

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, last night I took a couple of minutes to tell the Senate that a good friend of mine, but also a great New Mexican, was dead, Colin McMillan. My friend and colleague, Senator BINGAMAN, just spoke of him.

It is remarkable that Senator BINGAMAN would speak of him with such glaring words when, as a matter of fact, they ran against each other in a statewide campaign.

The truth is, he was a truly outstanding man. His death is rather unexplainable. We still do not know enough about it, but we do know that he was too young to die and had succeeded at just about everything he tried in his life, starting out at the University of North Carolina where he was a Phi Beta Kappa in the college of engineering and became an enormously successful geological engineer. He was one of those who was first to grab on to the modern techniques of discerning what lies below the surface and, thus, became an expert and developed a successful company helping others locate oil and gas. He formed his own exploration company and became an oil and gas entrepreneur.

Along with that achievement, he had a western craving to own a ranch, and he had a beautiful ranch. I have been there many times. It is a great place to hunt quail. His ranch is renowned for quail. My son Peter and I and others in New Mexico have been there with him many times. It is rather ironic that he was found dead at the ranch yesterday some time during the day by the ranch hands.

When I spoke this morning with my oldest son, he used the word "brutal." I use it today. It is truly brutal for those of us who knew him. All we can say is he succeeded at almost everything he wanted to do in life. Clearly, there are few in New Mexico who will achieve as much as he. He was really looking forward to becoming Secretary of the Navy, taking great pride in being a Marine officer for 3 years after completing his baccalaureate degree in North Carolina.

I and my wife Nancy clearly have had a very tough personal loss in his death, and there is not much more I can say other than he will be missed. We will all find out someday, perhaps in the hereafter, how all this happened. In the meantime, all we can say is we will miss him terribly, and we wish for all of his family an understanding beyond normal capacity to apprehend, that there will come upon them some understanding as to why all of this happened.

He had been sick. He had a recurrence of cancer that inflicted him some 2 years ago. Everybody thought he was recovered and recuperating quite well. At least we thought so and his family thought so, when this tragedy occurred.

I thank the Senate for the time.

Mr. President, before we call on Senators, we are expecting closure of be-

tween 5 and 10 amendments, which we will present jointly this morning on this Energy bill. The biggest issue everyone has asked so much about is the electricity title. It is a very complex title. We have tried to put together a major bipartisan amendment. It is in the hands of all the Senators and, as a result, because it is so important, it is in the hands of hundreds of experts and lobbyists and companies across this country.

By Monday, everybody should know what they want to do with it, to it, or for it. It will be offered Monday with the hope that we will begin serious debate on that amendment.

CAFE standards has been one of those issues of importance. We have two of the major CAFE standards amendments pending. They were offered last night. We will work out a time for voting on them on Monday. We expected another CAFE standards amendment this morning, but it has not materialized. Let's hope it does so we can get them all lined up to dispose of them Monday evening.

There are about five other major issues that are being worked on, and we hope we can prove that the Senate is capable of completing this bill in five additional working days, besides last night and today, and the previous time we spent on the bill.

Everyone should remember, the majority leader said we are going to finish this bill. We are scheduled for our August recess next Friday, but we have been told those recess days will not commence until we have finished this bill. I hope everybody understands that is not said in any way other than in a positive way. There is plenty of time so long as Senators do not desire an inordinate amount of time on any subject. We probably have one or two climate change amendments. We probably have, as I indicated, an additional CAFE amendment and many amendments on the electricity section. Plus, I am sure the minority leader has some amendments with reference to mandating the percentage of wind energy and solar energy that must be utilized by the utility companies. That will be thoroughly debated and voted on. There may be a couple other major issues, but I think that covers most of them—and I covered them last night reminding everybody to get ready. We always have the idea around here that we will get ready when the time is necessary.

