

cost of stabilizing the level of the sea at an elevation close to its present elevation.

Now with all of the agreement on the need for rapid environmental mitigation, I am deeply disappointed in the bill produced by the Resources Committee and the manager's amendment which was adopted last Wednesday. A number of provisions in the reported bill and the amendment cause problems: the inappropriate authorization of EPA funds; the Clean Water Act permit exemption; the broad liability exemption for local water district activities; the complex and probably unconstitutional provisions for triggering a construction authorization for a not yet defined, or designed, technological fix. These provisions are all inappropriate. They have drawn severe criticism from the environmental community and the Administration and that criticism is warranted.

Some of what my colleagues may view as my abandonment of this bill is due to my naïve faith that the problems which I have described would be corrected. It was not apparent to me until I reviewed a copy of the substitute amendment early last week that such was not the case. Some of the fault is mine and I regret that I was not clearer in emphasizing the failings of the reported bill to my fellow members of the Task Force. However, I would point out that these issues had been raised to us and in the Resources Committee by the Administration and the environmental community for some time prior to this bill's coming to the floor.

Last week I found myself in the unfortunate situation of seeking to fix a bill on the floor that should have been fixed by the manager's amendment. Although the substitute that Mr. Miller and I offered failed, I reluctantly supported the bill, fully aware that it has no real opportunity to be enacted into law and still having major concerns with its provisions. I realize that my fellow Task Force Members are disappointed that I cosponsored a substitute amendment, but I felt I had to take the last opportunity I had in the House to produce a bill that could proceed beyond House passage; a bill that would have a chance to gain broad, bipartisan support; a bill that would gain the endorsement, and not the wrath, of the environmental community; a bill that would be rapidly moved through the Senate and enthusiastically received by the Administration. In short, a bill that could become a law.

As an original co-sponsor of this legislation, I feel an obligation to move the process forward in this Congress. It is my hope that we can find a clear bipartisan solution in the Senate. I supported the bill last week on final passage with great reluctance, hoping that the Senate will perfect the bill. However, should the remaining legislative work on this bill in the Senate return a Conference Report that has not removed the provisions I have mentioned or return the existing bill, I will oppose enactment of the legislation.

I want my colleagues to know what a painful situation this puts me in. I grew up in the Salton Sea basin, in the Imperial Valley. I feel some sense of history and personal responsibility in cleaning up the Salton Sea and in finishing the work in which our former colleague, Sonny Bono, was so deeply involved. But I cannot stand by and let this effort be endangered by legislation that has failed to meet the standard that Sonny would have set, namely to be meritorious enough to gain easy

bipartisan and bicameral support. It is my hope that we can accomplish that goal in the near future.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES B.
ALLISON UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to recognize outstanding citizens out of my own 7th district of Tennessee. Today, it is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to recognize one such citizen.

Charles B. Allison was born on December 12, 1942, in Austinville, Virginia. He graduated with an accounting degree from Ben Franklin University in Washington, D.C. while being employed by the Bureau in a clerical capacity, having entered on duty June 19, 1961. Chuck's first duty assignment as a Special Agent was in 1968 in Louisville, Kentucky, where he also served several months in the Richmond Resident Agency.

He thereafter was transferred to Newark, New Jersey, in 1969 and served in the Newark Division until June of 1977. He was then transferred to the Memphis, TN, FBI Office where he is currently serving as a Supervisory Special Agent of the Organized Crime and Drug Squad. Mr. Allison is retiring on July 31, 1998 after 37 years of dedicated service to the FBI.

Mr. Allison and his wife, Janet, have two children, Jill and Greg. Jill, a registered nurse, is married to Dr. Camp Newton and they are both employed at Baxter County Regional Hospital in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Greg is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and is currently employed by the C.H. Robinson Company in Nashville, TN.

I would like to thank the Chair for this time to recognize this exceptional American citizen.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on June 22 this House voted to approve H. Res. 452, expressing the sense of the House that the Postal Service should not raise its rates. My vote was mistakenly recorded as "No." I would like to express my support for the H. Res. 452 and emphasize that I do not believe the Postal Service should raise its rates at this time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness I was absent on Friday, July 17, 1998. Had I been present, I would have voted "Nay" on rollcall vote No. 295 and "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 296.

TRIBUTE TO THE BETANCES CADETS FOR ITS FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Betances Cadets, an invaluable Bronx institution, which celebrated its First Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, July 18, 1998.

Six months ago, under the leadership of "General" Carlos Quintana and his staff, the Betances Cadets was established. The program takes kids off the street and prepares them for real-life experience through a military-style program. It gives them the opportunity to apply academic lessons as they experience real-life situations, bring real-life lessons back to the classroom, become problem solvers, understand the need for responsibility, and develop leadership ability. Today, the program has 64 students and 9 staff members.

Three cadets, Amanda Perez, Jose Barreto and Tanairis Noriega were recognized for academic achievement during the graduation.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the 16th district of New York where the Betances Cadets is located and I am delighted by its early success. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Betances Cadets, to the staff and parents, and to the students, whose ambition and hard work will make this great institution a tremendous source of pride and success for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF DOWAGIAC, MI

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 1998

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the City of Dowagiac, Michigan. On February 16, 1848, the city's founding fathers received official recognition, giving birth to a dynamic community that has been thriving ever since.

Over the past century and a half, Dowagiac has served as a focal point for southwest Michigan's progress and development. Many industries have found Dowagiac a great place to do business. They know that if you want the job done right, you get it done in Dowagiac. Home to the campus of Southwest Michigan College and a great school district, Dowagiac is helping the next generation chart a course to the future.

Dowagiac has seen a lot of change during the years. But in times of war and peace, prosperity and tough-times, there is one thing that remains constant. The people of Dowagiac have always cared for each other as neighbors and as a community. We realize that we cannot move forward until we move together. The city was founded in this spirit—it has allowed our town to thrive and will ensure its continued success for many years to come.