

were quite different than they are today. The Sergeant at Arms was given the responsibility for keeping a majority of members together long enough to organize and begin the business of government.

Today, the job has grown, and so has the office. The Sergeant at Arms is now the chief protocol and law enforcement officer of the Senate, as well as the administrative manager for many Senate support services. The Sergeant at Arms oversees the largest staff and budget in the U.S. Senate.

That expanded role demands expanded skills—in both law-enforcement and management.

In every position he has held, Al Lenhardt has demonstrated those skills as well as a solemn commitment to public service.

Al retired from the United States Army in 1997 as a Major General after over 31 years of domestic and international experience in national security and law enforcement programs. As Commanding General at the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in Ft. Knox, KY, he managed and directed over 13,000 people in over 1,800 separate locations.

Before the recruiting command, Al served as the senior military police officer in the Army, overseeing all Army police operations and security matters worldwide and managing a budget of over \$300 million.

For the past four years, he has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Council on Foundations, a non-profit membership association of foundations and corporate philanthropic organizations.

Al Lenhardt is a versatile senior executive with the stature, the management experience and the law enforcement portfolio to make an outstanding Senate Sergeant at Arms. While Al Lenhardt may not be readily known to you because he has no prior connection to me or to the Senate, I think my colleagues will be impressed with the experience, the ability and the character of the man.

In the 212 year history of the Senate, Al Lenhardt will become the 35th person to serve as Sergeant at Arms, and the first African American to hold this position.

But more importantly, Al is clearly of the highest caliber and qualifications. The Senate will benefit greatly from his service and leadership. We all look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action for debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 149) was agreed to.

(The text of S. Res. 149 is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1246

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Agriculture supplemental authorization bill occur at 9:30 on Friday, August 3, with the mandatory quorum waived; further, that Senators have until 10 a.m. to file second-degree amendments.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS and Mr. BYRD pertaining to the introduction of S. 1347 are located in today's RECORD under "Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CLINTON). The Senator from Arkansas.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE

Mrs. LINCOLN. Madam President, I am here on the floor out of a sense of frustration and I suppose a very deep sense of dedication, maybe because I am from a seventh-generation Arkansas farm family, maybe because I am a daughter of a farmer who I watched for many years toiling to ensure that he could provide a good upbringing, a good heritage to his family, working on that family farm.

Maybe it is because I have watched neighbors and family members who have had to give up a way of life and a profession, a piece of their heritage, because they were unsure of where their Government was going to be for them as family farmers. Or perhaps it is because they were inundated by so many things that were unpredictable, things they could not predict or control such as the weather or the economy or the fact that their Government could not make a decision as to whether the family farmer was important enough to support and to keep in business.

I am really here because, in the 11th hour, I still take my job very seriously. That job is to be here to fight hard, to do everything I can to support that American farmer and that farmer in Arkansas who has spent this entire year trying to put out a crop and wondering whether or not his or her Government was going to come through in the end with an emergency supplemental appropriation as we promised.

I am here to talk about agriculture and to talk about the rural economic crisis that we are on the verge of making even worse. Six years ago, Congress and the White House, the Republicans and the Democrats, stood toe to toe and dared each other to blink. Of course no one did, and all that happened is that the Federal Government shut down. FSA offices and other important Government offices around the country closed. Farmers could not get access to the services they needed. Sen-

iors could not access the services they needed. People all around the country were knocking on Government doors that would not open. But up here in Washington, instead of sitting down and figuring out how to get those doors open, politicians only pointed fingers at each other. They were more concerned about laying blame on each other than finding a solution.

Here we are again. Now we find ourselves at another impasse, this time on an emergency assistance package for farmers that is profoundly crucial to the economic well-being of our farmers and our rural economies, an emergency assistance package we have been talking about since February. In February we started talking about the dire situation our farmers were in, that rural America was in dire straits because we had not addressed their needs, whether it was in trade or whether it was in how Government was going to provide them what they needed in order to be competitive and maintain themselves in a competitive way in the global marketplace.

Whether we are talking about the delta region of Arkansas and Mississippi or the prairies of the Dakotas or anywhere else for that matter, our rural economies are in deep trouble.

I don't think there is a single person in this body who would dispute that. Our farmers are hurting, and they are hurting badly. But, of course, they are not the only ones who are hurting. All of the small town institutions, businesses, and local banks were up here to talk to us back in February about what we do in extending these loans to these critical people in our communities. Do we give them a loan knowing their cost of production is going to be enormous because of energy and because of fertilizer input? Do we extend that loan knowing the prices are in the tank on commodities and have remained there and probably will remain there?

It is also hurting the suppliers, the corner grocery stores on Main Street, and the car dealers. They are all hurting because their viability depends on the health of the farm economy.

Colleagues, this crisis is real, and we are on the verge of making it much, much worse. If we don't get an emergency assistance package passed this week, these farmers and these small towns—very real people, many of whom happen to be related to me and to you—and these rural economies will have run out of time.

I am frustrated. I am outraged that we have been sitting in this Chamber all week without being able to come to agreement on an emergency package that we all agree our farmers need. The House passed a \$5.5 billion emergency package, and they are saying, oh, just do what we did, and we can all go home. But that doesn't even meet the needs of the AMTA assistance payments that our farmers need to survive. The fact is, it doesn't even give them what they had prior to 1999.

Because of the Freedom to Farm Act, we have ratcheted down the payments