Corps, a program that was created in 1970 with the leadership of Congressman Lloyd Meeds and a former Senator from the State of Washington who served in the other body, Senator Henry M. Jackson. This is a program that employs several thousand people each summer working on our national parks, our wildlife refuges in order to do work and maintenance in those areas. It is modeled on the very successful Civilian Conservation Corps of the Roosevelt administration, and I had a chance to see these young workers today doing work on the C&O Canal and to hear their stories about their involvement, and again I think it emphasizes how important it is for us in this Congress to support programs like the YCC, and I believe that the taxpayers get a good return and young people get an opportunity to serve the country and work on important environmental projects.

MARMENT LOCKS IMPORTANT TO INLAND WATERWAY SYSTEM

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the Marment Locks are an extremely important project not only for West Virginia but actually for the inland waterway system. There is a lot of uncertainty because the appraisal and real estate acquisition process must go forward. Two hundred families have been waiting a long time for this to happen. In the energy and water appropriation bill today that passed this House there was no language about that, and that is because that there is a two step, there are two ways that we can get such a project as this moving forward, and I just want to assure people that the process is not stopped.

The energy and water appropriation bill had a rule that there would be no new starts involved in it, neither the House, nor Senate, at this time. However, the other step the other way is the authorization process, and the water resources bill contains full authorization for the Marment Locks, it has passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I am urging the congressional leadership, and I think on a bipartisan basis, to bring this to the floor as soon as possible and to end this uncertainty. It is definitely possible for the water resources bill to be enacted this year to give approval for the Marment Locks to move forward and end this delay and uncertainty for so many families in West Virginia.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to present my special order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

WHITE HOUSE ACQUISITION OF FBI FILES

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

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very serious issue. For over 3 years I have tried to get to the bottom of the White House travel office firings and most recently the White House's acquisition of hundreds of FBI background files of former Republican officials.

Why has the White House resisted making public the information needed to conclude these investigations? One of the foremost questions in my mind as the committee sought to understand how and why the White House obtained these FBI background files was: Who is Craig Livingstone? Who recommended him? Who hired him? And why was he ever put in charge of such a sensitive job at the White House? Simple enough questions, or so I thought.

Even though Mr. Livingstone enjoyed an unusually long tenure in the White House Counsel's office—surviving four White House counsels and even though he enjoyed a 40-percent salary increase by touting his record as a ''team player'' while keeping bankers' hours—now a month later, we still have no answers to the simple question of who brought Craig Livingstone into the Clinton inner circle as Security Chief. Does Craig Livingstone really not know who hired him or is he just not telling us? Who in the White House recommended that the counsel's office hire Craig Livingstone?

Seeking answers elsewhere for Craig Livingstone's immaculate hiring as it was described by one observer, I directed my investigative staff to conduct depositions of the FBI agents assigned to the White House for background investigations. FBI Director Louis Freeh personally suggested that I review Mr. Livingstone's FBI background investigation file rather than question his agents directly on this subject.

Last Thursday, July 18, I went to the FBI headquarters where I reviewed Mr. Livingstone's FBI background file. During the course of an FBI background investigation, it is customary to interview an individual's supervisors. Among those interviewed for Craig Livingstone's background check was then-White House Counsel Bernard W. Nussbaum. The interviews took place in early March.

In the interview conducted of 1993, an interview conducted by Agent Dennis Sculimbrene, his report of this interview stated that Mr. Nussbaum advised, and I am quoting, ''that he is not only an appointee of Craig Livingstone for the period of time that he has been employed in the new administration, Mr. Livingstone had come highly recommended to him by Hillary Clinton, who has known his mother for a longer period of time.'' The agent reported that Mr. Nussbaum said that, quoting, ''he was confident that the appointee lives a circumspect life and was not aware of any drug or alcohol problems.''

This 1993 statement calls into question Mr. Nussbaum's June 26, 1996 statements made under oath before the Government Reform and Oversight Committee. When Congressman STEVE HORN asked former Associate White House Counsel William Kennedy whether Mrs. Clinton wanted Mr. Livingstone there at the White House, Mr. Kennedy testified that, and I am quoting: ''I can state that I have never discussed Mr. Livingstone with Mrs. Clinton in any way, shape or form.'' Mr. Nussbaum immediately responded: ''Nor did I.'' When I directly asked Mr. Nussbaum, ''Do you know who hired Craig Livingstone?'' Mr. Nussbaum responded: ''I don't know who brought Mr. Livingstone into the White House.''

