

with our major competitors, we see that they were doing something quite differently. While we were dramatically cutting our support for producers, our European competitors—our major competitors—were maintaining very high levels of support. The Europeans were spending, on average, \$44 billion a year—on average, \$6 billion for us. This is from 1996 to 1999, just those 3 years. You can see that the Europeans really have us whipsawed. They are outspending us seven to one. They are winning their competition the old-fashioned way. They are buying these markets. That is what the Europeans are up to.

Unfortunately, we are engaged in unilateral disarmament. We are cutting in the face of massive superiority on the other side. One of the chief trade negotiators for the Europeans told me several years ago: Senator, we believe we are in a trade war in agriculture. We believe at some point there will be a cease-fire. We believe there will be a cease-fire in place, and we want to occupy the high ground. The high ground is market share.

That is exactly what they are up to. And how well it is working. They have gone, in 20 years, from being major importers to being major exporters. In fact, they have surpassed the United States in terms of agriculture exports. One of the ways they have done it is to spend enormous sums of money to put themselves in a position of superiority.

This chart shows how the European Union is flooding the world with agricultural export subsidies. This is the European share of world agricultural export subsidies, accounting for nearly 84 percent of all world agricultural export subsidies; the United States' share, this little red piece of the pie, is 1.4 percent. They are outgunning the United States 60 to 1.

It is no wonder farm income is declining. It is no wonder exports are declining. It is no wonder our farmers are under enormous pressure. They are under enormous pressure because our European friends have a plan and a strategy to dominate world agricultural trade. Again, they are doing it the old-fashioned way: They are buying these markets. They think the United States is asleep. They think we will not fight back. They have told me: Senator, we think you are so prosperous in so many other areas, you will give up on agriculture.

So far, we are proving them right. We are engaged in unilateral disarmament in a trade confrontation. We would never do it in a military confrontation. Why are we doing it? Why are we giving up and letting them dominate world agricultural trade? What are the implications this fall when we go to negotiate with them? I can tell you what I believe the implications are. I believe we are headed for a guaranteed loss.

I was referring to the trade negotiator for the Europeans saying to me they believe we are in a trade war. They believe at some point there will

be a cease-fire. They believe there will be a cease-fire in place, and they want to occupy the high ground. The high ground is market share. He is right. That is the high ground. We are headed into negotiations with them this fall, and we have no leverage. How will we possibly get a good result when they have America outspent 7 to 1 in overall support, 60 to 1 in export subsidies? How are we going to win that negotiation? What is our leverage to change this relationship? There is no leverage. We are going to lose unless we do something.

I personally believe we have to rearm in agriculture, to put more resources into the fight, to send the Europeans a clear and unmistakable message that the United States is not going to roll over; we are not going to surrender; we are not going to wave a white flag and turn over world agricultural trade to them; we will insist on a level playing field.

In the last trade negotiation, that gap existed as well. The Europeans have a much higher level of support than we have. Did that gap close? Did our level of support go up? Did the European level go down? Did the gap close? No, it did not. Instead, we got equal percentage reductions on both sides from an unequal base, leaving the Europeans in the superior position.

If we look back at the last trade negotiation, we got a 36-percent reduction in export trade subsidy and a 24-percent reduction in internal support on both sides. But the Europeans were at a much higher level. When there are equal percentage reductions from unequal bases, the Europeans remain in a superior position. It does not take a whole lot to figure out that if we continue that pattern of equal percentage reductions from an unequal basis, we will continue to leave the Europeans in a superior position; we will continue to leave our farmers at a competitive disadvantage; we will continue to sign the death warrant of tens of thousands of family farmers.

That is the hard reality of what we confront. We have before the Senate a disaster response. It is clearly called for. It is clearly necessary to meet this collapse of farm income and to meet these adverse weather conditions.

