

from the middle of June. Now, weeks later, after a continued period of scorching temperatures, and arid conditions, it is expected that a statistical report that will be generated later this week will show significant losses occurring in every one of the 55 counties of the great State of West Virginia.

The Federal Government has established mechanisms that are intended to aid Americans in times of crisis. However, when these mechanisms are slow to work, difficulties have a tendency to grow, and greater assistance becomes necessary. As we have often heard, "One stitch, in time, saves nine." In the case of farmers, if nothing is done, and the farmer is forced to abandon the land that he has worked, it is likely that this land will not be reclaimed next year or the year after as a family farm. A farm is not a machine that can be shut down temporarily until someone is ready to work on it again or conditions make it profitable. Farming is, by its very nature, a cyclical industry that every now and then needs the support of the Federal Government.

America can never afford to not help its farmers. Now is the time to help farmers and I speak particularly of West Virginia farmers, of course. If we fail to help them now, they will not be able to survive. Farmers are losing out on every side of their industry. Prices have been, and continue to be, low, the weather is slowing or eliminating crop production, crop insurance payback is so low that it may not even cover costs, and springs and farm ponds are drying up. There are no resources left from which to draw.

Farmers have always been an essential part of the fabric that makes America great. "God made the country but man made the town." And from the country is where America gets much or most of its sustenance—not just America but also the world, many nations in the world.

We cannot forget these farmers. We cannot forget them now like a child forgets a once-treasured security blanket that has become worn and he has now outgrown. Therefore, I am urging that West Virginia be granted Federal disaster area status so that farmers will receive immediate Federal assistance that will enable them to continue to work their land and raise their animals.

I have talked with the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Glickman, and he has indicated that as soon as he is supplied with the sufficient data from the State, adequate and careful and prompt consideration will be given. But I have to say that time waits for no one and the clock waits for no one and the farmers' problems cannot wait. We must have help. We need it and the sooner the better.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate and I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 6 minutes as in morning business.

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

RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE KENNEDY FAMILY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to talk about the events that have weighed so heavily on all of us. Whether one knows Senator KENNEDY well or casually through contact in the Senate, one cannot but have respect and admiration for the contribution the Kennedy family has made to our public well-being for so many years. That is why I am sure others share the same feeling of grief as I do, and others who know the Kennedy family well, at the loss of John F. Kennedy, Jr.

When the news came—and I was on my way to Martha's Vineyard—that the young Mr. Kennedy's airplane was missing, we all, I am sure, had the same reaction—let's pray that it is not true, that there is some information that will come out that will prove to be worry-unfounded. Unfortunately, our worst fears were realized. This day, apparently, the discovery has been made that confirms the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr., 38 years of age.

One of the remarkable things we saw in this young man was the way he treated his position in life, coming from a famous family, with all of the celebrity status one could imagine, from a family that has seen tragedy after tragedy after tragedy.

I had an opportunity, a year ago Christmas week, to sit with Michael Kennedy and his young sons on the morning of the day he perished on the ski slopes below. We actually skied together for a while in the morning. I visited with his brother that night to see if I could be of any help to the family in managing the affairs they had to put in order. It was very sad.

When John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s life was just really beginning to flourish, it is hard to understand what it was that took this young man so full of life. The imagery of John F. Kennedy, Jr., was the same imagery that we had, in a way, of John F. Kennedy, Sr., President of the United States—attractive, intelligent, concerned about the well-being of our country, trying always to lift the opportunity and the spirits of those who in America depended so much on government and individual leadership. John F. Kennedy, Jr., evoked the same imagery—of this attractive young man, of this bright, intelligent, caring person, eschewing the

spotlight whenever he could, trying to become part of the society in which we all live.

His early death will prevent what all of us believe was so much talent and so much future. Any of us who have worked with TED KENNEDY—and I have now for 16 years—only gains respect the longer we know Senator KENNEDY. His accomplishments are legendary, but his commitment to people—rich, poor, those who have needed help—is without reservation. We have seen an energized Senator KENNEDY over at his desk, stating the causes and cases he is concerned about. And to see them, the whole Kennedy family, put into the grief can only be imagined by those who have their family intact without the trail of misfortune that has followed the Kennedy family.

So I just came in, for the RECORD, to make some comments to register my feelings, as I know so many others have, of grief for the families of John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife, and his sister-in-law, the Kennedys and the Bessettes.

We hope his life will inspire us to give whatever we can by way of service to our country, to recognize the advantages we have as citizens of the United States, not to be discouraged by this untimely tragedy but, rather, to be motivated to try to do better.

Mr. President, I hope we will reserve appropriate time, collectively, to acknowledge our share of feelings for the Kennedy family and the grief they are going through.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000—Continued

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Missouri, Mr. ASHCROFT, be made an original cosponsor of the Kyl amendment.

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

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

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

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

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I note the presence on the floor of my colleague, Senator BINGAMAN. I will shortly send an amendment to the desk on