

Finally, let me conclude by saying that this Congress still has the opportunity to do something great for America's future, and we need to do it this year.

#### MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for the first time, we have been able to obtain Federal assistance for a long sought dream, the cleanup of the Miami River.

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This was included in the Fiscal Year 2000 Energy Water Appropriations bill which Congress has just passed. This is a major victory in preserving a key part of our environment, as well as allowing the Miami River to become a major contributor to international trade and economic growth. This is the beginning of a 4-year phase dredging project proposed by the Miami River Commission with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It provides a \$5 million initial appropriations to begin maintenance dredging of the river, which eventually will cost \$64 million from Federal, State and local sources.

This cleanup will eliminate a significant pollution threat to Biscayne Bay, which used to be one of the Nation's most pristine environments. It will also ensure the continued growth of the Miami River as one of our Nation's critical shipping links to the Caribbean and to South America.

Thanks to the tremendous bipartisan teamwork of the South Florida Congressional Delegation and a broad-based coalition of community leaders, decision interests, and officials at the Federal, State and local levels, we have been able to achieve this goal, which is vitally important for both the future of our growing trade with our neighbors to the south and the Caribbean, as well as preserving a waterway which is a key part of our ecosystem.

We thank on behalf of the South Florida Congressional Delegation all of our colleagues this week for passing the bill in the House, for passing the bill in the Senate. It is on the President's desk, and we hope that he signs it soon to make this dream a reality for all of South Florida.

#### EDUCATION, THE ARTS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN AMERICA

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

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to talk about a number of different subjects. I was not going to talk about education until I heard some of the previous comments, and I think it is important to clarify some of those comments that were made and talk about the direction that the Republican party is going in regards to education. Those remarks will be somewhat brief.

I then want to cover the topic that we have seen with the Brooklyn Museum in New York City. I am going to move from that subject to a subject that I think will be very uplifting to all of my colleagues, and that is the Third Congressional District of Colorado.

We are going to talk about natural resources, as we can see with this picture I have behind me. That is what that district looks like. We are going to get into much more detail about that, cover the water issues, cover the Federal land management issues, and so on. So I think it is going to be a very interesting hour. I look forward to the participation of my colleagues.

But let me begin, first of all, by talking about the preceding comments. First of all, it is important that our friends and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle from North Carolina understand that everybody across this country, 49 States across this country, are going to pitch in for that one State that got hit as devastating as North Carolina.

North Carolina, you are not alone. You are in the United States; and in the United States of America, we are a team and we stick together and we help the other States when the other States are in need of help.

I would expect the other States to help me in Colorado if we had some sort of a disaster. That is why we are the United States of America. So the preceding speaker who spoke on North Carolina, bless her. I understand the tragedies that she is going through. I do not live there, but we are willing to help make it right. Everybody in this chamber is willing to help make it right for North Carolina.

But let me talk just for a moment about the kind of disaster aid. And when we do this, we must be careful. We still have a fiduciary responsibility to the people who have elected us to make sure that that money gets to the people that need it. We have a fiduciary responsibility to minimize, if not eliminate, Government waste.

So if we ask for accountability on these disaster funds, do not come back at us and say, my gosh, you do not care about the poor people who have suffered these tragedies. You know, that often happens in government business. The minute you question a program for accountability, for efficiency, to see whether or not you have got waste, to

see whether or not those dollars are going to the people that need the dollars or the people for whom the dollars were intended, the minute you question it, all of a sudden you are cold and heartless and you do not care about these people that are in these tragic situations.

We have an obligation to make sure that money goes where it is needed and where it is going to do the most good. So do not be upset or offended if we ask some pretty tough questions about how these dollars are being spent.

Which leads me into education. It is amazing to me that the Democrats can stand up here on this House floor and say that they are the only ones for education and that this side is anti-education.

How many people, think of it, how many people have you ever run into that will tell you they are against education? You do not run into people that are against education. Education is a critical mass for the success of this country. It is absolutely essentially for the future of this country. It is what gave many of us in this country a base from which to operate because we learned something because the generations ahead of us taught us and made sure we had good schools. We on the Republican side and the Democrat side feel an obligation to make sure that education is the best.

Well, let me tell my colleagues, there are some things we need to do in the classroom. And some people disagree with that. But on the Republican side, we feel we have to put discipline back in the classroom. And if you do not believe me, take a look at what the disciplinary problems were 20 years ago and take a look at what they are today and take a look at the difference in discipline allowed to the school teacher who has a very difficult job, take a look at the discipline he or she is allowed to exercise in her classroom compared to the discipline that he or she was allowed 20 years ago.

I can tell you, when I was in the 7th grade, I got in a fight on the school ground. It meant an automatic swat on the butt with a board. I remember that to this day. Now, I cannot tell you I did not get in any more fights, but I sure did not get in any more fights on school grounds. Because we had some discipline in the classroom. The Republicans feel that is an important issue, and we do not think that you are anti-education if you say let us give the teachers the tools they need to have discipline in the classroom.

I urge the Democrats to join with us. Frankly, some of the conservative Democrats do. There is nothing wrong with telling our young people, you must behave, there are certain behavioral standards that you have to live up to; and if you do not live up to these standards, there are consequences,