

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1891

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1891.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which we are about to consider, and that I may be permitted to include tables, charts, and other material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Pursuant to House Resolution 504 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4193.

□ 1236

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4193) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, with Mr. LATOURETTE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to introduce my statement with a quote from the Indian lore, from the Native Americans, and I think it sums up what this bill is all about. I quote: "We do not inherit this land from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." That is a profound truth, and that is what we have tried to keep in mind as we have dealt with this legislation. I like to call this bill the "Take Pride in America" bill, because we can take pride in what has happened in this great land of ours, in the preservation of our great natural resources.

Several members of our committee had an opportunity to tour some of the parks in the system this last month, and I think we agreed that we found great pride on the part of the people that staff these facilities. I think the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) would agree. He was part of our delegation, and saw that people in the land agencies are proud of their work and they put in a lot of extra time. We saw this in Yosemite where the storm damage has been repaired, a lot of it on time donated by members of the Park Service staff.

I also think that the record of volunteers in the land agencies is enormously impressive, and something we can all take pride in. Mr. Chairman, 94,000 people volunteered to work in our national parks without any compensation, but because they care about the land, they care about the parks. Mr. Chairman, there are 112,000 volunteers in the Forest Service; 28,000 volunteers in Fish and Wildlife; 17,000 volunteers in the Bureau of Land Management; and we of course are talking about a total of 617 million acres of the United States, about 30 percent of the land area.

We get a lot of foreign visitors. In our meeting with park officials, we learned that people come here from all over the world to view the national treasures, to view the unique ecological characteristics of our national parks, forests and other facilities.

We have extended the recreation fee program for two. We will talk more about that in general debate. It is anticipated to generate \$500 million over a 5-year period. This is additional money, in fact, and the public has accepted it. One of the superintendents told me on our trip that people often want to give more. They say, "That is not enough," \$2 to visit a park or \$20 for a car load of people. They say, "We would like to contribute more." The same park people said that vandalism has been reduced because people become stakeholders. We can take pride in that.

We can take pride in the fact that as a Nation we commit almost \$8 billion to programs for the Native Americans, not all in our bill, but across the board in many different bills.

Now, this has been a remarkable success story. I do not mention this in terms of just today, but I want to say it is there because of the leadership over the years of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE). They are both going to leave the committee, and I think that is something we should note.

I could say a lot about the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) and his leadership. I have served 24 years with him. We have been partners, and as partners often will, we may have disagreed on policies, but never in a disagreeable way. He served on this committee for 48 years, 20 years as chairman.

Just to illustrate his leadership, I will give my colleagues a couple of in-

stances. I remember the hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts when the gentleman brought in a group from Jessup, Iowa. Now, that is not exactly New York City; Jessup, Iowa is a pretty rural community. These young people came to our subcommittee and testified on how a string quartet had been sent there for a 6-month period, funded one-half by the National Endowment for the Arts, the other half by the local community. Obviously, this would not be a wealthy community, and yet they were willing to put up half the money to bring this cultural experience to their students. We had one of the students testify from Jessup about what an impact this grant, along with what his own community had spent, had made on the students in Jessup, Iowa.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES) brought many examples such as this one during our period on the committee. Likewise, in terms of our natural resources, the redoing of the minerals management system was leadership that the gentleman provided. He really has truly lived and personified in his role on this subcommittee of the Indian saying, that we borrow this land from our children, and I know that he has always had a concern for it.

Likewise, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE), who has been a member of this committee for 20 years. He always brought to the committee a desire to enhance the natural heritage that is a legacy for all of us and has given us wonderful service. We will miss these two individuals a great deal in terms of the subcommittee and the leadership they have provided over the years.

Also, we have had the thoughtful work of the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS), our friend who always brings to this committee intellectual curiosity. He always says, "is this the right thing to do?" and always I felt challenged as a chairman. Many times, after reflecting on what he had to say, I might disagree, but always he made a very good point in bringing a concern that he might have for some of the activities of our subcommittee.

Well, we could spend a lot of time on the three Members who have done so much to contribute to the strength of our committee and to the good work that it has done. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. YATES), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCDADE), and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) will be missed from the committee's thoughtful deliberations.

Finally, I have some of charts, which will illustrate what we have done on the Native Americans. I think it outlines it very well. We do not have a lot of time to spend on the various activities of the bill.

□ 1245

I would say at the outset, we were given \$14 billion-plus in budget authority and \$13 billion-plus in outlays. We have tried to manage our resources carefully. In fact, we are spending \$2