People put off things until that ominous time. On Energy amendments, the time has come. The electricity amendment is in our hands. It is major legislation. We are going to proceed with dispatch, at least as much dispatch as the Senate will let us, and we will try to push that as nicely and calmly but as rigorously as we can for the next 5 or 6 days in an effort to complete this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. RES. 200

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 200 regarding the adoption of a conference agreement on the child tax credit; that the resolution and the preamble be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

Mr. DOMENICI. I object.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I call on Congress to pass the Lincoln bill which will provide immediate tax relief for 12 million children and our Nation's fighting men and women.

Millions of working American families with incomes between \$10,000 and \$26,000 will receive absolutely no benefit from the increase in the child credit that was signed into law by the President several weeks ago. Close to 200,000 military personnel have incomes in this range, and most will not qualify for the \$1,000 child tax credit.

More than 300,000 military personnel are currently serving in combat zones around the world. In answering the call of duty, these young men and women were forced to leave their families behind as they headed to Iraq and Afghanistan to serve their country and to help create new democracies. Yet this Nation's laws have failed them. Under current law, the children of these families are truly left behind.

The Treasury Department will begin sending checks to taxpayers reflecting the increase in the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000 for 2003. Yet the Children's Defense Fund estimates that 1 million children in military families will not be eligible for the full child credit. This is roughly 1 out of every 8 children of military families.

For active duty military families, the numbers are even more staggering. Roughly 260,000 of the 1.4 million children of active duty military personnel, or nearly 1 of every 5, will not receive the \$1,000 child credit.

Military personnel serving in combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan would be particularly hard hit. Under current law, a family must make \$10,500 to qualify for any portion of the child credit. Because combat zone pay does not count toward the income required, many military personnel who left their families behind to fight America's wars will themselves be left behind by this Congress.

Congress has failed its fighting men and women. It does not matter how many speeches we give thanking them for their service, and lionizing their courage, and acclaiming their patriotism.

The single mother whose husband has been deployed to the Middle East for the 50th week running cares a lot more about getting her \$400 check than she does about hearing how much we appreciate her sacrifice.

Frankly, it is shameful that a body willing to send our young men and women to war would at the same time turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to their families.

The Lincoln bill, however, changes the law to ensure those military personnel fighting for our freedom will receive the child credit that is guaranteed to all other middle-income families. The Lincoln bill will ensure that military families get the child credit checks promised to our Nation's families.

In contrast, the House bill will leave these families behind. For example: Navy Petty Officer Second Class E-5, 4 years service, married with two children, stationed in Iraq from December 2002 until June 2003. He receives an annual salary of \$22,842, and hazardous duty pay of \$190 per month. Under current law, he will not see any of the increase in the child credit. Under the Lincoln bill, he will get the full \$1,000 per child tax credit, an increase of \$800, which his family will receive through a check in their mailbox.

The Senate bill also recognizes that the latest Bush tax cut failed to include millions of working families, families who have jobs and work hard to put food on the table for their children, and that they deserve tax relief as well.

Unless we pass the Lincoln bill, there is no check in the mail for over 6.5 million working families earning between \$10,500 and \$26,625; this means that over 12 million children will be left behind.

Not only do we help millions of children, but we pay for every penny by shutting down corporate tax loopholes.

For all these reasons, I call on the Senate to express its deep commitment to working together for this Nation's fighting men and women, this Nation's working men and women, and all of their children, and ask that: 1, the committee of conference between the Senate and House of Representatives on H.R. 1308 should agree to a conference report before the August recess; 2, any conference report on H.R. 1308 should contain the provisions in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1308 concerning the refundability of the child tax credit; 3, any conference report on H.R. 1308 should contain the provisions in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 concerning the availability of the child tax credit for military families; 4, any conference report on H.R. 1308 should contain the provision in the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act of 2003; and 5, any conference report on H.R. 1308 should contain provisions to fully offset its cost.

