

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1659, introduced by the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH) directs the Secretary of the Interior to fulfill a 1982 statutory requirement that the Federal Government acquire private lands and minerals within the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Eighteen years ago, this tragedy happened. Mr. Speaker, 16 years after creation of the monument and 15 years after the statutory deadline for the exchange, it will finally bring this issue to a close, finally.

This legislation has the bipartisan support of members of the Washington Delegation and the administration. It equitably and finally completes the exchange previously mandated by Congress when the monument was created.

I congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. SMITH), and all parties involved for their excellent work, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this very common-sense legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument Completion Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to acquire, by exchange, the mineral and geothermal interests of the Burlington Northern, Incorporated and the Weyerhaeuser Companies in the Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument in the State of Washington.

We appreciate the interest of the Washington delegation to see this exchange executed as soon as possible, as the matter has been unsettled for too long. Therefore, we were pleased to learn that an appraisal agreement had been reached between the federal government and the private landowners involved.

The negotiations have concluded with the Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser agreeing upon a value of \$4.2 million.

The Administration has indicated that they have no objection to the substitute bill which incorporates this agreement and is being offered today.

Clearly, Burlington and Weyerhaeuser should be compensated for their mineral rights within Mount Saint Helen's National Volcanic Monument. Now that the Administration is no longer opposed to the bill because an agreed-upon value for the property has been accomplished and will be included in the bill, we see no reason to oppose the bill.

We are in strong support of this legislation. The previous problems that they had with respect to value for the property have been worked out. We urge the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. LINDA SMITH).

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs.

CHENOWETH) for yielding. She has been a great chairman. And I want to thank her staff. This has not been one of the easier bills, and I know that they did a lot of work in trying to negotiate the final principles and values in this bill.

I want to talk about what happened in 1980 for a moment so we understand what brings us to this day. Mount St. Helens erupted in what was one of nature's most beautiful events and also most devastating. It caused a 250-mile-per-hour avalanche and high winds that destroyed over 150 square miles of forests, and it sent a plume of ash over to the eastern side of the State that was like nothing we have ever seen. In fact, it took quite a while to clean it up.

But, after that, it took until 1982 to establish a monument. And in that process, we decided to protect 110,000 acres around the volcano for future recreation and education and research. This monument actually preserves this area, but it also has become a living classroom.

Underneath this new beautiful park and living classroom, though, has been captured the mineral rights that were supposed to be exchanged in the original agreement in 1982 so that those that owned the mineral rights got mineral rights somewhere else or some compensation.

Today, after all of this time, and this started in 1980, we are finally keeping our commitment to those that own the mineral rights to make reasonable exchanges for what is their property. So I again want to thank the chairman, I want to thank the staff and all of the members of our delegation who unanimously support this legislation in bringing us to this day; a long time, but finally fairness has prevailed and we, the government, are keeping our commitment to those various landowners.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by applauding my colleague from Washington State, Mrs. SMITH, for bringing this matter to the attention of the House. I also commend the hard work of Mr. YOUNG, the Chairman of the Resources Committee and Mrs. CHENOWETH, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, for their excellent work in moving this legislation forward.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1659, the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument Completion Act. This legislation completes the work begun with the creation of the monument in 1982 by bringing the remaining privately owned mineral rights within the monument into federal ownership.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifetime resident of Washington State, I remember the awesome spectacle of Mt. St. Helens' eruption and the tragic loss of lives and property it caused. The federal government created the St. Helens National Monument to preserve the unique volcanic landscape that resulted. However, it was never the intent of Congress that the creation of this monument should result in an uncompensated loss of private property. In fact, the enacting legislation required all land and mineral rights to be acquired by exchange within one year. Fifteen years later, this statutory requirement has not been met.

