

was listed on the endangered species list, making it one of the first species in the Nation to require protection efforts in an intensely developed metropolitan area.

This will give our region an opportunity to highlight again how we can both thrive economically and provide critical protection to other species. Already we have seen examples across our State. Farmers have modified irrigation systems to make them more salmon-friendly. Forest landowners have foregone timber harvest in sensitive areas and replanted along streams with vegetation particularly beneficial to fish. Citizens of our urban areas have taken the first steps toward a comprehensive plan to restore urban salmon and have joined forces to restore devastated wetlands and streams.

One of the important lessons we should have learned about environmental protection is it is much easier—and far less costly—to preserve an ecosystem rather than try to repair it once it has been destroyed. That is one of the reasons I am pushing my colleagues so hard to pass my legislation to create a Wild and Scenic River on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. These are the last free-flowing 51 miles of this mighty river and they contain some of the most productive and important fish spawning habitat in the lower 48 States. The reach produces 80 percent of the Columbia Basin's fall chinook salmon, as well as thriving runs of steelhead trout and sturgeon. While most of the Columbia River Basin were being developed during the middle of this century, the Hanford Reach and other buffer areas within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation were kept pristine by the same veil of secrecy and security that led to the contamination of the central Hanford Site.

Mr. President, we have been offered an opportunity to continue to grow the rural economy of central Washington while protecting this vital source of our economic strength that the Columbia River provides. Creating a Wild and Scenic River could help us avoid drastic protection measures, like breaching the dams along the Columbia Snake River systems to save salmon. This simple step will demonstrate our commitment both to protecting wild salmon and to the economic and social structure of the inland West.

Today, we also celebrate the introduction of legislation to protect another national treasure: the wilderness of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Senator ROTH will again introduce, and I will cosponsor, his bill to protect one of the only remaining complete and undisturbed arctic ecosystems in the world. It is home to an abundance of wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, musk-oxen, wolves, and a host of migratory bird species. It is also home to the magnificent porcupine caribou herd, whose 160,000 members rely on this coastal plain for their calving grounds.

This bill will prohibit development of oil within the fragile wilderness of the

refuge. Oil development would likely disrupt the porcupine caribou and force them to change their calving grounds and migratory routes. This, in turn, will adversely impact the lifestyle and culture of their neighbors, the Gwich'in people.

Proponents of development claim that only 13,000 acres of the refuge will be impacted. While this may be true, that development will take place in the biological heart of ANWR and have a devastating impact on the wilderness values of the area. In this biological heart, developers will create a major industrial complex. They will build hundreds of miles of roads and pipelines, erect housing for thousands of workers, and construct two sea ports and one airport. These developments will lead to mining of enormous amounts of gravel, will require diversion of streams and will result in pollution of fragile tundra.

Mr. President, as we celebrate the last earth day before the 21st century, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together to support both of these bills in order to hand down to our children and grandchildren a part of America's great natural legacy.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:49 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 208. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1379. An act to amend the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, to make a technical correction relating to international narcotics control assistance.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 54. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 531. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

The message also announced that pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of the Act to create a Library of Congress Trust Fund Board (2 U.S.C. 154), as amended by section 1 of Public Law 102-246, the Speaker appoints the following member on the part of the House to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five-year term to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Mr. John Henry of Florida.

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 800) to provide educational flexibility partnerships.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.R. 208. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow for the contribution of certain rollover distributions to accounts in the Thrift Savings Plan, to eliminate certain waiting-period requirements for participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1379. An act to amend the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999, to make a technical correction relating to international narcotics control assistance; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 54. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historic significance of the first anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2648. A communication from the Program Analyst of The Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments (18); Amdt. No. 415/4-15 (4-15)" (RIN2120-AA63 (1999-0001)), received on April 15, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2649. A communication from the Program Analyst of the Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Port Clinton, OH; Correction; Docket No. 98-AGL-73/4-