

she will literally be adrift and have to seek shelter from public sources.

The article goes on to say:

That lament resounded across the West today, as 18 large blazes burned in six states, consuming acreage at a pace roughly double the 10-year average.

The reason I want to talk about that very briefly, as I did yesterday morning, is that today in the West over 2.5 million acres of public land have now been charred into a smoldering rubble—homes, beautiful wildlife habitat, timbered acreages—that simply we forgot because the public policy of this country said, over a decade ago: Leave the land to Mother Nature and walk away. And in our walking away, in the pursuit of the environment, Mother Nature took charge.

Today, Mother Nature rules the West, and her mode of operation is a monstrous wildfire consuming the public timber reserves of the West, the wildlife habitat, and the watershed.

To put in context 2.5 million acres having burned currently, on the same date in 2000—a year when we burned over 7.3 million acres, in 2000—at this point in time, we had only burned 1.2 million acres. So today we have already burned double what we burned by this time in 2000. And 2000 was the worst in recorded history of fires on public lands.

Why is this happening? Again, neglect. Again, an irresponsible public policy that took people off the land and did not allow us to manage it in wise and responsible ways for all of the multiple-use values we hold dear to our public lands.

It is a tragedy of nature. It is a tragedy we have made. It is a tragedy we can solve. We well ought to solve it by a much more prudent public policy. But it will take decades now to begin to reverse what we have allowed to happen.

Where there were once 150 trees per acre in the public forests, today there are 400 or 500 trees per acre, oftentimes growing like weeds, and resulting in equivalent Btu's of 10,000 to 15,000 to 20,000 gallons of gasoline per acre. And when the temperature is right, and the humidity is right, and the drought is running rampant across the Southwest, as it is today, we set in motion the "perfect storm," only in this case it is the perfect firestorm that has now consumed nearly 500 homes in Colorado, in Arizona, and in New Mexico. And our summer, our fire summer—the long hot summer in the West—has just begun.

I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. EDWARDS). Morning is business closed.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now

resume consideration of S. 2514, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2514) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 4007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I will await the distinguished chairman, but it is my anticipation that we will move to the issue pending; that is, missile defense. I will send to the desk at this time an amendment on my behalf and that of the Senator from Georgia, Mr. MILLER.

I will not ask it to be the pending business, as a courtesy to my chairman, until he arrives. I anticipate upon his arrival that we will work out a procedure by which a second degree will be added. As a courtesy, I will wait until he arrives.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield, it is my understanding he will send his amendment to the desk but not call it up.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. I will call it up, but I would prefer, as a courtesy, to allow Mr. LEVIN to examine it and then hopefully we can agree upon a procedure whereby he would then file a second degree, and then we can have hopefully the Senate address the two issues.

Mr. REID. I think if we want this to be the pending business, what we should do is have the amendment called up. I ask unanimous consent, because we have talked about this for some time, that Senator LEVIN or someone on his behalf would have the right to second degree the amendment.

Mr. WARNER. I am perfectly willing to agree to that at this point and ask that it be the pending business, if that is the guidance you wish.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent then, in keeping with the statement of the Senator from Virginia, that Senator LEVIN or his designee would be allowed to offer a second-degree amendment and no one would have a right to offer one prior to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask that my amendment be the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is the Senator objecting?

Mr. WARNER. No.

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

Mr. WARNER. Given that the chairman will arrive in a few minutes, I am happy to yield the floor to my colleague for such purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER], for himself, Mr. MILLER, Mr. LOTT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. KYL, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. HAGEL, proposes an amendment numbered 4007.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide an additional amount for ballistic missile defense or combating terrorism in accordance with national security priorities of the President)

On page 217, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

#### SEC. 1010. ADDITIONAL AMOUNT FOR BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE OR COMBATING TERRORISM IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL SECURITY PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to other amounts authorized to be appropriated by other provisions of this division, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2003, \$814,300,000 for whichever of the following purposes the President determines that the additional amount is necessary in the national security interests of the United States:

(1) Research, development, test, and evaluation for ballistic missile defense programs of the Department of Defense.

(2) Activities of the Department of Defense for combating terrorism at home and abroad.

(b) OFFSET.—The total amount authorized to be appropriated under the other provisions of this division is hereby reduced by \$814,300,000 to reflect the amounts that the Secretary determines unnecessary by reason of a revision of assumptions regarding inflation that are applied as a result of the mid-session review of the budget conducted by the Office of Management and Budget during the spring and early summer of 2002.

(c) PRIORITY FOR ALLOCATING FUNDS.—In the expenditure of additional funds made available by a lower rate of inflation, the top priority shall be the use of such additional funds for Department of Defense activities for combating terrorism and protecting the American people at home and abroad.

AMENDMENT NO. 4009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, if I could have the attention of Senator WARNER for one moment, it is my understanding the amendment which I will send to the desk very shortly has been approved on both sides. It is cosponsored by Senators BIDEN, LUGAR, LANDRIEU, HAGEL, BINGAMAN, MURKOWSKI, CARNAHAN, LINCOLN, and MIKULSKI.

I send the amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration. I assume I have to ask that the pending amendment be laid aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Is there objection to laying aside the pending amendment?

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I will ask my good friend if he will allow the two managers to have a chance to consult on this. It is my understanding