

there would be warm weather. But we have had some really bad weather, really cold.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I say to my colleague, Mr. President, that the other problem that my chief legislative analyst, Colin McGinnis, reminded me of is it takes about 10 days or so for OMB and HHS to run the computer formulas, cut the checks, and get the money out to the States. We have a long waiting list in Minnesota already who would be served by that funding.

So we really are again—time is not neutral. For God's sake, I would say to every single one of my colleagues, Democrat, Republican, let us do this before Hanukkah. Hanukkah is Sunday night. I am Jewish. Hanukkah is Sunday night. Then we have Christmas. Let us do this before Hanukkah. Let us do this before Christmas. Let us please make a commitment as Senators to make sure that people at least do not go cold in America. This is wrong. We can do much better.

There is no reason in the world for us not to be able to reach out. I mean, if you want to talk about family values, I think the most important family value there is is to reach out with a helping hand. I think everybody agrees with that. So we have to get this job done.

I thank my colleague. I thank my colleague from Iowa.

Mr. President, I am just going to finish up. This just is one example. I have many examples from Minnesota, but this is an example of what can happen when people are without heat, from right here in the District of Columbia. Three years ago around this time, a fire burned down a small apartment building in the Mount Pleasant region of the District of Columbia, burning to death two little girls, Amber and Asia Spencer, ages 6 and 5. The girls were killed by a fire when one of the candles that was used to heat the apartment fell over. The electricity had been turned off 2 months earlier when the girl's grandmother, their guardian, could not afford to pay the heating bill.

It is my understanding that every winter, children across the country are killed or injured by fires caused by desperate attempts to keep warm—to keep warm.

I have said to my leader, Senator DASCHLE, I have said to the Republicans—again, I know Senator SMITH from New Hampshire, another cold weather State, said he really wants to be on the floor, wants to fight hard for this; Senator ABRAHAM has been very committed to this; Senator SPECTER has been very committed to this; Senator JEFFORDS and any number of Republicans on the other side of the aisle.

I do not view this as a partisan issue. I think it was a huge mistake for the House to eliminate this. I have been fighting for this for 6 months because I know it is so important to people.

But I think right now the issue is not to have a fight. That is not the point. The point is to bring people together

and to at least make the small change. We already have the money. It is already there. All we have to do is make sure that in a continuing resolution, if the Government is not shut down—and I hope it will not be shut down; I do not think it should be—to make sure in the continuing resolution that we are able to allocate the funds out to the States.

If we just do it on the basis of 75 percent of last year, Mr. President, so that now as the winter weather is upon us in our States, then we could get adequate short-term funds out fast. It can be allocated out to the communities and we can protect people. We should do that.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. LEAHY. Yes.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I want to make it clear, I mentioned the other day the work of the Senator from Vermont. He has spoken on this several times. I want to thank the Senator and Senator JEFFORDS as well. I believe that those of us from cold-weather States know what this means in human terms. We know from the phone calls and the people with whom we visit.

I thank the Chair and the Senator from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### LIHEAP

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I spoke, as did the Senator from Minnesota, on the issue of LIHEAP yesterday. I commend him for what he has said. This is an issue that is joined certainly in the northern tier States with Republicans and Democrats alike in the Senate.

We should restore these LIHEAP funds. Frankly, I strongly urge our colleagues and leadership in the other body, if need be, to simply pass a LIHEAP appropriations so we can take it up, pass it here and send it down. We would not have this issue were all the appropriations bills now passed. We can pass that one, if need be.

This is a matter of urgency. It is not an answer to say we will have the money in June of next year. It was 8 or 9 degrees below zero at my home in Vermont 2 days ago. It was way below zero last night. We had about a foot of snow in the last few days. The good news, of course, is nothing slows down with only a foot of snow in Vermont. The bad news is that the people who are without money are now faced with the question of whether they will eat or heat. Many of them are elderly. The majority of them are disabled.

There is no question we should try to get this through. It will be colder next month. It always is in January. Last year, we had about a week and a half that did not go above zero. During that time, it hit 25 to 35 degrees below zero, depending where in the State it was.

If you are living in a residence that needs the help of LIHEAP or weather-

ization for heating, that cold goes through pretty quickly. This is not a case of being uncomfortable. This is a case where people die. People die in their own homes. They die in their own homes from the cold. They die in their own homes sometimes when efforts are made to heat. They die in their own homes when they have actually been pulling boards out of the floor or furniture to burn to keep warm, because they know exposure to that weather for just a matter of, sometimes, minutes could bring about hypothermia and death.

Mr. President, I do not see other Members seeking the floor, so I will talk about another issue.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL— ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I understand this afternoon at some point, we will have a vote on whether to proceed to the conference report on Department of Defense authorization. I am strongly opposed to several provisions in that bill. I will not ask the clerks to read the bill in full when it comes up, as I could. It is my way of saying "Merry Christmas" to them, I suppose, and to the rest of the staff. But I will express very strong concerns about it and, of course, will ask for a recorded vote on the issue of proceeding.

I do not want to hold up the issue, though, of course and as soon as it comes over here—I see the distinguished chairman, my good friend from South Carolina on the floor—I would not want to hold him up.

Mr. LEAHY. There is one issue that I intend to talk about at considerable length. This body voted by better than a 2 to 1 margin, nearly 3 to 1 margin, to put some limitation on antipersonnel landmines.

For some reason a provision that was not even considered by either the House or the Senate on antipersonnel landmines ended up in the Defense authorization bill, which would have the effect of undermining my amendment. It is an absolute disregard and repudiation of the intent of the Senate.

At a time when every member of the military is talking about the danger to our men and women in Bosnia from landmines, at a time when the President of the United States talks about the potential casualties from landmines, at a time when every press report talks about the potential of landmine casualties in Bosnia, at a time when virtually every Member of this body and the other body are concerned about the potential American casualties from landmines, we let somebody from the Pentagon write in a provision in the DOD bill, a provision that was never voted on by the House, never voted on by the Senate, never considered by either body suddenly showed up in the conference report. A provision that would ensure that the plague of landmines continues unabated.