and all 421 Members of the Congress who were here on that day voted in the affirmative for the new Education Land Grant Act.

How sad it is, Mr. Speaker, that the President, who rhetorically embraces the cause of children, has asked a liberal Senator in the other body to put a hold on that legislation. The gulf between rhetoric and reality is profound.

I yield to my friend from Colorado.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. We only have just about 5 minutes left, but I want to say the Education Land Grant bill that the gentleman has introduced is a brilliant bill and earned quite a lot of support here in the House, and I would submit it did so because it typified the original deal, if you will, that existed with all of these Federal lands that we are here discussing, the national forestlands in particular, but also some of the other Federal lands. That is, these lands should be managed for multiple use, keeping in mind that they are to be used for livestock raising, for timber harvests, for mining, for recreation, for wildlife habitat management, for a whole assortment of forest products being used and taken from the forests, all of that within the context of sound forest management. Because if one is not in the forest working the land, taking care of it, keeping the diseased trees treated, getting the bugs out, helping to thin the forests so that they do not catch fire or deplete water resources and so on and so forth, if we fail to do all of those things, not only do we damage the environmental integrity that we are concerned about our national forests, but at the same time, by pushing people off of public lands, we do lose a valuable source of income for schools, for communities. Because these public lands, while they do not pay taxes, there is what is called a payment in lieu of taxes that comes from the economic activity that is generated by those lands.

So when the President pushes this policy forward, and I would ask the gentleman from Montana to elaborate further on this point, further restricting access to public lands means further restricting the economic activity on those lands; it means further restricting the management of those lands, and it threatens not only the forest health, but threatens severely the economic livelihoods of thousands of communities not just across the west, but across the whole country.

But I think disproportionately, that burden falls in our respective districts.

I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HILL of Montana. The gentleman is exactly right. I have 10 national forests in my district, so when we learned of the President's intention to announce this, it was in the Post last week, we called those regional supervisors and said, how is this going to impact the regional forests? What we found is that the White House had not consulted with the regional forests or with the individual forest supervisors, with the biologists that are out there in the field. This is a policy that was made up in the West Wing of the White House, not by the land managers out there that understand the resource.

That is why this policy, seven years of this administration, has been so devastating to the natural resources in the west, because they have made these as political decisions. They are decisions that have been made by people that do not understand these communities; they do not understand these resources, and they have made the wrong decisions.

They say they want to preserve the West, but as the gentleman from Arizona pointed out, the reason that the West is such a wonderful, beautiful place is the people that live there have been outstanding stewards of this land for as long as we have been there, and that has included multiple use of the land. We have mined the land, we have timber harvests, grazing on the lands, hiking, recreation on the land, and the resource is an incredible resource.

We know how to take care of the land, work with the land, live with the land. Frankly, we also understand that people are part of the environment too, that the environment is not just about birds and animals, it is about people too, and that a healthy environment for these communities is a prosperous community with opportunity as well.

That is what the President does not understand, that this decision is just the next step in this administration's top-down perspective on managing this natural resource. It is not only bad for these communities and for my district and my State, but it is bad for the environment as well.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Montana.

Just one final point. Again, the gulf between rhetoric and reality. In the 1960s, critics of Lyndon Johnson spoke of a credibility gap. With this administration, sadly, we have a credibility canyon such as the gulf between rhetoric and reality, and as my friend from Montana was making this point, Mr. Speaker, I could not help but think of the slogan of the Clinton-Gore 1992 campaign: Putting People First. How falsely that rings in the years of western Americans.

I yield to my friend from Colorado.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arizona, the gentleman from Montana and the gentleman who has left us now from Michigan for joining me in this Special Order, and we will come back as often and as frequently as we can to talk about the great accomplishments of the Republican Party.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin). The Chair will remind Members to refrain from characterizing Senate action.

THE BUDGET AND FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, while we are preparing up here to discuss my main topic this evening which will be the Federal public lands, the management tools, the history of multiple use in this country, Colorado water, Colorado recreation, and Colorado jobs, while we are preparing to set up for that, I want to mention a couple of comments on a subject that involves every state in the Union, and that is our budget.

□ 2030

Back here, we are right in the midst of some very tentative negotiations, very fragile negotiations would be an appropriate way to discuss it. The Federal budget is important to every citizen in America. This Federal budget helps determine the future of our generation and the kind of debt and the kind of opportunities we give to the next generation and the next generation and the next generation.

We have some very strong policy points that must be adopted or must be carried out, and those policy points are the Republicans' top priorities in regards to these budget negotiations. Number one, the defense of this country, this country must maintain a strong defense. We cannot be the second strongest kid on the block.

Number two, education. We can have a strong military. We can have a good economy but if we do not have a strong educational system, and when I talk about a strong educational system history will show that the best educational system is not run from Washington, D.C. down, as the Democrats would have it done but it is run from the local school districts up, education is absolutely crucial.

The third thing, for 40 years, while the other party was in control, they ran deficits year after year after year. It is very interesting to see them all of a sudden adopt fiduciary and fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers of this country. The plan and the budget we have to come up with, we will come up with, has to reduce that Federal debt.

In fact, I remember all the criticism given by the other side, the Democrats, when we took the majority: Do not fill us full of baloney that they are going to get rid of the annual deficit; do not tell us how the cuts in the programs and cutting government waste, which is one of our big targets, is going to help get rid of the annual deficits.

Well, today it is as if they were part of our team back then. They did not cooperate much. Some of them did but not all of them. Today they have forgotten all about that. We do not have