

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences has been studying predator control in Alaska for five years, and the National Park Service has labeled these beavers as very evasive and wily "tree predators"; and

Whereas the federal government is, over objections, reintroducing gray wolves, grizzly bear, and lynx into several western states in order to enhance the biological diversity in those states; and

Whereas the National Park Service is closing Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve to fishing for crabs because the crabs are an essential element of the ecosystem of the park and the long established and sustainable crab fishery is inconsistent with the preservation of natural crab populations; and

Whereas the policy of the National Park Service in Alaska and several other states is to remove the people rather than the animals when there is a conflict between people and wildlife; and

Whereas federal law provides for extensive penalties for harassment of endangered species;

Be it Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the National Park Service cease its efforts to remove the beaver from the Potomac Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., and assist the reestablishment of a healthy beaver population in the nation's capital; and be it

Further Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Fish and Wildlife Services to exercise its federal authority and cite, with criminal violations, members and contractors of the National Park Service who harass the Potomac Tidal Basin beavers; and be it

Further Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the National Park Service to investigate the habitat requirements for beaver in Washington, D.C., and the adaptations that beaver have made to cope with the unique urban environment of Washington, D.C., establish protected beaver habitat areas in Washington, D.C., and use good science in its actions regarding beaver in Washington, D.C.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, to Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, to Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; to all members of the U.S. Congress; to the Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon; to Paul G. Risser, Ph.D., President, Oregon State University; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

SENDING GROUND TROOPS TO KOSOVO WOULD COMPOUND A HUGE FOREIGN POLICY ERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, several times over the last few days I have heard reports on national networks saying that Members of Congress were getting "antsy" about not committing ground troops to Kosovo. The implication is that all of the Members of Congress want ground troops in there immediately.

I believe it was a terrible mistake to start bombing in the first place, and it certainly would be compounding a huge error to place many thousands of ground troops in there now.

As many columnists have pointed out, the NATO bombings have made this situation much worse than it ever would have been if we had simply stayed out. The very liberal Washington Post columnist, Richard Cohen, wrote, "I believe, though, that the NATO bombings have escalated and accelerated the process. For some Kosovars, NATO has made things worse."

Pat M. Holt, a foreign affairs expert writing in the Christian Science Monitor, wrote, "The first few days of bombing have led to more atrocities and to more refugees. It will be increasing the instability which the bombing was supposed to prevent."

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Philip Gourevitch, writing in the April 12 New Yorker Magazine, said: "Yet so far the air war against Yugoslavia has accomplished exactly what the American-led alliance flew into combat to prevent: Our bombs unified the Serbs in Yugoslavia, as never before, behind the defiance of Milosevic; they spurred to a frenzy the 'cleansing' of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians by Milosevic's forces; they increased the likelihood of the conflict's spilling over into Yugoslavia's south-Balkan neighbors; and they hardened the hearts of much of the non-Western world against us—not least in Russia, where passionate anti-Americanism is increasing the prospects for the right-wing nationalists or the Communist Party to win control of the Kremlin and its nuclear arsenal in coming elections."

Many conservative analysts have been very critical. Thomas Sowell wrote: "Already our military actions are being justified by the argument that we are in there now and cannot pull out without a devastating loss of credibility and influence in NATO and around the world. In other words, we cannot get out because we have gotten in. That kind of argument will be heard more and more if we get in deeper."

"Is the Vietnam War so long ago that no one remembers? We eventually pulled out of Vietnam," Mr. Sowell wrote, "under humiliating conditions with a tarnished reputation around the world and with internal divisiveness and bitterness that took years to heal. Bad as this was, we could have pulled out earlier with no worse consequences and with thousands more Americans coming back alive."

Mr. Sowell asks, "Why are we in the Balkans in the first place? There seems to be no clear-cut answer."

William Hyland, a former editor of Foreign Affairs Magazine, writing in the Washington Post said, "The President has put the country in a virtually impossible position. We cannot escalate without grave risks. If the President and NATO truly want to halt eth-

nic cleansing, then the alliance will have to put in a large ground force or, at a minimum, mount a credible threat to do so. A conventional war in the mountains of Albania and Kosovo will quickly degenerate into a quagmire. On the other hand, the United States and NATO cannot retreat without suffering a national and international humiliation. * * * The only alternative is to revive international diplomacy."

Mr. Hyland is correct, but unfortunately I am afraid that ground troops in Kosovo would be much worse than a quagmire. Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger was quoted on a national network last week as saying that the Bush administration had closely analyzed the situation in the Balkans in the early 1990s and had decided it was a "swamp" into which we should not go.

NATO was established as a purely defensive organization, not an aggressor force. With the decreased threat from the former Soviet Union, was NATO simply searching for a mission? Were some national officials simply trying to prove that they are world statesmen or trying to leave a legacy?

The U.S. has done 68 percent of the bombing thus far. This whole episode, counting reconstruction and resettlement costs after we bring Milosevic down, will cost us many billions.

If there have to be ground troops, let the Europeans take the lead. Do not commit U.S. ground troops. Let the Europeans do something. The U.S. has done too much already. Humanitarian aid, yes; bombs and ground troops, no.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PARTICIPATE IN REENACTMENT OF SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. NORTHUP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, with me on the House floor I have a number of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat, who experienced a marvelous journey to Selma, Alabama, a few weeks ago to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the great march led by Dr. King and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) to end racism and bigotry across this country.

We had nearly 20 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle that traveled to Selma and Birmingham and Montgomery. What I would like to do is ask all of my colleagues who are here to take various stations and we could have a conversation on the floor without the formal proceeding of yielding to other Members.

Madam Speaker, I guess I should first recognize my good friend and brother, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), elected the same year as I, who helped lead us on that march, as we did