requesting a detailed analysis of the site to determine whether it should be included for consideration as endangered at their July meeting in Paris. On June 27, Frampton responded on behalf of the Clinton administration in a lengthy letter in which he pleaded for intervention by the U.N. group and urged that international investigators immediately be sent to Yellowstone.

''[Interior] Secretary Babbit and I are informed of the nongovernmental conservation group concerns as transmitted to the Centre,'' Frampton wrote to Bernd von Droste, the World Heritage Centre director. ''We believe that a potential danger to the values of the park and surrounding waters and fisheries exists and the Committee should be informed that the property as inscribed in the World Heritage List is in danger.''

In short, invoking a madcap treaty, the Clinton administration accepted U.N. sovereignty in these matters and called upon a U.N. agency to save Yellowstone. Several months later four individuals from the Centre flew to the rescue. ''I was there the entire time they visited,'' says Paul C. Jones, executive director of the Minerals Exploration Coalition, a mining-advocacy group. ''We were in the midst of a very long, very serious, congressionally mandated process to produce an environmental-impact statement on the mine proposed for the park. We were strictly following the rules as spelled out by the National Environmental Protection Act. When suddenly, with the appearance of the U.N., what had been an ordinary process became a political debate. And it was apparent that these people had made up their minds before they even got there.''

During their visit to the proposed site for New World Mine, north of Cooke City, Mont., the four visitors had the opportunity to interact with many of the more common local species including environmentalists, park-service representatives and mining-industry honchos. In fact, each member of the visiting U.N. team traveled in an overland vehicle (read Jeep) with their own locally supplied good-guy environmentalist and evil mine representative. This allowed for a continuing dialogue to be maintained wherein each side could bark loudly at the other.

The visitors also took time out from their research to discuss the future of the park with the many reporters who had gathered from around the globe. Adul Wichiencharoen of Thailand, who heads the World Heritage Committee, went so far as to tell a reporter from Montana's Billings Gazette that the park might be improved by the addition of several million additional acres of land. ''Certainly the forest areas around Yellowstone belong to the same ecosystem,'' he said. ''All of these lands must have protection so their integrity is not threatened.''

The end result was that the visitors returned to the World Heritage Centre, presented their findings in Berlin that November and the world body voted to place Yellowstone on its lists of endangered sites. The resulting international bad press effectively derailed the permit process and in late August the mine owners agreed to a land swap with the U.S. government, ridding them of their parcel of $65 million worth of property in a location yet to be determined.

Where was Yogi Bear when he was needed? It isn't certain. But the circus of events that took place in the mountains was enough to send House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young of Alaska to urge passage of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of 1996 faster than you could say Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Young's proposal simply provided that Congress be allowed to assert its authority over what American landmarks make the World Heritage List. The World Heritage List is a product of the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and National Heritage, a treaty taking precedence at law over the U.S. Constitution. Since it was adopted in 1972 (the United States was its initiator and first signatory), the convention has been used to project the authority of a U.N. agency over an ever-growing list of officially designated cultural and natural sites. Commemorative photos are taken. Plaques are installed at qualifying locations. National sovereignty is eroded.

At present 496 cultural and natural sites throughout the world are included on the list. They cover a diverse compendium, including such buildings as Independence Hall, the Statue of Liberty and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and such areas of regional and national interest as the Florida Everglades and Mount Everest.

''Land designations under the World Heritage and Biosphere Reserve programs have been created with virtually no congressional over-sight and no congressional hearings. The public and local governments are rarely consulted,'' says Young.

Instead, in the case of the World Heritage List, sites generally are recommended for this internationalization by the National Park Service. Twenty such sites are within the confines of the U.S. borders; two additional sites, Yellowstone and the Everglades, are on the list of endangered heritage sites. Hundreds of additional sites around the globe are pending inclusion on the list. If neither the first McDonald's nor Yankee Stadium has yet to be included, it could be an oversight.

Certainly the UNESCO folks are looking to improve their holdings. ''An analysis of the World Heritage List has shown that the industrialized world, religious Christian movements, historical cities, historical periods and 'elitist' architecture are over-represented,'' according to World Heritage Centre documents. Well, so much for getting McDonald's on the list.

Now the World Heritage Centre is willing to admit that for the moment it is a dog that barks but has no bite. It can't yet force the United States to do anything about its national parks or turn over the Statue of Liberty. But these people are nothing if not ambitious. Although UNESCO admits that it has no enforcement teeth (which begs the question of why there should be such a list in the first place), the Clinton administration first strongly asserted its desire that Yellowstone be put on the endangered list and then opposed passage of Young's bill, which would have taken nomination of sites to the World Heritage List out from under the relatively opaque operations of the Interior Department and placed them in the hands of Congress.

