

I have a few clarifications of items in the committee report that I would like to have printed in the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent those corrections be printed in the RECORD.

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

CLARIFICATIONS OF COMMITTEE REPORT

On page 28 of the Committee report, the table includes \$3 million for "Independence Square site rehabilitation". The \$1.25 million provided in addition to the budget request is for landscaping improvements to Independence Mall.

On page 40 of the Committee report under "Other Recurring Programs", the reference to the "Dry Prairie Rural Water System" should have been to the "Assiniboine and Sioux Rural Water System."

On page 52 of the Committee report, the amount provided for Forest Health Management is \$82,073,000, as displayed in the table on that page.

Mr. BURNS. I remind Senators to get their amendments down here. We want to complete this bill by noon tomorrow so we can watch the rain. Those folks are worried about forest fires. I don't think anyone on the East Coast has to worry about that.

Mr. DORGAN. I am tempted to talk about the intelligence of sheep and enjoying munching on leafy spurge, but I will not do that.

My colleague describes the real serious problem with spurge and nap. We have known in North Dakota when you put sheep on the land, baby spurge and leafy spurge is gone and the sheep seem happy.

Having said that, I go back to make a point on this issue of, we, the people. We have Lewis and Clark money to celebrate the bicentennial in a number of different places in legislation in several different appropriations bills. It was a wonderful expedition, perhaps the greatest expedition certainly in the history of this country, perhaps ever. The greater the education and the bigger the celebration of that, the better for our country and the better for our children to understand the richness of that history, as well.

My only point is, as we think through this in the longer term, this money is in the bill and I would like to see if we can find a way with the administration to put it where I think it really belongs, and that is education.

The other point I would make in terms of priorities, if we have \$15, \$20, \$25 million here and there, we have urgent priorities, especially dealing with Indian health, that we need to find some additional resources for.

I did not mention in my opening statement something my colleague from Montana mentioned, and that is the forest fire issue. Fire suppression money has been borrowed from every account. It is the wrong way to do business. What we should do—and we talked about this in the spring when we received the budget request; we traditionally get a budget request that does not ask for the money that all of us know will be necessary and then

when the need comes for fire suppression money, they take it from virtually every corner and come back with a request for emergency funding.

We ought to understand that forest fires are events that cause a lot of television cameras to record them, and cause a lot of angst for people who are in the way, but they happen every year. This isn't like some big typhoon some place that happens every 10 or 15 years. We know we are going to have forest fires every year. We know about what it is going to cost us if we have a moderate season of forest fires, or more forest fires than a moderate season, and we just as well ought to begin to plan for it. Both the administration and the Congress should; frankly, neither have.

I fully support the comments made by my colleague from Montana. We need to find a way to come at this up front, in the spring of the year each year, to put in sufficient money. In some cases, it may not be enough, if we have an extraordinary season of massive forest fires, but in most cases we could put money in to cover the kind of year that we would have in most situations in this country. So I hope we can do that.

Let me also say, we have some folks on this side of the aisle who will have amendments. As my colleague has indicated, I would prefer if they would just bring them over and offer them. And let's deal with them quickly. We do have a little rain coming to the east coast. It would be nice to be able to finish this bill. The bill is going to be open for amendment, and I would ask colleagues to come over and work with us, offer the amendments, and let's work through them today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 1724, the pending substitute amendment, be agreed to and considered original text for the purpose of further amendment, provided that no points of order be waived by virtue of this agreement.

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

The amendment (No. 1724) was agreed to.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I again say to my colleagues, we are going to try to finish this bill before this storm hits tonight. We are working now on a managers' package of known amendments, and if there are some unknown amendments, I suggest Senators come to the floor, submit their amendments, and let us deal with them. If not, we are going to move right along in completing this legislation.

We understand the House is not going to be in tomorrow. So we do not want to be caught in that pickle. We want to complete action on this appropriations bill if we possibly can. I suggest my colleagues bring their amendments to the floor.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we now go into a period of morning business with Senators being allowed to speak for 5 minutes therein until the hour of 2 p.m. this afternoon, at which we will return to the business of Interior appropriations.

Mr. DODD. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The unanimous consent request is for a period of morning business so Members can speak for up to 5 minutes on a topic of their choosing.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut.

IRAQ

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues a few thoughts on the subject of Iraq, if I may. I begin by thanking the President for speaking to the Nation on September 7. President Bush, my colleagues will recall, addressed the American people about the subject of Iraq. He happens to be one of the very few members of his own administration to begin to tell the American people the facts of life about our involvement in Iraq: That it is going to be very difficult for our troops and civilian personnel to be successful in standing up a democratic government out of the ashes of a crushed and totally discredited dictatorship, and it is going to be very expensive as well, the President pointed out—very expensive. In the President's own words, this undertaking is going to be "difficult and costly."

President Bush also explained in simple terms U.S. policy objectives. He said in that speech that our objectives are to destroy terrorists, enlist the support of other nations for a free Iraq, and help Iraqis assume responsibility.

He was far less clear on how he intends to achieve those objectives or to mitigate the cost to the American public—the cost in dollar terms and also in terms of human lives.

Our military has, I think all of us would agree, done an exemplary job in