

CAPITOL HILL SECURITY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I come to the floor to raise a question which I can't believe I have to keep raising over and over again.

Many of us attended the services for Officer Chestnut and Agent Gibson. They were part of the Capitol Hill police force. They were here every day not only protecting Senators and Representatives but the public. I started speaking about this before. We had the 1-week break. I want to come back to this again. This is the one issue on which I want to focus.

We made a commitment to do everything we could possibly do to make sure the officers were as safe as possible and would never have to go through this kind of hell again, for families and for loved ones, and that the public would be safe. Part of that commitment was the idea that surely at the different stations, especially those with the most public, we would have at least two officers.

This morning, again—I think it is the Second Street or C Street entrance, the barricaded part of the Hart Building—at about 10 o'clock in the morning when I came in there was one police officer with all sorts of people. There must have been about 20 people streaming in. That one officer is in peril, and the public is in peril.

I cannot believe we have not lived up to our commitment. I say to colleagues that it is pretty simple. I think the Senate Sergeant at Arms said this: A, we need to pass a supplemental appropriations bill so that you can use overtime in the short run to do the staffing so we have two officers at each one of these stations, or each one of these posts; and, B—I applauded the Senate Sergeant at Arms—we need to hire about 100 more officers so that on a permanent basis we can staff and have two officers at each one of these posts.

I am telling you, colleagues, what we have done is absolutely unconscionable, or what we have not done. How in the world can whoever makes these appropriations decisions—given all we have been through, given all of our concern and all of the commitment we have made, given the service we attended for the two officers who were slain—how can we not put the resources into this so our officers are safe, and, for that matter, so we are safe and the public is safe?

I for the life of me don't get it. I honest to goodness don't get it. I think that every day I am going to come out and mention this. I can't believe this.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

The Senator from Minnesota knows I support him on this issue. I am the only former Capitol Hill police officer serving in the Senate. I know the importance of the issue on which he has spoken. I followed the Senator on a number of occasions, and I back up everything he said. I agree with him.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Having talked to the Senate Sergeant at Arms, I think that Senators who care about this issue—and I think all do—need to make sure our voices are heard. We support the Capitol Police.

On the House side, there seems to be some slowness on a decision about whether or not we will pass through the supplemental appropriations bill and whether or not we will do the job here.

I say to colleagues one more time, I think this is a scandal. I think it is an absolute scandal. We have two officers that have lost their lives. I believe we have made a commitment to the police officers and to their families. I think we have to do much better. It won't happen right away, but at least the decisions need to be made so we can do the staffing to make sure we have two officers at each post.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following Senator MACK, the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. HOLLINGS, be recognized for 15 minutes as if in morning business.

Mr. MACK. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will make sure that Senator HOLLINGS has 15 minutes.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from South Carolina be allowed to speak for 15 minutes, following Senator MURKOWSKI. The Senator from Washington has agreed to allow the Senator to speak before him. That will be about 30 minutes from now.

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

TANF SURPLUS SHOULD FIGHT
POVERTY

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, there was a press conference today held by the National Campaign for Jobs and Income. There were some very dramatic findings reported. This is directly relevant to the debate we were having with the majority leader. They reported today in a prosperous country, we still have about 35 million poor Americans and 13 million of those Americans are children. They reported that while the administration and other Senators and Representatives boast about having cut the welfare rolls in half, we actually have just made a small, hardly any, dent in reducing poverty.

Remember, the goal of the welfare bill was to move people from welfare to economic self-sufficiency.

They report that the poorest children in America are getting poorer. That is worth repeating: The poorest children in America are getting poorer.

They report there is a whole group of people, mothers and children, remain-

ing in poverty. Many are families under tremendous stress and strain. Perhaps a mother has struggled with substance abuse; a mother who is a single parent has a severely disabled child; a mother has been battered, beaten up over and over again. About every 13 seconds in America, a woman is battered in her home.

There is precious little evidence these families will be able to move to work. Pretty soon, depending on the State, they will be pushed off a cliff. We have no safety net left as a result of the welfare bill.

They report there is not one State in the country where the average earnings is even close to the poverty level income. The vast majority of the jobs are barely above minimum-wage jobs, and after 1 year the families lose their health care coverage and are not able to get good child care for their children, sometimes not any child care.

Given those findings, I think it should give Members pause that we are actually seeing an increase in the poverty of the poorest children in America; it should give Members pause.

It is amazing that State governments with the TANF money have about \$7 billion they have not spent—\$7 billion. There are all the needs for affordable child care, for training, especially for additional support services for families that are under unbelievable strain, are mainly women and children in need of affordable housing, sometimes transportation. All of this compelling need and these families are under tremendous pressure trying to survive under very difficult conditions, and the money we have allocated to these States, \$7 billion, is not being spent. Albeit, some of it can be put in a rainy day fund and maybe should be because who knows if the business cycle will stay up forever.

Six States—Connecticut, Kansas, Minnesota, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin—transferred \$800 million from the TANF surpluses to funding programs other than those that serve poor families. Quite often it ends up as general tax rebates, not to the poor. This year, Minnesota is doing much better with the TANF money. Last year, I am not proud of what the Minnesota Government did.

My point is simple:

No. 1, the amount of unspent TANF money in the States has reached \$7 billion, an enormous amount of money.

No. 2, this money has been unspent despite the persistent level of poverty that exists in our country, especially among women and children. And for children, the poorest of poor children, their poverty has increased and some of the States are not spending the money to help them.

No. 3, these low-income families are not receiving the services and the support they need to move out of poverty, which is what this bill was supposed to be all about.