''If Congress wishes to micromanage these international programs, it could assume that responsibility,'' claimed Rep. George Miller of California, the senior Democratic member of the House Resources Committee. ''However, it is very ironic that this Congress is willing to spend its waning days fixing programs that are not broken. . . .''

Critics slap their heads, roll their eyes and wonder if a treaty really has ceded American sovereignty over the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall. They note with suspicion the administration's loathing of the proposed Young bill, going so far as to promise a presidential veto had it passed. They ask why we have Clinton protecting a list that supposedly doesn't matter—from a bill that supposedly doesn't matter.

Some who testified in favor of the bill argue strongly that congressional oversight is constitutional necessity. ''If these international programs are seen as harmless because they are merely symbolic, Congress is entitled to think competing concerns also deserve 'symbolic' recognition,'' testified Jeremy A. Rabkin, an expert in constitutional law from Cornell University. ''[The bill] seems to me a modest but useful statement that global enthusiasms should not be allowed to run roughshod over our traditional constitutional principles.''

But if the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of 1996 didn't stand a chance this time around, and the bill, while it received a majority of votes, did not receive the two-thirds vote necessary for it to pass under the rules of suspension, it still is not a fight that's finished. Young has vowed to keep the pressure on when the 105th Congress convenes.

''While I'm pleased that a strong majority of the House supported this legislation, I'm amazed that a single member of Congress would oppose having congressional oversight of international land designations within the borders of the United States,'' Young says. Clinton administration claims of U.N. authority over Yellowstone and the Statue of Liberty are meanwhile continuing to give conservatives a bad case of dyspepsia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3610, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 22, 1996

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the provision in the final Conference Agreement to the FY 1997 Department of Defense (DOD) Appropriations Bill, which encourages the Department to pay particular attention to pediatric patients as it explores telemedicine initiatives that would provide cost-effective, accessible, and high quality services for DoD beneficiaries.

The Department of Defense in the past decade, has experienced many of the same challenges confronting the Nation's private health care system—increasing costs, uneven access to health care services, and disparate benefit and cost-sharing packages for similarly-situated categories of beneficiaries. As DoD responds to these challenges, there is a particular need to ensure that the transition to managed care for pediatric patients within the Military Health Services System is handled with a high level of professionalism and care.

The requirements of a reformed health care delivery system and the emergence of new medical and information technologies have radically changed the manner in which health care is provided and delivered to pediatric patients. Therefore, it is critically important for the Department to develop a partnership with a pediatric hospital which has the proven expertise and track record in the diagnosis and treatment of sick children.

Children's National Medical Center (CNMC), located in the Nation's capital, offers significant benefits to DoD and to countless citizens in Northern Virginia, Washington, DC, and Maryland. CNMC has had a longstanding relationship with the Department of Defense through collaboration with DoD facilities, and through the provision of patient care services to a large number of military dependents and the children of DoD civilian employees. CNMC currently has affiliation agreements with Walter

Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Medical Center. Through these relationships, CNMC serves as a major regional source of training for military physicians, nurses, technologists, therapists, and other allied health professionals.

In recent years, CNMC has worked closely with DoD to develop pediatric quality assurance criteria for emergency medical care services to acutely ill and injured children who are military dependents referred by area military medical treatment facilities. This pilot study involved the development and application of screening criteria designed to assess the process and outcome of pediatric emergency care for head trauma, seizures and respiratory distress due to upper airway construction. The criteria was applied to a sample of six military treatment facilities in the United States. The findings from the study revealed specific aspects of pediatric emergency medical care which would benefit from clinical and/or administrative educational programs.

Given the specific expertise which Children's National Medical Center brings to pediatric health care, its longstanding successful relationship with DoD, the National Institutes of Health, and other Federal agencies in health policy and research matters, CNMC is eminently qualified to work with DoD in establishing a state-of-the-art telemedicine network to ensure that pediatric military dependents have access to the most advanced standards of American health care.

Telepediatrics demonstration of this nature will provide DoD with otherwise inaccessible state-of-the-art pediatric medical advice and services to providers and their patients. It will also provide the broadest range of pediatric specialty services allowing for the phased integration of target specialties (trauma, radiology, psychiatry), it will develop broad or segmented demonstration of the utility of various telemedicine technologies in the field of pediatric medicine across the range of primary, chronic, and acute care services, and it will demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of telemedicine technologies in enhancing the quality of services and access to pediatric populations in urban, suburban, rural, and regionally dispersed, as well as transitional communities.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the effort by the Department of Defense to explore telemedicine initiatives which will bring new insights and services to the care of pediatric patients.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging who will celebrate their 35th anniversary this October in Philadelphia.