Mr. Speaker, the completion of the original terms of the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is long overdue. H.R. 1659 will fulfill the commitment made by the United States in a manner which is fair to both the private landowners and the American taxpayers. This is a good bill that I urge my colleagues to support.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1659, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1659, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR BICENTENNIAL OF LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 144) to express support for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 144

Whereas the Expedition commanded by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, which came to be called "The Corps of Discovery", was one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all American history;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson gave Lewis and Clark the mission to "explore the Missouri River & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce";

Whereas the Expedition, in response to President Jefferson's directive, greatly advanced our geographical knowledge of the continent and prepared the way for the extension of the American fur trade with American Indian tribes throughout the area;

Whereas President Jefferson directed the explorers to take note of and carefully record the natural resources of the newly acquired territory known as Louisiana, as well as diligently report on the native inhabitants of the land;

Whereas Lewis and Clark and their companions began their historic journey to explore the uncharted wilderness west of the Mississippi River at Wood River, Illinois, on May 14, 1804, and followed the Missouri River westward from its mouth on the Mississippi to its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains;

Whereas the Expedition held its first meeting with American Indians at Council Bluff near present-day Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, in August 1804, spent its first winter at Fort Mandan, North Dakota, crossed the Rocky Mountains by horseback in August 1805, reached the Pacific Ocean at the mouth of the Columbia River in mid-November of that year, and wintered at Fort Clatsop, near the present city of Astoria, Oregon;

Whereas the Expedition returned to St. Louis, Missouri, on September 23, 1806, after a 28-month journey covering 8,000 miles during which it traversed 11 future States: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon;

Whereas the explorers faithfully followed the President's directives and dutifully recorded their observations in their detailed journals;

Whereas these journals describe many plant and animal species, some completely unknown to the world of science or never before encountered in North America, and added greatly to scientific knowledge about the flora and fauna of the United States;

Whereas accounts from the journals of Lewis and Clark and the detailed maps that were prepared by the Expedition enhanced knowledge of the western continent and routes for commerce;

Whereas the journals of Lewis and Clark documented diverse American Indian languages, customs, religious beliefs, and ceremonies; as Lewis and Clark are important figures in American history, so too are Black Buffalo, Cameahwait, Sacajawea, Sheheke and Watkueis;

Whereas the Expedition significantly enhanced amicable relations between the United States and the autonomous American Indian nations, and the friendship and respect fostered between the American Indian tribes and the Expedition represents the best of diplomacy and relationships between divergent nations and cultures;

Whereas the American Indian tribes of the Northern Plains and the Pacific Northwest played an essential role in the survival and the success of the Expedition;

Whereas the Lewis and Clark Expedition has been called the most perfect expedition of its kind in the history of the world and paved the way for the United States to become a great world power;

Whereas the President and the Congress have previously recognized the importance of the Expedition by establishing a 5-year commission in 1964 to study its history and the route it followed, and again in 1978 by designating the route as the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service; and

Whereas the National Park Service, along with other Federal, State, and local agencies and many other interested groups, are preparing commemorative activities to celebrate the bicentennial of the Expedition beginning in 2003: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its support for the work of the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and all the Federal, State, and local entities and other interested groups that are preparing bicentennial activities to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition;

(2) expresses its support for the events to be held in observance of the Expedition at Council Bluff near present-day Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, at St. Louis, Missouri, at *Portland and Fort Clatsop, Oregon*, and at Bismarck, North Dakota, and many other cities during the bicentennial observance; and

(3) calls upon the President, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the National Park Service, American Indian tribes, other public officials, and the citizens of the United States to support, promote, and participate in the many bicentennial activities being planned to commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH).

(Mrs. CHENOWETH asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to rise in support of House Resolution 144 submitted by my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BERUTER). This resolution would express congressional support for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which is without a doubt one of the most remarkable and productive expeditions in American history.

In fact, not only did this extraordinary expedition find plants and animals which were virtually unknown but also discovered new peoples and resources, all of which prepared the way for the pioneers to move westward and open up the large expanse of territory known as the American West.

