

the public of Florida—and they were getting their information from this other entity—the people of the gulf coast of Florida would have let down their guard and then, all of a sudden, they would have gotten hit. There was a lot less destruction this time and, thank the good Lord, no loss of life because people heeded the warnings: Get out. The day before the hurricane, there was a massive evacuation, very orderly. We did not lose one life.

Here again is another reason why we can be thankful we do have such experts. And never, under the guise of privatization, should we say a governmental service that often is the difference between life and death in my State of Florida should be knocked off the Internet. To the contrary, I can tell you last year, the National Weather Service Web site got 9 billion—that is with a “b”—hits in that 6-week period. It is a governmental service I am proud of, and I am proud of all the people at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. I have called Max Mayfield, the director, to tell him how proud I am of all those people. They were right on. We never want to focus on that centerline of the track because Mother Nature has a mind of her own. We want to focus on that cone of possible landfall. But in this case, the National Hurricane Center was right on track. My congratulations to them.

I thank my colleagues for the passage of these amendments regarding FEMA last night on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1412 are located in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

#### TV MARTÍ

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I point out an amendment I will offer to the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Let me show a picture of something called Fat Albert. Fat Albert is an aerostat balloon. It is on a tether far up in the sky. The purpose of Fat Albert is to broadcast television signals into the country of Cuba to tell the citizens of Cuba that life under Castro, life in communism in Cuba, is a pretty awful life and you ought to aspire toward a democracy and here are all the good things democracy has to offer.

The fact is, the Cubans already know all that. That is why they get on rafts and risk their lives trying to leave. In any event, if they don't know that, they can tune into a Miami radio station 90 miles away. If they choose not to tune in to a Miami radio station, they can tune in to Radio Martí. That does work. It sends signals to the country of Cuba and people listen to it. But TV Martí does not work.

TV Martí doesn't get into the Cuban marketplace. The Cuban people can't

see it, because the Castro regime jams the signals. We have now spent \$189 million on TV Martí. We send television signals the Cuban people can't see. We spend \$189 million. Apparently, someone feels better because we have wasted this money.

I had an amendment earlier this year to shut this down. Strangely enough, this Senate turned it down. I will give them the chance again on the Foreign Operations bill. I am going to take the money out of that bill, and we will vote on it again.

Why do the Cubans not see these signals? Because Castro jams them. The President is asking for \$21 million more to send television signals to Cuba. They used to use Fat Albert. Fat Albert got loose at one point, meandered over into the Everglades. They had to find some grapple hooks to rescue him. But that wasn't enough.

Incidentally, for most of the time they have broadcast these signals, they broadcast them from 3:30 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. All were jammed. They decided to change that on May 20, 2002, and then they began to broadcast in prime time. An administration official from the State Department said this: We don't have any official evidence that the audience has increased due to the broadcast schedule change.

Chris Coursen, former chairman of the President's board of advisors on broadcasting to Cuba, says until 6 years ago, TV Martí used to do exit interviews with Cubans coming to the United States on rafts and so on to determine whether Cubans, in fact, watched TV Martí. It was clear from those interviews no one was seeing TV Martí in Cuba because Castro was jamming it. We get people coming off a raft. We say: Have you watched Television Martí? No, we can't see it. It gets jammed. What do we do? We keep spending money anyway. And they stopped doing exit interviews with Cubans coming here, because they didn't want to document the fact that nobody could watch TV Martí.

It is now not enough to do it by an aerostat balloon. We now have a specially equipped airplane flying once a week, a C-130, Commando Solo, which is a very special airplane designed for communications strategies in warfare. We have taken an Air National Guard Commando Solo, put it up 4 hours a week, and it still cannot overcome the jammers in Cuba. We went from spending money we don't have on things we don't need to send television signals to people who can't receive them, and then we went to airplanes.

Now the President wants to buy an airplane just for this purpose, buy a new one. The President wants to spend \$21 million more sending a television signal no one can see. It is unbelievable. I want to see somebody vote to continue this funding and then go home and thumb their suspenders and crow about how they oppose Government waste. I want to see one person do that. If ever there was a dem-

onstrated waste in Government, this is it. Everybody in this Chamber knows it. We will see whether finally this Senate will decide to shut down money that is spent that unwisely.

#### MASSIVE WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to offer one other amendment on the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. I will offer it on every appropriations bill I get the chance to offer it on. It is legislating on appropriations, but it is important to do.

We have held hearing after hearing on the subject of Halliburton and other contractors in Iraq. There is massive waste of the taxpayers' money. The most recent hearing talked about a whistleblower who worked for Halliburton in a food service enterprise in a supervisory capacity in Iraq. He said: We were serving food to American troops that had expired and outdated stamps on it by as much as a year. We were told to feed it to the troops. There was food in convoys that came under fire, and the food was contaminated with bullets and shrapnel. We were told to take out the bullets and shrapnel, and feed the food to the troops anyway.

He also said—with respect to when he worked for Halliburton we were told if we spoke to a government auditor who came to our base, we would be fired or sent to an area to work where there is an active fire zone. And this in fact happened to him.

This isn't just this hearing. It is not just feeding outdated food to the troops. It is about people who have testified, whistleblowers who have testified at previous hearings and said: We drove \$85,000 new trucks, and we left them on the side of the road. If they had a flat tire or a plugged fuel pump, they got torched. We would just leave them behind. It was a cost plus contract, so there was no need to fix these little problems. Just buy new trucks, and make a nice little profit on the new purchase.

The stories of waste and fraud and abuse are unbelievable, and nobody cares.

Anybody hear of any oversight hearings by the oversight committees of jurisdiction in the U.S. Senate? None, zero. That is why we are holding the hearings I am chairing in the Policy Committee, because no one here cares.

I just sent a letter to Secretary Rumsfeld to say please at least look into this question of whether we are sending men and women in America's uniform to Iraq to fight and serving food that is outdated by as much as a year. Unbelievable.

Bunny Greenhouse testified at the hearing. She is the highest ranking civilian official in the Corps of Engineers, and is responsible for approving large contracts. She always got excellent scores on her performance evaluations. But they didn't like her much when she began to interfere with the