

threat to the security of health with reference to our oldest citizens, all of those initiatives, including the one concerning putting more law enforcement officers in our neighborhoods, all of those initiatives that the Gingrich leadership declared they had to have in order to have a revolution, they have now yielded on in this new budget bill.

REPORT FROM INDIANA: MURRAY WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my report from Indiana.

In the Second Congressional District of Indiana there are so many good people. Good people doing good things. In my book, these special individuals are Hoosier heroes. Hoosier heroes because they have dedicated their lives to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, Murray Wilson of Winchester, IN, is a Hoosier hero. He provides hope that one person can make a difference.

Murray Wilson has dedicated his life to raising support for local charities in his hometown. He knows in his heart that the greatest gift in life is to help others. During the day you'll find Murray washing dishes at D&J's Family Restaurant to provide for his wife, Debbie, and their 18-month-old daughter, Brittany. But his evenings are spent writing letters, rounding up pledges and championing his support drives.

Murray's efforts are sort of a legend. Ask anyone in Randolph County and they'll tell you: "Murray spends endless hours raising support for the March of Dimes, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Diabetes Association and the list goes on \* \* \*."

But if you ask Murray Wilson why he has made his life-mission to raise support for charitable organizations, he'll humbly tell you, "I just like to help people." To me, Mr. Speaker, that is the true American spirit.

Reach out. Lend a helping hand. Try to make a difference.

Murray Wilson may never meet the individuals who benefit from his effort. But he knows in his heart, that he's making his community a better place by lending a helping hand for those less fortunate.

Murray Wilson continues to make a difference. And for that reason, Murray Wilson of Winchester, IN, is a Hoosier hero.

Mr. Speaker, that is my report from Indiana.

□ 1330

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REPEAL LOGGING SALVAGE RIDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the

House, the gentlewoman from Oregon [Ms. FURSE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, last July it was about 10:30 at night, and this House passed the notorious timber salvage rider. That rider was slipped onto a bill that actually gave funding to the Oklahoma bombing victims. We knew at the time, some of us, that it was a bad idea, this bill. We knew this rider was a bad idea.

Yesterday, it just got worse, much worse. Yesterday, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the logging rider, which is called by the people of this country the lawless logging rider, that this logging rider, requires the Forest Service to immediately release for logging every timber sale ever offered in every national forest in Washington and Oregon since 1990, even though those sales were stopped because they are old growth sales in environmentally sensitive areas. Not only are they old growth sales, Mr. Speaker, but they are critical for endangered fish and wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell people that this bill has been called the salvage rider, but let me tell the Members about some of the trees that are being cut. Some of those trees are nearly 1,000 years old. They are not salvage, they are the heritage of the people of this country. Those are trees on public land, land set aside for the people, and yet, under this lawless logging rider, under this rider, the people have been shut out. Under this rider, all laws that protect that public heritage have been suspended.

Mr. Speaker, although the Forest Service is talking about salvage, we find that in fact they are reclassifying some healthy forests as salvage. So not only is this lifting the laws, not only is this shutting out the American people, but it is also a lie, because these trees are not salvage, they are healthy.

I introduced on December 7 a repeal of the lawless logging rider, and I have been joined on a bipartisan basis by 139 cosponsors. Why did I introduce this repeal? First of all, I knew it was wrong, this bill, in the first place. But then the trees began to come down in my district. Then the letters began to pour in. I would like to mention, Mr. Speaker, some of those letters.

Here is one from a small woodland owner. He said: "I speak for a large, unheard constituency in this debate. We manage our property in a sound manner, economically and environmentally, and we object to the Government doing otherwise." He opposes the salvage rider.

Here is someone from Asheville, NC, who wrote to me and said:

Thank you for introducing the repeal of the rider. I have worked all my career as a forest entomologist. I can assure you that this bill is a Trojan horse intended to get at good timber. It has been a practice for 9 years that to get a timber operator to remove infested pine, it was tacitly agreed that he would get plenty of good timber as an incentive.

I have heard from someone who says that he is a business person: "If anyone tries to tell you that business interests oppose environmental interests, I will tell you that is old-fashioned bunk. I am a small business person and I object to the rider."

Then I got a letter from John Jonathan Alward. He said: "Please continue to fight the salvage logging law. I am a Boy Scout. I believe the law is bad because it allows logging companies to strip away the natural beauty of the Northwest."

Here is one from a grandfather, who says he is outraged, outraged that it passed last summer.

Then I have one from a 67-year-old grandmother, 40 years an Oregon resident. She says: "I love this State, and I am sickened by what Congress is allowing to happen to its natural beauty and its environment."

A biologist. This is not a special interest group, Mr. Speaker. This is the people of the United States who own this land, who own this timber. He says: "As a biologist, I am greatly concerned with the deleterious effect of the salvage rider."

So I introduced the repeal of the salvage rider. What does that mean? What does it mean to repeal the salvage rider? It means we just go back to the way it used to be with the laws that had been passed by the Congress protecting the public interest. What it means when we repeal the rider is that once again we put the law in the forest, and once again we put the public interest over the special interest. We need to protect public land. It is the American heritage. I urge my colleagues to join me in repealing the so-called salvage rider. Please support 2745. Repeal the lawless logging.

AMERICANS ARE PAYING MORE AND GETTING LESS FOR EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, in just a few hours the House of Representatives will probably decide one of the most important questions that has faced the Nation and this Congress. I have only been here for a little over 36 months, and there are some wonderful people in the House of Representatives that I have had the opportunity to serve with. I just wanted to give my observations of where we are at this moment as we decide on a budget, which is long overdue.

Congress, in fact, has been bankrupting our Nation with good intentions from some very well-meaning and well-intended people. The debate over the past 4 months has really been the most important debate in, I think, the last 40 years.

But we have found that in this debate, if we look at what has happened,