WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week we have watched on television the images of women in various places in Afghanistan, in cities, towns, running into the streets without male relatives and throwing away their burqas. I was here a week ago talking about how women were treated in Afghanistan. I brought with me the eyeshade they must wear, which is netting they can barely see out of and people can see nothing beyond. All over Afghanistan, women can wear these if they want, but they are not required.

A week ago, women would have been beaten publicly, or even executed, for these acts. Under the Taliban's rule, women could not work outside the home, receive an education, or even leave their home unless accompanied by a close male relative—brother, father, or husband.

The defeat of the Taliban means that Afghan women are now free from the Taliban's brutal rule. As we begin the peace process and reconstruction of the Afghan Government, we cannot forget about the women who, in spite of the Taliban's harsh edicts, risked their lives to run home schools and health clinics. That is just not a matter of a few words. They actually risked their lives by taking care of sick people and teaching kids how to read.

We have to remember that, prior to the Taliban's rule, Afghan women were scientists, professors, Members of Parliament, and university professors. They led corporations and nonprofit organizations. In fact, women were 70 percent of the nation's schoolteachers, 40 percent of the doctors, 50 percent of the civilian government workers, and 50 percent of the college students in Kabul.

These women must play a role in the rebuilding of post-Taliban Afghanistan. In particular, the education system must be rebuilt with the help of the women, who once comprised the majority of the nation's teachers. I hope that we, at the first opportunity, move in an army of Peace Corps workers. They will teach people English and how to read generally.

I hope the United Nations will focus on the problems of education in Afghanistan. We have to direct our humanitarian aid to the specific needs of the Afghan women and girls who suffered major setback after major setback as a result of this tyrannic rule. For example, over 90 percent of Afghan girls are illiterate. Rebuilding the country's educational system is the only way to repair the damage Afghan women and girls have suffered at the hands of the Taliban. Women will be key to this event.

We also cannot let misconceptions about a very good religion, Islam, guide our efforts in the reshaping of a post-Taliban Afghanistan. Nowhere does the religion say women cannot be educated or employed. In fact, the president of the world's largest Islamic organization in Indonesia is a woman.

As I said, 70 percent of Afghanistan's teachers were women prior to the Taliban regime. Afghanistan first adopted a constitution in 1964 that included universal suffrage, equal rights for women, and separation of powers with an independent judiciary. Afghan women were members of the judiciary, Parliament, and Cabinet, and 30 percent of Afghan's civil service workers were women.

If we are truly committed to restoring the human rights of the Afghan people, and we are, then we must be truly committed to restoring the rights of Afghan women because then women will be given from the start a seat at the table of the peace process and the establishment of the future Government of Afghanistan. Only then will we be truly able to secure the rights of the Afghan women.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the adjournment resolution S. Con. Res. 85 submitted earlier today by Senator DASCHLE; that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The matter is privileged. The concurrent resolution is agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 85) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 85

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, November 16, 2001, Saturday, November 17, 2001, Monday, November 19, 2001, or Tuesday, November 20, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Friday, November 16, 2001, or Saturday, November 17, 2001, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, November 27, 2001, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. REED. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

THE FARM BILL

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, before we adjourn for the week, I want to comment about the Agriculture Committee's action yesterday here in the Senate. I'm very pleased that they passed the farm bill out of the committee, which will, I hope very soon, come to the floor of the Senate. I want to make a few comments about it, about the importance of it to family farmers.

We deal with a lot of issues in the Senate. I know everyone has a favorite issue or a most important issue from their State or from their perspective. I come from a farm State. The subject of family farming is very important to me.

I know some say: But the family farm in America is largely gone. In any event, the notion of family farms is just old nostalgia. It is not relevant to today. Today we need big, mechanized corporate agrifactories. The family farm is like the little old diner that got left behind when the interstate came through. It is kind of nice to look back at what it was and think about it, but it is really not relevant in today's terms.

Those who believe that are just dead wrong. Family farming remains a critically important part of this country's economy.

Will Rogers said, many years ago:

> You know, if one day all the lawyers and accountants in America failed to show up for work, it really wouldn't mean very much. But if one day all the cows in the United States failed to show up to get milked, now that would be a problem.

He was in his own, simple, interesting way describing the importance of agriculture. It is the case, it seems to me, that our country has been blessed by not being hungry as a nation. We have had some pockets of hunger to be sure, but we have not been hungry as a nation for many decades. So we forget from time to time the contribution made by family farms.

I think most people in a highly urban setting just think of butter as coming from a little box that you pick up at the grocery store. Cereal? Why that comes from a box as well. Pasta? That comes from a box with a cellophane window so you can see the size of the pasta you are buying. But, in fact, it all comes from a field somewhere, a