The spirit that was embodied in the people who were part of this westward movement lives on with us, and all of us in the West and in America, to this very day. This resolution, therefore, offers a fitting and appropriate tribute to the great achievements of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Among other things, the resolution declares that the House of Representatives will support the work of all the Federal, State and local entities who are celebrating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, supports the events held in observance of that anniversary of the expedition and calls upon the President and the Secretary of Interior, the National Park Service and all Americans to support and participate in honoring the great accomplishments known as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

I urge my colleagues to strongly support H. Res. 144.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to state at the outset, I agree with everything the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) has said. This is an historic moment, not as historic as Lewis and Clark but an historic moment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 144, which is essentially a noncontroversial measure to express the support of this House of Representatives commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The expedition,

under the leadership of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark was one of the great exploratory and scientific achievements of the 19th century. The upcoming bicentennial of this expedition and the recent Ken Burns film have renewed interest among the American public in the accomplishments of this expedition, and it is wholly appropriate that we commemorate the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which nearly 200 years later still remains a notable event in the achievement of our country.

For those who have, because of the renewed interest, those who have gone out to the West and tried to follow their journey, although the landscape of the West to some extent has changed, they are able to retrace great portions of the journey, and they start to appreciate what kind of monumental accomplishment this expedition was when one considers what knowledge they had in hand when they started at the outset of their journey, how little they actually knew and then what they accomplished and how they persevered and the hardships that they endured and, of course, what this expedition meant for the expansion of the United States and the opening of the West.

It certainly is deserving of this kind of commendation from the House of Representatives but also renewed recognition by modern-day America of what these explorers were able to accomplish and what they encountered along the way and the extent of the journey that they accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I rise in strong support of this legislation and urge its passage and hope that the Congress will vote overwhelmingly for this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this legislation, and I do commend the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) for bringing this legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 144, which expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and the commemorative activities that it is planning for the bicentennial of this famous expedition.

The resolution also asks others to support and participate in the bicentennial celebration activities.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands, but neither the subcommittee nor the Committee on Resources formally considered the legislation. The bill is, however, straightforward, and I am aware of no opposition. It commemorates and

supports the efforts of two Americans who helped convince the rest of the country of the benefit of, and I do not know about this word, acquiring new lands to the West, of the then existing borders, and we have all benefited from these efforts. I support the legislation, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1500

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments and say how fortunate we are that so much of this historic journey is preserved in public lands where people can go and view and try to relive this experience.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding time. This resolution is very important to those of us in the Pacific Northwest. I must say as the only Member of Congress to be an alumnus of the Lewis and Clark College, as somebody who was born and raised in the Northwest and steeped in the culture of that expedition, I am very pleased and proud that this is coming forward at this time.

One hundred years ago in our community, the centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was celebrated with a world's fair that had a tremendous impact on our community, on the Pacific Northwest and the West Coast. I am optimistic that we can have the same sort of national celebration along the 8,000-mile expedition route. I am pleased to commend the leadership of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for the hard work that he has invested on the front end of the journey, and we are hopeful that we will be able to have as much energy and activity in the Northwest to complement that effort.

The acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase was more than something that simply doubled the size of the United States. It was a purchase that helped us change our perceptions of our country and how we related to the rest of the world. It was a first step towards the United States becoming a truly global power with its bicoastal borders and the critical mass it had acquired. It also triggered some activities that are not part of perhaps some of our proudest moments in terms of our attitudes towards Native American citizens that frankly haunt us to this day. Tied up in that struggle as well was the question of slavery and how we added different chapters with each State being added to the union. And it was an activity that expanded our concept of the science of the time, the exploration adding to the geology, the botany, the geographical knowledge of the United States.

It is with the spirit of discovery, in fact, the expedition itself was labeled the Corps of Discovery, that I am hopeful over the next five years that this planning process will be something

that enables people from around the country to admire, to be involved with themselves. I look forward to the work that all of us in Congress can do, taking advantage of the cultural and geologic resources along this route to make it worthy of the historic journey that took place almost two centuries ago.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER).

