

the question is what that budget will say about who we are and what we value. President Obama has proposed a budget that will make critical investments in our Nation's highest priorities at a time when America needs them more than ever. This budget would provide a little bit of help to hard-working families who desperately need it: tax cuts, as long as we pay for them, education assistance, health care, and alternative energy investments. That is what this budget is all about. The budget restores fairness, re-establishes responsibility.

Incidentally, we are finally going to put in this budget the real cost of Iraq and Afghanistan. For 8 years the Republican administration ignored it, wouldn't count it, said it was some mystery emergency spending. We know better. This budget is more honest.

We also realize to make smart investments—and this budget will make a lasting impact on our country by improving our economy, that will benefit our children and grandchildren for many years to come.

When the time comes next week, I hope my colleagues will step forward, be part of a new era of responsibility, be part of renewing America's promises, promises we have made that we will show good stewardship in leading this country out of this recession into a bright day tomorrow.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

**NATIONAL SERVICE
REAUTHORIZATION ACT—Continued**
AMENDMENTS NOS. 691, 712, 695, AS MODIFIED,
AND 696, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, notwithstanding the pendency of H.R. 1388, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the Senate to consider the following amendments and that, where applicable, the amendments be modified with the changes at the desk; that the amendments be agreed to, as modified, where applicable, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc: amendment No. 691 and amendment No. 712; that amendments Nos. 695 and 696 be called up for consideration, and that each amendment be modified with the changes at the desk; that the amendments, as modified, be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The amendments (Nos. 691 and 712) were agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask that amendments Nos. 695 and 696 be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], for Mr. BURR, proposes amendments numbered 695 and 696, as modified.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 695, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To provide for outreach to high schools with low graduation rates)

On page 19, line 22, strike "identified for school improvement under title 1" and insert "not making adequate yearly progress for two or more consecutive years under section 1111."

AMENDMENT NO. 696, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To clarify references to high school graduation rates)

On page 49, line 15, insert "(as defined in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(vi) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)(C)(vi)) and as clarified in applicable regulations promulgated by the Department of Education" after "graduation rate".

On page 59, line 9, insert "and as clarified in applicable regulations promulgated by the Department of Education before"; and".

On page 69, line 14, insert "and as clarified in applicable regulations promulgated by the Department of Education before the semicolon."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendments, as modified, are agreed to, and the motions to reconsider are laid upon the table.

The amendments (Nos. 695 and 696), as modified, were agreed to.

FLOODING IN NORTH DAKOTA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, Senator CONRAD and I and Congressman POMEROY, our two colleagues from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR and Congressman PETERSON, met with President Obama just a few moments ago in the Vice President's Room behind the Chamber to talk about the flood threat in our region. This is today's NOAA flood warning map of our country, and you will see that North Dakota is entirely green. The green represents the flood warning areas in our country. We have an entire State under a flood watch.

The headline in our State today is "Blizzard Blasts The State." We have a raging blizzard that has gone on now for the last day and a half. It has closed the interstate highways. We have had up to 18 inches of snow in some areas, and then we have unbelievable flooding threats up and down the Red River and the Red River Valley of North Dakota. Now we have an urgent flood threat that exists in Bismarck, ND, as I speak.

I think it would probably be helpful just to show a few of the scenes. This is piling sandbags. They have had nearly 3 million sandbags filled in a very short period of time with college and high school students and National Guard and others in the Red River Valley filling sandbags. As I said, 3 million sandbags in a very short period of time.

This is the North Dakota National Guard filling sandbags inside the Bis-

marck Civic Center. Just in the last 24 hours we have seen a threat to the capital city—a very significant threat—and that threat is described in this photograph. This photograph shows what is called an ice jam. There are two ice jams at this point on the Missouri River and the Knife River that flows into the Missouri River. This shows an ice jam. As I speak, they are trying with explosives to deal with this ice jam. There are two ice jams, and if this happens in the wrong way, and one ice jam gives at the wrong time, we will see the entire south side of the capital city of Bismarck, ND, with a substantial amount of water.

Evacuations are underway as I speak in portions of that city. The mayor and the Governor and others, the Corps of Engineers, virtually everyone is involved, and this is a very significant flood threat that just really in the last 24 to 48 hours has developed as a result of significant ice jams.

This is a city that has not had substantial flood threats since the dam was built on the Missouri River about 60 miles north of Bismarck, ND. But these ice jams have completely changed the calculation and pose a serious threat to the city of Bismarck today. There is a great deal of work going on in the city. I say to all of them how much we admire the work they are doing. They are heroes. There are so many in the military and volunteers who are filling sandbags and doing the work that is necessary to fight that flood.

The Red River Valley flood—this is volunteers in the Fargodome filling sandbags. As I said, several million have now been filled. It appears that this flood could very well top the estimates of the 1997 flood. In 1997, in the Red River Valley, Grand Forks, ND, a community, then, of about 45,000 to 50,000 people was completely evacuated. I rode down the streets of Grand Forks in a boat in a community that was completely evacuated. In the middle of that flood, the center part of that downtown city caught on fire, and we had the spectacle of firefighters in the middle of a flood trying to fight a fire in a downtown area that had been completely evacuated.

This is the Red River Valley. It is completely flat, as flat as a table top. You can't see a hill in any direction. So because of unprecedented amounts of moisture—snowfall and rainfall—and because all of that occurred on top of ground that last fall, when it froze up was completely saturated, we now see, once again, the threat of record levels of flooding.

This is sandbagging outside of Fargo homes in the last day or two.

This is flooding in Beulah, ND.

This is 70 to 80 miles north and west of Bismarck, ND.

This is a feed lot in Mandan, ND. You can't see any feed, and you can't see a lot.

All you can see is water. This is a flooded yard in Fargo, ND. This is the