around Chicago running for Congress and, frankly, took pity on him and said, "I am going to try to help this fellow." To everyone's surprise, he won in 1948 and came to the House of Representatives; he began a long term of service there. His term of service included many years on the House Appropriations Committee. He was a stalwart, a fighter, a person of real value and principle.

In 1962, Sid Yates was persuaded to leave the House of Representatives and run for the Senate. He ran against Everett M. Dirksen—no small task even in 1962. He lost that race, which was the only loss in his political life. In 1964, he returned to the House of Representatives and once again took up service on the House Appropriations Committee.

I was elected many years later, in 1982, and a couple years after that began to serve on that same Appropriations Committee. Probably the best