

and the development of surface coal mining in the semiarid West for the first time raised the level of public attention to the plight of coal-field citizens adversely affected by certain coal mining practices from a local, to a truly national, level.

The Congressional debates of the mid-1970's, and bills passed only to be vetoed, set the stage for Mo Udall's introduction of H.R. 2 on the opening day of the 95th Congress in 1977.

As a newly elected Representative from West Virginia, I was honored to serve on the Interior Committee at this time, at the very time when Mo Udall took the leadership reins of the Committee, at the very time when after years of struggle it looked likely that a federal strip mining act would pass muster. I was given a great compliment when Mo Udall chose this freshman Member from West Virginia to serve on the House-Senate Conference Committee on H.R. 2, and stood in the Rose Garden with President Carter and Mo Udall when the bill was signed into law as the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

This law has served the people of the Appalachian coalfields well. It has made the coalfields of this Nation a much better place in which to live. The vast majority of the coal industry is in compliance with the law, and countless acres of old abandoned coal mine lands have been reclaimed under the special fund established by the act.

Mo Udall's original insight and foresight have proven correct and we are very much indebted to him. When God made the mountains of my home State of West Virginia, he made a special breed of people to preside over them. We are born of the mountains and hollows of our rugged terrain. Our State motto is "montani semper liberi"—mountaineers are always free. Although Mo Udall is from the southwest, from Arizona, he understood us. He understood the true beauty of our hills and hollers. He is, in my mind, an honorary West Virginian. And his years of diligence in not only gaining the enactment of the 1977 law, but in pursuing its implementation, will be long remembered by all West Virginians.

Now, if Mo was here, I can imagine what he would say. He would tell the story about a young man at a banquet. This young man was getting an award and he was flustered and he said, "I sure don't appreciate it, but I really do deserve it."

Mo turned over responsibility on the committee for the surface mining act to this gentleman from West Virginia, his chairman of the Subcommittee on Mining and Natural Resources. As I undertake my duties in this regard, the words Mo spoke on the 10-year anniversary of the enactment of the 1977 law ring in my ears: "The act was, and is, more than a piece of legislation. It is a vehicle of hope for those who live and who will live in America's coalfields." Mo left some big shoes to fill.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot conclude without making note of one other mining initiative. Mo understood what was occurring in the coalfields. But he also understood the abuses that took place in the West, in hardrock mining for copper, gold, silver and other such minerals under the Mining Law of 1872.

It was also in 1977 that the effort to reform the Mining Law of 1872 came to a head. Mo Udall, a reform supporter, however, found that the press of Committee business and other considerations would cause this particular initiative to be shelved for the time being.

Ten years later, in 1987, as his Mining Subcommittee chairman I resurrected the issue and today, mining law reform legislation is being actively considered by the Congress. Mo, I will do my best to use the same judgment, same humor, you would bring to the debate. Mo Udall, this one piece of unfinished business, once completed, is for you.

God bless you, Mo Udall.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the concurrent resolution.

The previous question was ordered. The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 40, the concurrent resolution just adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,  
MARCH 8, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY,  
MARCH 9, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, March 8, 1999, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 9, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

□ 1330

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR  
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON  
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as member of the Committee on the Judiciary:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, February 25, 1999.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby request a rescission of my waiver to serve on three standing committees of the House and submit my withdrawal from the Judiciary Committee effective immediately.

Sincerely,

STEVE BUYER,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

WE NEED AN EFFECTIVE, GLOBAL  
SOLUTION TO ADDRESS THE  
STEEL CRISIS

(Mr. QUINN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Steel Caucus to ask the House to direct our attention at the ongoing steel crisis in the United States. Because the U.S. remains the world's steel dumping ground, we need an effective global solution now to address the serious injury being done to America's steel companies, our employees, and our communities.

Unfortunately, the administration's recent announcements of tentative steel agreements with Russia go in exactly the opposite direction of what is required. These agreements deny the petitioners the relief they are entitled to under law, and U.S. steel companies and employees strongly oppose the agreements.

I agree with what the petitioners said in their February 22nd statement, that the way to help Russia is not by sacrificing the jobs and property of private sector industries and our modern world-class steel industry.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD American Iron and Steel's February 19th Import Release, and the February 22nd reaction.

The material referred to is as follows:

[News Release]

1998 STEEL IMPORTS OF 41.5 MILLION TONS HIGHEST EVER—ANNUAL TOTAL EXCEEDS 1997 RECORD BY ONE-THIRD 4TH QUARTER IMPORTS UP 55 PERCENT FROM SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In 1998, the United States had the highest import tonnage ever,