With respect to weather, in my State there are 3 million acres of land not even planted this year. There are millions more planted very late because of overly wet conditions. It may sound strange out here on the east coast. I saw a story in an east coast newspaper that in one location they are out painting the grass green because of the drought. We can't paint a crop; we can't go out and paint wheat and somehow make it healthy. We can't paint corn. It doesn't work. Maybe one can paint a lawn. I have never seen that done. It sounds rather bizarre to me, but that is what they were doing in New Jersey the other day. They were painting the lawn green, trying to respond to this drought. That is an un-

usual response. But it is not going to work in agriculture. Farmers in West Virginia, in Delaware, and in Maryland cannot go out and paint a crop. That will not do the job. The fact is, they don't have a crop.

In my part of the country it is not drought; it is overly wet conditions, 5 and 6 years of incredibly wet conditions. You cannot even get into the fields to plant. There has to be a disaster response. It has to deal with the bad weather. It has to deal with these ruinously low prices. Yes, it has to deal with the bad policy of putting our farmers at a severe disadvantage to their European competitors.

We are telling our farmers: Go out there and compete against the French farmer, the German farmer; and while you are at it, take on the French and German Governments as well. That is not a fair fight. We have to help level the playing field.

Yes, there has to be a disaster response, absolutely. But there has to be more than that. There has to be a long-term policy response. We have to be able to say to our European competitors that the United States is not going to roll over; we are not going to surrender; we are not going to give up the agricultural markets; we intend to fight.

That is why I have introduced legislation we call the Fight bill, Farm Income and Equity Act, to level the playing field. If the Europeans are going to play the game this way, we will play it that way. We will fight back. We will put our farmers in a place that they can compete. That is fair. That puts us in a position to go to the next trade talks and have a chance to come out winners rather than losers.

Mr. COCHRAN. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. COCHRAN. I don't recall when the Senator began talking, but we were to go back on the bill at 10:30. I understand we are not on the bill. I was going to ask if the Senator would yield for that purpose.

Mr. CONRAD. I am happy to yield. I just reached the conclusion.

I am happy to yield with the concluding thought that we do need to respond. We need to respond to this disaster emergency. We also need to respond with a longer-term policy change.

I yield the floor.

CBO COST ESTIMATE—S. 244

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on July 30, 1999, I filed Report 106-130 to accompany S. 244, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act of 1999, that had been ordered favorable reported on July 28, 1999. At the time the report was filed, the estimate by the Congressional Budget Office was not available. The estimate is now available and concludes that enactment of S. 244, which authorizes the appropriation of \$244

million to the Department of the Interior to make grants to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, would cost \$62 million over the 2000–2004 period, with the rest of the authorized spending coming after 2004. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the CBO estimate be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, August 2, 1999.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 244, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act of 1999.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Kim Cawley, who can be reached at 226–2860.

Sincerely,

BARRY B. ANDERSON
(For Dan L. Crippen, Director).

Enclosure.

S. 244.—*Lewis and Clark Rural Water System Act of 1999*

Summary: S. 244 would authorize the appropriations of \$224 million to the Department of Interior (DOI) to make grants to the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System for the construction of a drinking water supply project. The Lewis and Clark Rural Water System is a group of cities and rural areas in southeastern South Dakota, northwestern Iowa, and southwestern Minnesota. CBO estimates that implementing S. 244 would cost \$62 million over the 2000–2004 period, with the rest of the authorized spending coming after 2004.

Enactment of this bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). State and local governments might incur some costs as a result of the bill's enactment, but these costs would be voluntary.

Estimated Cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary impact of S. 244 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within the budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Authorization Level	224	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	2	9	25	25

Basis of Estimate: For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the full amount of the authorization will be provided in 2000. We estimated the annual amount of spending on this drinking water system construction project using information from the local water system and historical spending rates for similar projects. Completion of this project is expected to take about 12 years.

Pay-as-You-Go Considerations: None.

Estimated Impact on State, Local and Tribal Governments: S. 244 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined UMRA. The bill would require that the non-federal share of project costs equal 20 percent, except for the incremental cost of participation in the project by the city of Sioux

Falls. The city would be required to pay 50 percent of that cost. Any State or local governments choosing to participate in the project authorized by this would do so on a voluntary basis, and any cost that they might incur would be accepted by them on that basis.