It is my hope that this resolution will be taken up promptly and that we will emerge from conference with the House in a timely fashion so that we may honor the families of our fighting men and women in a very real way with more than platitudes, more than salutes, more than just honors, but by including their kids and their families in the same kind of tax credit that other American families receive.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in

morning business on a subject of great urgency. I do not know how much time it will take. Senator BURNS will join me in a moment.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have been informed that the House this evening will pass a bill for \$989 million dealing with disaster relief. As my colleagues know, we received a supplemental request from the President for \$1,550,000,000 for the Department of Homeland Security for disaster response. It is estimated that the disaster fund probably has already run out of money during this month of July. When the money runs out, when there are storms, tornados, whatever they have to deal with, they borrow from other accounts, which means as we get towards the end of this fiscal year those other accounts must come to an end. We have tried to meet the President's request by sending the supplemental as part of the legislative appropriations bill.

The House has refused to conference with us on that bill. Now they are going to send us a bill that is totally inadequate. If they leave this city without giving us a supplemental for fires, it is going to leave the West burning, and it is going to bring to a halt other functions of the Federal Government which must continue through this period until September 30. I cannot believe that they would do this.

The supplemental the President sent to us provided \$50 million for NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to cover unanticipated costs of the recovery and investigation of the Space Shuttle Columbia accident. I am informed that as far as NASA is concerned, the actual costs of the Columbia accident investigation board is about \$150 million so far. That means NASA has to take that money out of their current accounts and the remainder of the year they, too, will be strapped and will not be doing the scientific investigations, not be doing the prevention that is necessary in order to get ready for another NASA shuttle flight.

We received the supplemental on July 8. We acted almost as quickly as possible. It is true, we put on that bill the money to save the program for education of young people, AmeriCorps. AmeriCorps is another subject, and I will get into that in a minute. But because we put AmeriCorps on that bill, the House refused to act.

We have offered a series of suggestions.

It is impossible to believe this message I received this morning. We are going to get a bill that has less than \$1 billion in it, when the President asked for \$1.550 billion for FEMA and he asked for NASA at the same time. He had money in there for firefighting.

The President had \$253 million for Forest Service and fire suppression. We added \$36 million for the Bureau of Land Management.

This is a terrible fire season. I am informed Glacier Park is ready to be evacuated. We have to have some disaster money. When I checked on July 21, the disaster relief fund had \$89 million in it. We are currently estimating an obligation rate of about \$5.7 million a day on the fires that existed on July 21. There is a whole new series of fires just this week. I cannot believe this.

In addition, there is an obligation to rise to \$6.3 million as the disaster activity in Texas ramps up due to Hurricane Claudette.

I hope others will also join to call on the House to give a bill that will meet the needs, particularly the needs of the West. These fires are primarily in the West. The need for FEMA is national. The firefighting conditions right now in the West could not be worse. There is enormous heat in the West, including my State of Alaska. Even with enactment of the supplemental, which we sent to the House, I am told the Forest Service projects will have a deficit of \$167 million by September. That is, with all the money we provided for FEMA and for firefighting, the Forest Service alone will have a deficit of \$167 million based on projections of July 14th. We have increased fires, particularly in the Park Service area. It is the park that is burning out there now. I cannot believe we cannot have a conference on the supplemental before the House leaves.

AmeriCorps is a problem, too. The Government, by mistake, enrolled 70,000 young people to enter school in September. The moneys that had been previously divided only covered 50,000 young people. The person who made that mistake is no longer with the Government. But the young people are out there now with their certificates. They are entitled to enter school, but the money will not be there. It is the worst situation I have faced as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. We have to have some action by the House before they leave tonight. If they leave tonight without giving us the money we need to meet these disaster needs, I think we are going to have a terrible September.

By the way, the House is going home tonight. They could have stayed another week and we could conference the bills. The bills have been sent to conference. When we come back in September we have to meet with the House in conference and at the same time try to pass the bills we could have passed and should have passed had they sent us the bills in time. They will send us a whole series of bills they are now passing as they leave town. The Appropriations Committee must conference those bills in September and at the same time we must pass the ones they have just passed.

We cannot be two places at one time. The scheduling of appropriations this