Just as disturbing, is the fact that the FBI provided a heads up about this information to the White House. I learned this week that prior to my review of Graig Livinstone's FBI background file, the FBI called White House Deputy Counsel to the President Kathleen Wallman to provide information contained in Craig Livingstone's file—information that previously had not been provided to the White House. Did the White House tell anyone about this information?

What possible legitimate purpose could the FBI have had to call the White House about this information? Why did the FBI not contact the independent counsel if they really were concerned about the information discovered in Livingston's background file?

The day after the FBI contacted the White House, on Wednesday, July 17, two headquarters agents went to Agent Dennis Sculimbrene's home at 10:00 in the morning and interviewed him about the taking of the Nussbaum statement. The FBI agents conducting the interview told Mr. Sculimbrene that the White House was unhappy and concerned about this particular interview and about what had been said about Bernie Nussbaum.

Why, after the Attorney General herself said that it would be a conflict of interest for the FBI or the Justice Department to investigate anything related to this matter, would FBI agents go to the home of such a critical witness? Who directed these agents? Who approved and knew about these actions and when did they know? Was the independent counsel informed and why was Agent Sculimbrene told that the White House was unhappy?

□ 1715

This is a matter I will refer to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. Because Attorney General Reno has designated Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr to investigate potential criminal wrongdoing in the White

House Travel Office and FBI Files matters, I am simultaneously forwarding this matter to Judge Starr's attention.

While our investigation is continuing, our focus is not, not on possible criminal activities. I want to emphasize that I am not here to prejudge the veracity of any of the statements that I have referred to, but I am concerned about what appear to be very serious discrepancies. I believe, therefore, this issue must be addressed by a Federal law enforcement office tasked to review these types of issues.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following information:

WHITE HOUSE AND FBI ACTIONS AND CONTACTS ON FBI FILE MATTER—PREPARED BY STAFF OF HOUSE GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

JUNE 14, 1996

FBI issues report on White House obtaining FBI files saying the FBI was ''victimized'' by the White House's gathering of FBI background files.

Craig Livingstone is deposed by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight and reveals problems in his background.

JUNE 17, 1996

Craig Livingstone is deposed by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

White House Counsel Jack Quinn announces that Livingstone has asked to be put on administrative leave.

JUNE 18, 1996

After an initial inquiry, Independent Counsel Starr advised Attorney General Reno that he does not believe he has jurisdiction to investigate the FBI File matter further.

Attorney General Reno ordered the FBI to conduct a thorough investigation into unjustified White House requests for background files.

JUNE 20, 1996

Attorney General Reno turned the investigation of White House requests for FBI background files over to Whitewater Independent Counsel Starr in order to avoid a conflict of interest. Reno wrote: ''I have concluded it would constitute a conflict of interest for the Department of Justice itself to investigate the matter involving an interaction between the White House and the FBI, a component of the Department of Justice.''

JUNE 26, 1996

Craig Livingstone announces his resignation in his opening statement before a Committee on Government Reform and Oversight hearing on the Security of the FBI Files.

JUNE–JULY 1996

Independent Counsel investigation proceeds with numerous White House witnesses appearing before the Grand Jury.

JULY 15, 1996

Dennis Sculimbrene is deposed by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

JULY 16, 1996

Chief Investigative Counsel Barbara Olson of the Committee reviews the FBI background file of Craig Livingstone and Anthony Marceca.

According to FBI Counsel Shapiro, he contacted Deputy White House Counsel Kathleen Wallman regarding the Nussbaum interview in Livingstone's FBI background file.

JULY 17, 1996

Two FBI agents from FBI Headquarters appear at the Haymarket, Virginia home of Dennis Sculimbrene to talk with him about his interview of Bernard Nussbaum and show him the document. They also ask him for his notes of the interview.

Committee holds hearing with Secret Service witnesses on the Security of FBI Background Files. Secret Service Agent Arnold Cole reveals that he spoke with Bill Kennedy about problems in the background of Craig Livingstone when the Secret Service reviewed his file for security concerns.