Mr. ROEMER. I thank my friend from California for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to very briefly associate myself with this commemorative toward our great leaders Lewis and Clark. I do not know that there could be any kind of qualification for getting up to speak on a matter before Congress. Nothing seems to make us better informed than reading a book. However, if you have read the book, it does not mean that you are knowledgeable enough to get up and speak on a particular issue. I, however, take great pride in having read Stephen Ambrose's "Undaunted Courage" about Lewis and Clark's great adventure across the United States in the 1803-1804 period, of intrepid and courageous exploration, of discovery as scientists, of documenting new kinds of plant life and animal life. It is a fascinating journey that Thomas Jefferson helped argue for funding from Congress and who believed in this exploration and this courageous, intrepid, adventuresome spirit that Americans have always had. They had it then in the 1800s, they had it when we started this country, they have it today in 1998 in so many different ways. I have taken great pride and excitement in reading this book by Stephen Ambrose, "Undaunted Courage," and just want to salute my colleagues for their hard work on this bill before us today.

I have also had the pleasure of being on the Lewis and Clark trail in Montana, in following some of their path along the Madison River, in going up to some of the passes that they went through, and in really admiring what they were not only able to endure but what they were able to discover and document and take down as history for us. I think it is proof, Mr. Speaker, that providence and God have been with America for a long time. Not only were Lewis and Clark lucky and blessed in their efforts, they were skilled and talented in these efforts, to plod their way and explore their way and invent their way across America. I am very excited about this bill and this Lewis and Clark trail.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), the author of this resolution.

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me this time. I rise in strong support of H.

Res. 144. This resolution which I introduced with the support of many of my friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle expresses support for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It helps put a spotlight on the important activities which are planned to observe the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's remarkable journey. I thank the Committee on Resources for permitting this resolution to come to the House floor. I particularly want to thank the distinguished majority leader the gentleman from Texas for his special assistance to this Member in bringing it to the House floor.

The resolution specifically expresses support for events which will be held in observance of the expedition at St. Louis, Missouri; at Portland and Fort Clatsop, Oregon; at Bismarck, North Dakota, where the Mandans helped the expedition survive a very difficult first winter on the journey; and at Council Bluff near present day Fort Calhoun, Nebraska, and at other potential locations. Council Bluff in Nebraska was the site, for example, of the first meeting between the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the leaders of American Indian tribes during the journey. This meeting was clearly one of the most noteworthy occasions of the expedition. The events during that council and the description of it undoubtedly influenced the U.S. military to later establish something called Cantonment, Missouri, near the site and later Fort Atkinson, the first U.S. military fort west of the Missouri River.

The resolution also expresses support for the work of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council and governmental entities. In addition, it encourages participation in the bicentennial activities.

The story of this incredible expedition has appeal for Americans of all ages and backgrounds and presents an opportunity for a unifying experience for our country. In the coming months and years, the public will undoubtedly increase its demands for more information about Lewis and Clark and their bold and courageous adventures. Although the bicentennial activities will not officially start until 2003, it is important to lay the groundwork now. This resolution complements another Lewis and Clark measure passed by the House on September 9 when we approved H.R. 1560, a bill introduced by this Member with over 290 cosponsors which authorizes the minting of one-dollar and half-dollar coins to commemorate the bicentennial. These measures will play an important part not only recognizing the significance of the journey and its role it played in the Nation's development but also providing some financing to the bicentennial commission and the Interior Department.

When Thomas Jefferson took office in 1801, the United States had only 5.5 million people, all concentrated in the eastern third of the continent, primarily along the coast. As a result of

the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the size of the country nearly doubled and the stage was set for a period of unparalleled development and progress. But first the new acquisition had to be explored. President Jefferson chose Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to, quote, explore the Missouri River and such principal streams of it, as, by its course and communications with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado, or any other river may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.

Lewis and Clark departed St. Louis on May 14, 1804, and returned to St. Louis 28 months later, on September 23, 1806. They crossed 8,000 miles, many States. Along the way they encountered formidable challenges that could easily have thwarted their mission. However, they continued to keep their focus firmly on the ultimate goal.

