

sugar beet processing plant in California was built in 1870 in Alvarado. The second plant was built in Watsonville in 1888. The Watsonville plant was eventually dismantled and became part of the world's largest beet processing plant of its time. This plant, built by Claus Spreckels, was the beginning of Spreckels Sugar Company. The plant was built in the town bearing the Spreckels' family name in the fertile Salinas Valley.

Claus Spreckels died nine years after the opening of the Spreckels factory. At this point his sons, John D. and A.B. Spreckels, took the reins of the company. They followed in the footsteps of their father and planned the expansion of the Spreckels Sugar Company to meet the sugar requirements of California's rapidly growing population. In time, they expanded to sell sugar to both the East and West Coasts.

The Mendota plant, where Spreckels' 100-year celebration is being held, was the past plant built in California, in 1963.

Historically, the Mendota factory has operated from the time fields dried in the spring (March or April) until the "spring crop" is harvested. Following a short shutdown in June, the factory is restarted in July and March through October without a shutdown, producing over 2,000,000 cwt. sugar per year, processing approximately 735,000 tons of sugar beets.

The San Joaquin Valley has been the primary source of the Mendota factory's beet supply, with this exception of several occasions when beets were shipped by rail from the Imperial Valley. Additionally, the San Joaquin Valley has been the source of beets for the other California Spreckels factories during the summer months. Millions of tons of beets have been shipped over the years by rail and truck to Spreckels, California (near Salinas), Manteca, and Woodland and to this day are still being shipped to Tracy and Woodland.

In January 1996, Spreckels Sugar Company was purchased by Imperial Holly Corporation. The Woodland, Tracy, Mendota, and Brawley plants in California are now part of the Imperial Holly family and are known as Spreckels Sugar Company, a division of Holly Sugar Corporation. Imperial's purchase of Savannah Sugar in October of last year makes Spreckels a part of the largest sugar refiner, processor, and marketer in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I congratulate Spreckels Sugar Company as they celebrate their centennial anniversary. I applaud their years of exceptional service and commitment to the Sugar Beet industry. Spreckels shows just how successful a small family owned business can become with hard work and determination. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Spreckels Sugar Company many more years of success.

PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
ANNUAL FIELD TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to praise the hard work of those who organized the Ports-

mouth Middle School Annual Field Trip to Washington, DC. Every year a group of students from the school are taken to the capital to have a tour. A number of people put a great deal of time and effort into organizing this trip. In fact these same dedicated individuals have been making this trip for over twenty years. I would like to acknowledge these people for the work they have done. Richard Munch, Beverly Tavares, Paul Fuller, Andrew Schlachter, Harold Weymouth, Beverly Mankofsky, Jackie Shearman, Heather Baker. Without their constant help and support the trip would not take place.

The trip enables young students to see the Capital up close and they learn a great deal of how the government works. It is important that our young people get to see for themselves the legislative process. They get a tour of the Capital which goes through all aspects of the legislature. They are able to learn the procedures of Congress and they get a taste of how the process functions. This is a very educational tour as these students are able to hear the history of the nation and the capital. They go to Congressional offices, are shown through the Capitol and see the House in action.

I believe that it is an important aspect of our democracy that people can come and see the political process themselves. Many members of the populace never get a chance to do this. Often the legislative process seems far removed from the average persons everyday life. It is often seen as a process that they cannot have any part in. We need to educate people in what we do. To show them that we are here to serve them and that we are answerable to them. This is how our democracy works and young people should be aware of these principles.

The Capital tour gives a taste of history of the United States. I believe that these young people need to learn about their history and the work that our great leaders have put in to creating the nation we have today. It is the people that I mentioned above from Portsmouth Middle School who make this trip possible. They have over the years acted beyond the call of duty to make these trips work. I would like to acknowledge their efforts and note that I appreciate the work they do to show a new generation of young people our democratic process.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 629, TEXAS LOW-LEVEL
RADIO ACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL
COMPACT CONSENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, the following resolution was submitted in Spanish for the RECORD following Mr. Reyes' remarks on H.R. 629 on Thursday, May 14. This is the English translation to be inserted in the RECORD.

FIRST.—The Joint Committees on Ecology and the Environment, Border Issues and Foreign Relations of the Chamber of Deputies reiterate their complete rejection of the planning, construction and operation of the Radioactive Waste Dump that the Governor

of Texas is trying to establish in the town of Sierra Blanca, Texas, and express their disagreement, concern and disapproval of the decisions, adopted and followed until now by the Government of the United States of America, which favor installation of dumps on the southern border with Mexico, without taking into account the potential negative impact that such decisions can have on human health and the environment in communities located on both sides of the border.

SECOND.—The Joint Committees of the Chamber of Deputies have conducted an evaluation of available information on this dump project, the result of which shows that its operation would entail potential adverse impacts.

THIRD.—The Joint Committees of the Chamber of Deputies kindly request that the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Relations transmit to the Government of the United States of America the Chamber of Deputies complete rejection of the construction and operation of a radioactive waste dump in Sierra Blanca, Texas.

FOURTH.—The Chamber of Deputies presents to the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Relations the possibility of considering the formulation of the following proposals to the Government of the United States of America.

(a) Insist on the relocation of the Sierra Blanca project to a site located outside the 100 kilometers of the border zone.

(b) State the disapproval of the Chamber of Deputies with respect to decisions of the United States of America which favor the installation of hazardous and radioactive waste dumps within the border strip.

(c) Begin negotiation of an amendment to the La Paz Agreement in which the installation and operation of hazardous and radioactive waste dumps are explicitly prohibited in the 100-kilometer strip of the common border.

(d) Demonstrate to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives the desire of the Chamber of Deputies that they vote against the Compact Law which authorizes the dumping of wastes among the states of Texas, Maine and Vermont, by virtue of [the fact that] their approval signifies notable support for the construction and operation of a radioactive waste dump in Sierra Blanca, Texas, and represents a violation of the spirit of the La Paz Agreement.

(e) Include the topic of radioactive and hazardous waste dumps on the agenda of the next meeting of the Mexico-United States Binational Commission to negotiate the suspension of dump projects in the 100-kilometer strip of the border.

FIFTH.—The Joint Committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Committee of International Affairs are instructed:

(a) To include this matter on the agenda of the next Mexico-United States Inter-parliamentary Meeting.

(b) That the Ecology and Environment, Border Issues and Foreign Relations Committees of the Chamber of Deputies propose that the Governors of the border states of the Mexican Republic and their respective Congresses be informed about projects attempting to be established in the border zone, exhorting them to define a joint strategy so that dumps not be implemented in the 100-kilometer border strip, and requesting their support of the present Report.

(c) To form a plural commission, made up of deputies [who are] members of the Joint Committees to meet with federal, local and legislative authorities of the United States of America to deal with the Sierra Blanca case and demonstrate their rejection of same.

SIXTH.—The Joint Committees express that the present case constitutes a valuable opportunity for both countries to show their will, responsibility and ability to cooperate