On November 26, 1961, a group of dedicated long-term care professionals met for 4 days at New York's Arden House to discuss the future role and mission of nonprofit providers in long-term care. Out of those discussions came the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

From its earliest days, the association and its members believed in a philosophy of care and service to the Nation's elderly. Its leaders coined the phrase ''social components of care'' to describe how significant both the nurturing and spiritual aspects of long-term care were in ensuring quality of care for residents of the Nation's health care and senior housing organizations. The association also pioneered the concept of resident decisionmaking, believing in the right of residents of homes for the aging to have a voice in their care and in the activities of the facility.

The association's vision for the future is one in which every community offers an integrated and coordinated continuum of high quality, innovative and affordable health care, housing and home, and community-based services. Within this framework the qualities of compassion, benevolence, individual dignity, self-determination, diversity, and social responsibility will be most highly valued.

As 1996 draws to a close, there are 5,000 full members of the AAHSA, 39 State association partners, and 800 affiliate members. Its membership includes not only nursing homes and continuing care retirement communities, but also subsidized and market-rate housing for low- and moderate-income elderly as well as home and community-based service organizations. The association sponsors a nationally recognized accreditation program for continuing care retirement communities and initiated the International Association of Homes and Services for the Aging to share the knowledge of aging services across international borders.

From October 28 to 31, the AAHSA will hold its annual meeting in Philadelphia. In light of this organization's commitment to continuing improvement in the care of our Nation's elderly we are honored to host this event which will draw over 5,000 people to our city. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this association on 35 years of service to the Nation's elderly.

THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION—REFLECTIONS OF CHARLES GATI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of October, we will mark the 40th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. This is a particularly significant event because that uprising of the Hungarian people against communism and against the Soviet domination of the Hungarian nation was one of the most dramatic and critical events of the cold war era.

As we reach the last days of October when the dramatic events unfolded 40 years ago, it is appropriate that we here in the United States—and particularly that we as Members of Congress—remember the events of 1956. It is most appropriate that we pay tribute to the brave people of Hungary who rose up against Soviet tanks and the heavily armed Red Army in an effort to win their freedom and regain their national independence.

Mr. Speaker, one of the individuals who was a young man in Budapest at the time of those tumultuous events four decades ago was Dr. Charles Gati, who was one of the hundreds of thousands of Hungarians who fled their country in the aftermath of that tragic revolution. We are fortunate, indeed, to have him here as an American today, one of our finest scholars and analysts of Central and Eastern Europe.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARCO BRUNO AND JOSEPH ALESSI

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, as we approach October, National Italian-American Heritage Month, being an Italian-American myself, I would like to commend two distinguished individuals from my congressional district for their dedication to increasing the awareness of Italian-American heritage. These two gentlemen, Dr. Marco Bruno and Mr. Joseph Alessi, were recently recognized by the Belleville Chapter of UNICO National for their accomplishments.

Dr. Bruno is extremely active in the Italian-American community. He is a founder and charter member of the Center for Italian and Italian-American Culture, Inc. He has served as the center's vice president, a member of the board of trustees, chairman of the membership committee, participant and chairman of several other cultural and fundraising activities. Currently, Dr. Bruno is serving his third year as president of the executive board. He is a member of the National Italian American Foundation [NIAF]. Dr. Bruno has been a member of Cedar Grove UNICO for over 10 years and has served as chairman of the Heritage Committee. In addition, he has held the offices of vice president and president. In 1992, Dr. Bruno was honored as the Cedar Grove UNICO Man of the Year. His numerous activities with UNICO include various heritage programs, coordinator of the Columbus Day Parade, Christmas Toy Drive, and director of Italian language classes in Cedar Grove. He is a member of the UNICO Once Voice Committee and has assisted in the organization of Italian-American Heritage Day at Montclair State College, and the One Voice Seminar at Seton Hall University. Finally, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bruno has most recently served as co-chairman of the A–T Children's Project Family Day fundraiser.

Mr. Speaker, the second notable Italian-American, Joseph Alessi served as Essex County Condemnation Commissioner and an Arbitrator for the Essex County Court Special Civil Part. He became a member of Cedar Grove UNICO in 1986 and served as president from 1988 to 1990. He founded the Heritage Committee of Cedar Grove UNICO and was instrumental in procuring educational videos on Italian heritage. Mr. Alessi served on the UNICO scholarship committee and was active in various fundraising events. He was appointed to the honorary advisory committee for the Newark Public Library's International Cultural Festival in Italy. Mr. Alessi serves with Dr. Bruno as a trustee for the Center for Italian and Italian-American Culture. In addition, he also holds the position as co-chairman of the center's annual gala. Finally, Mr. Alessi is