This Member believes that passage of H.Res. 144 will draw increased attention to the planning and celebration of the upcoming important bicentennial activities in these States. As someone with a long-standing interest in the expedition and a member of the newly formed Lewis and Clark Caucus, this Member is pleased to have this resolution considered on the floor, thanking his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly the gentleman from Oregon who helped me in securing the movement of this legislation, and to the Committee on Resources.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 144. It expresses the support of Congress for the celebrations that will take place all across America during the Lewis and Clark Expedition bicentennial. Celebratory preparations are under way throughout my district in anticipation of the bicentennial, particularly in Astoria and all of Clatsop County. As many people know, the Lewis and Clark Expedition spent the winter of 1805 at Fort Clatsop, Oregon, which is in my district. In 1958, Congress established the Fort Clatsop National Memorial to preserve and protect this unique place in America's history. The present memorial marks the spot where Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and the entire Corps of Discovery spent 106 days during the winter of 1805, difficult days. It is interesting to note that the decision to winter at Fort Clatsop was decided by a majority vote of the Corps of Discovery. That vote included the voices of an African-American and a Native American. Long before America would grapple with the right to vote for minorities, Lewis and Clark were exercising that purist form of democracy, proving once again that we get better decisions when all are at the table.

It has been estimated that more than half a million people will visit Clatsop

County and the Fort Clatsop National Memorial during the two bicentennial summers of 2004 and 2005. I was proud to help secure funding in TEA-21 to help our region plan for the upcoming celebration. In addition, I am working with our county commissioners, with the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and with the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) on my legislation, H.R. 3378, which will allow the last piece of the Lewis and Clark trail known today as Sunset Beach to become part of the memorial itself. It is my hope we will be able to pass this bill before Congress adjourns for the year. The Lewis and Clark bicentennial will be a tremendous opportunity to reflect upon this unique and extraordinary achievement in American history.

I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for taking the time to highlight the upcoming bicentennial celebration with this important resolution, and I urge its passage.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I just want to say that this has been a distinct privilege for me to be able to help manage this bill through the floor. This Member lived on the Clearwater River close to Ahsahka, Idaho, where Lewis and Clark traveled on that waterway right after one of the most difficult periods of time in their trip, when they nearly lost their life going over the Lolo Pass because of a lack of food supply and having to suffer through the elements. Yet, undaunted courage certainly was pulled out of those people in very difficult circumstances.

□ 1515

In the 14 years that I spent living on that Clearwater River, living next to Ahsahka, where Lewis and Clark finally made their way to this spit of land that came out where the Clearwater joined the North Fork River of the Clearwater River, Lewis and Clark spent the winter there and carved out new canoes and reconstituted their food supply. So it has been a place of honor in my way of thinking; and, certainly, as a western woman, this has indeed been a privilege to be able to carry the bill of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) through. I must say that the bill is constructed, the resolution is constructed and written, in a very clear and concise way and that I know and I pray that in the future it will be interpreted just as the clear meaning of the wording of the resolution simply states.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 144 expressing the support of Congress in the celebration of the bicentennial of the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition. Nearly two hundred years ago, Congress played a role in this historic journey by financing a small part of the expedition which was charged with finding an

all water route to the Pacific. Today, Congress can again play a role in one of the most remarkable and productive scientific and military exploring expeditions in all of American history by signaling its support for the bicentennial celebration activities and events.

The Corps of Discovery contributed greatly to our knowledge of the West, not only with respect to geography but also of the natural resources, flora, fauna and animals present. Recognizing the pivotal role the journey played in our nation's history and the inevitable movement westward, the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council is playing a leading role in coordinating and planning a variety of activities and events to commemorate the bicentennial. In addition, many committees and advisory boards have been formed across the country and are diligently working to ensure that the Lewis and Clark expedition is highlighted not only in the states in which the Corps of Discovery transversed, but throughout the nation.

Nearly two hundred years after the Corps of Discovery, Americans of all ages have begun a national pilgrimage to follow the steps of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The success of the bicentennial commemorative activities planned all along the route will require the cooperation of all federal agencies, American Indian tribes, public officials and citizens alike. I believe it is important for all Americans to join in the celebration of this important American journey. We, as Members of Congress, must do all we can to support, promote and participate in the commemorative activities of the expedition, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H.Res. 144, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.Res. 144, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

ANCSA LAND BANK PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2000) to amend the Alaska