

doing heretofore in the program, which is to say, get the money out during the winter months, but we have decided not only to cut LIHEAP but also to fund it in 12 equal annual installments.

Anybody listening to this debate this morning knows that that does not make any sense. The money needs to be gotten out during the winter months, this month and next month, and sending out that money to these low-income families in June and July and August does not make any sense when they need the money in December and January and February.

If we are not able to respond to that need, as Senator WELLSTONE has said, now, this week, by tomorrow, we will have demonstrated that we do not have the compassion to understand what is going on in our country and what the purpose of Government is, if it is not to help those who are in genuine desperate need.

So we have a crisis, and we have an ability to respond to that crisis. We are talking about, as Senator WELLSTONE has said, a total amount of money of less than \$1 billion, which is a cut from what it had been last year.

LIHEAP last year was funded at \$1.3 billion. We decided to cut it to \$1 billion. As Senator WELLSTONE pointed out, the House wants to zero out the program entirely. That debate between the House and the Senate has not yet been resolved. But, in the meantime, we have a continuing resolution which does fund LIHEAP at a billion dollars, and we have to see to it that that money gets out to those people in desperate need of now. The next day or two will demonstrate what the face of our Government is and what it is we are interested in depicting to the people of the United States, whom we represent.

So I urge my colleagues, along with Senator WELLSTONE and many others—53 Senators have signed a letter urging the negotiators to act quickly, with dispatch and without delay, on this urgent need. I urge my colleagues to see to it that our negotiators here in Congress, and in the administration, act in a way which is sensible and compassionate for those in our country who need our help so urgently at this specific time.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Wisconsin. Again, really, I think this is the beginning of the discussion today. There will be time—and I believe a number of us will be back on the floor throughout the day. We are going to keep pushing on this.

Senator KOHL mentioned this letter, dated December 8 and signed by 54 Senators, to Chairman HATFIELD, who I really want to say right now has been very committed to trying to do something about this. He has been great in the U.S. Senate, and we are going to dearly miss him. I know he feels as if his hands are tied at the moment. He is very committed to do something about the acceleration of getting the funding

out to communities. But 54 Senators have signed this letter, simply saying, look, we have to get the funds out. Temperatures have dropped below freezing, there is snow on the ground, and we simply are not able to get the money out.

There is a real sense of urgency here. So there is a tremendous amount of support for this on the Senate side. I have been in contact with many offices. I know Senator LEAHY, Senator KERRY and others are very, very committed to this and are very anxious for us to get this resolved. Senator SPECTER from Pennsylvania, as well. I mean, Democrats and Republicans alike want to get this done. This has become a moral issue. I do not believe that is an exaggeration.

Are we going to dilly-dally around here and play games and talk about all these statistics, and yet not come together to make some change in a formula to make sure that we get some urgently needed funds out into communities so people do not freeze to death in the United States?

Mr. President, when we went through the rescissions package, I held that package up for a short period. Part of the reason I did that was, there was a deal late at night, and all of a sudden over \$300 million, or thereabouts, was cut from the energy assistance program. I remember saying in the debate then that if this is a glimpse of what is to come, I do not want to have anything to do with it. This is too harsh, too extreme, it is too radical. This is beyond the goodness of people in America. And when we were faced with our first continuing resolution, at one point in time there was some suggested language that said that until the Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill is passed, there can be no allocation of energy assistance money. What is going on here? What is going on? This is so harsh and so extreme. While we beat that effort back, the problem is even more urgent now.

Mr. President, this article says, "Buffalo Prays for a Warm Winter." We can do better than that, can we not? Are we not policymakers? Is that what people are supposed to be reduced to, praying for warm weather? Do we need to just pray for a warm winter? It is not a warm winter in Minnesota. We need to take action.

Another article focusing on LIHEAP funding problems says, "A Heap of Trouble in New York." A Lexington, KY, paper has a headline here that says "Staying Warm." The list goes on. Beaver, PA, "Bankruptcy, Heating Program for the Poor Hit." In the Maine Sentinel, "Heating Program Cut; Out in the Cold." "Timing Wrong for Eliminating Weather Aid," Albany. The list goes on and on, Mr. President. "Cold Comfort," Boston Globe. Des Moines Register, "A Shameful Place to Cut. A rich nation can help its poor stay warm in the winter." The Des Moines Register editorial says LIHEAP is a shameful place to cut. A rich na-

tion can help its poor stay warm in the winter. Is that not true any longer?

Mr. President, this is a shameful place to cut. Our Nation can do better, and, in my State of Minnesota, there are citizens who are going without heat, and one is one too many. There are people who are cold, and one family is one too many. There are families who depend on this energy assistance, so they do not get cold and so they will have enough resources to be able to purchase prescription drugs if that is what they need, or food. The total cost of this program was less than the cost of one B-2 bomber. The Des Moines Register is right, a rich nation can help its poor stay warm in the winter.

Mr. President, in this situation, time rushes on; time is not neutral. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. I assume there is goodwill on the part of all of my colleagues, and I assume I will receive a tremendous amount of support. Fifty-four Senators already have gone on record as saying we have to act now.

Mr. President, I believe that for the next 2 days this must be a priority for the U.S. Congress, and for the next week it must be a priority to make sure that people in the United States of America—men, women and children—do not go cold. We must make sure that we do not have people freezing to death in the United States of America. The issue could not be clearer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Who seeks recognition?

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1472

Mr. WELLSTONE. I understand there is a bill on the calendar due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1472) to provide for one additional Federal judge for the Middle District of Louisiana and one less district judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I object to further consideration of this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

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

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

#### BOSNIA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, several of us last night were opposed to the President's program to mass deploy