Estimated Impact on the Private Sector: This bill contains no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Estimate Prepared by: Federal Costs: Kim Cawley (226–2860); Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller (225–3220).

Estimate Approved by: Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JENNIFER SHAFER ODOM

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the life of Captain Jennifer Shafer Odom. She died on a mountainside in Colombia—where she was defending our Nation and our values.

This morning, her grieving family is at Dover Air Force Base—to bring their daughter home for the last time.

On July 23, Captain Odom was on an Army reconnaissance plane that was flying near a major drug-producing region of Colombia. During bad weather, the plane crashed into a mountainside—killing the five Americans and two Colombians on board. These brave soldiers were casualties in our war against drugs. They were fighting to keep drugs off our streets and out of our schools. They know that this is essential to our national security and our national values.

Captain Odom grew up in Brunswick, Maryland. She was a valedictorian at Brunswick High School. She was active in so many areas—from sports to theater.

As a scholar, an athlete and a leader—it's not surprising that she chose to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She wanted to use her many talents to serve her country.

She graduated from West Point in the top quarter of her class. She served in the United States Army with valor and distinction—raising to rank of Captain.

But it is not just for her accomplishments that she will be missed. I've spoken to her family several times in the past few days. What comes across is their pride in the kind of person that she was. She was so dear to her friends and neighbors that the entire community joined in a prayer chain to pray for her and for her family.

Captain Jennifer Shafer Odom served our country with distinction. Her courage and her sacrifice remind us that our freedom abides in the heroism of pilots like Captain Odom.

Her death was a tragedy—but her life was a triumph. She leaves behind a grieving husband, and her heartbroken parents. I ask my colleagues to join me in keeping Captain Odom and her family in our prayers.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS' ASSETS

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the Holocaust Era Assets Tax Exclusion Act amendment to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1999. I am pleased that this amendment was cleared on both sides of the aisle and has been accepted by the full United States Senate. The passage of the Abraham-Fitzgerald-Moynihan-Schumer Holocaust Era Assets Tax Exclusion Act amendment by unanimous consent, demonstrates beyond shadow of a doubt the United States Senate's firm solidarity with those who suffered during the Holocaust. In addition, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to Chairman ROTH for his leadership and support during this process, without which we might not have had this opportunity to pass such important legislation.

The passing decades have not obscured the horrors of the Nazi regime and the horrors it committed during its 12 years in power. Many people in America and around the world live every day with memories of atrocities they suffered during this terrible time. Rounded up, placed in ghettos or death camps, left to starve or tortured and murdered, millions had their lives taken from them, figuratively and literally.

We must never forget these atrocities. Thanks to the hard work of many, particularly within the Jewish community, we have numerous reminders of this inhumanity which can and should increase our awareness and our commitment to preventing any such events from occurring ever again. But there is more that we must do. Only recently has public attention been properly directed toward another great crime of the Nazi regime and those who cooperated with it: the systematic looting of Jewish economic assets. In addition to committing outright theft and looting, the Nazis seized liquid assets that could be converted easily into cash, such as insurance proceeds and bank accounts. Documents discovered over the past several years show that the Nazis specifically targeted insurance policies held by Jews as a source of funding for their expansionist, totalitarian regime.

I am sorry to say that some insurance companies also specifically (and illegally) targeted Jewish families. Knowing that Jewish policy holders soon would be taken to concentration camps, these firms sold specifically tailored policies, taking as much cash as possible up front, with no intention of honoring their obligations.

After the war, Holocaust survivors struggling to restart their lives tried to collect on their policies, access their bank accounts and/or reclaim assets that had been illegally seized from them. Unfortunately, governments, banks, and insurance companies failed to fulfill their duty to treat Holocaust victims with justice and dignity. Instead, they refused to honor policies or return stolen assets. In this way, survivors of the Holocaust were victimized