JULY 18, 1996

Chairman Clinger and Chief Investigative Counsel Barbara Olson review Craig Livingstone's FBI background file at the FBI. Chairman Clinger requests information regarding any communication of information in the Craig Livingstone FBI Background file to the White House.

JULY 19, 1996

FBI General Counsel Shapiro writes letter to Chairman Clinger informing him that the FBI did indeed provide the White House with information on the Nussbaum interview: ''because issues raised in Mr. Nussbaum's interview [in Livingstone's FBI background file] has been discussed in connection with the Committee's oversight investigation, it was determined that the Bureau had a responsibility to advise affected parties. Therefore, after arrangements were made for your staff to review the files, the Department of Justice, and then the White House, were advised of the results of this review.''

A PARTISAN SMEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. WAXMAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out how outrageous it is that the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], the chairman of the committee, that has been investigating whether there has been an invasion of privacy by the gathering of FBI files would come to the floor and disclose information that he has from FBI files. It seems to me that, if we are talking about protecting people's privacy, it is out of line to come to the floor and use information that has not been verified, presumably from some FBI file, to try to smear the First Lady, Bernard Nussbaum, the counsel, and the Democratic administration. This is a partisan smear.

I have information that I am going to insert in the RECORD that contradicts the statement made by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER]. I want to point out that, when a Member of Congress speaks from the House floor, he is protected. We can say anything we want. No one can file a lawsuit against us. But that does not give us the right to come here and disclose information that ought not to be disclosed.

If there is an accusation about people in the White House having gathered FBI files improperly, that accusation appears to be accurate, but there has been no showing that any of that information was ever made public or used for political purposes. But what we have here right now is the use politically of information from the FBI.

I include for the RECORD these statements that contradict what has been alleged on the House floor and to point out to the Members that this kind of activity, it seems to me, is outrageous and is really uncalled for.

The material referred to is as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
Washington, DC, July 19, 1996.

Hon. WILLIAM F. CLINGER,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been advised that you and Committee Counsel Barbara Olson visited the FBI yesterday for the purpose of reviewing the background investigation files of Craig Livingstone and Anthony Marceca. As you know, the FBI's investigations of Mr. Livingstone and Mr. Marceca were undertaken at the request of the White House and the results of the investigations were previously provided to the White House.

After your review of these files, I understand that you noted that neither of the summary memoranda reflecting the results of the FBI's investigation of Mr. Livingstone reflected certain specific information recorded as a result of the FBI's interview of Bernard Nussbaum, then counsel to the President. You asked what the FBI's response would be if the White House requested any additional information from the file beyond the summary memoranda furnished.

As you know, the FBI conducts background investigations for various congressional committees and other government entities, including the White House. With regard to requests for background investigations from the Department of Justice, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the FBI provides the actual investigative reports. Only certain information is withheld, e.g., if an interviewee requests that his identity be protected from disclosure outside the FBI. With regard to background investigations conducted for congressional committees and the White House, by agreement the FBI provides summary memoranda that synopsize the information in the underlying investigative reports. Since 1983, at the request of the White House, the FBI also attaches to the summary memoranda any FD–302s that reflect derogatory information. So, for example, the FBI's communication that provided the White House with the results of the remainder of the Bureau's investigation of Mr. Livingstone included an FD–302 reflecting the results of an interview with an individual who volunteered derogatory information. The summary memoranda are intended to address all the concerns of the client entity requesting the background investigation but if that client asks for additional information from the report, the FBI would provide the requested information subject to certain limitations, e.g., the interviews specifically requests confidentiality.

You also expressed concern as to whether the information in Mr. Livingstone's files, particularly with regard to the record of the interview with Mr. Nussbaum, should be provided to the White House by the FBI. You indicated that you would want to know if the White House asked for or was provided that information and what the justification for providing it would be.

During the course of this or any other oversight investigation, the FBI works to cooperate fully with congressional committees as well as any other agencies or entities impacted by the inquiry. Our effort is to remain non-partisan ensuring that facts within our possession which are relevant to an inquiry are provided to affected entities to the extent that we are aware of such an interest.