

Rodebaugh, Autumn Rainere, Maria Bainbridge, A.J. Bradley, Jeannot Gangwisch, Asad Nawaz, Megan Markulies, Amber Zettlemoyer, Robyn Christine, Sarah Clautier, and Sarah Eitzen.

Kari Druckenmiller, Amy Simonka, Steph Miller, Jacquin Pierce, Steve Schenk, Dana Popkave, Becky Balog, Crystal Leidy, Christine Tessier, Vanessa Vanderberg, Jodi Glenn, Jen Yamerik, and Holda Adams.

PLANTING TREES TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that the following be included in the Extension of Remarks. It is a op-ed written by a Mr. Chester Thigpen, a constituent of mine from Montrose, Mississippi, that appeared in the Clarion-Ledger on February 27, 1999.

Mr. Chester Thigpen has worked his entire life as a tree farmer to provide for his family—his wife and four children.

Mr. Thigpen's first day's work, in 1918, yielded him 35 cents but, today he is a successful tree farmer. He has been a tree farmer for over forty years and is living the American dream.

In his editorial, he raises some valuable points that members should bear in mind and I encourage them to read this editorial.

[From the Montrose Clarion-Ledger, Feb. 27, 1999]

PLANTING TREES MAY HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

(By Chester A. Thigpen)

I hope that I can be forgiven for feeling like a bystander in the national debate on global warming. As I try to sift through the news coming out of Washington, the problem seems to pose a high environmental as well as economic danger.

Yet something can be done about it, if President Clinton and Congress will mobilize Americans in a campaign to plant trees everywhere they will grow, especially on millions of acres of marginal farmland.

As a farmer in Mississippi, I know something about the value of trees. Stands of loblolly pine on my 650-acre farm provide shade and prevent erosion, and they soak up huge amounts of carbon dioxide.

There is plenty of reason to believe that a coordinated program to plant trees and properly manage our nation's forests is precisely the way to minimize the greenhouse warming problem, and it can be done without harming American living standards.

Climate change affects us all, yet I'm struck by how little attention is being paid to actually dealing with the problem. Yes, President Clinton has asked Congress for \$105 million to conduct research into how forest can offset greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing carbon dioxide. But convincing proof of nature's role in carbon storage already exists.

Recently, a team of scientists, including experts from Columbia University and Princeton University, determined that more carbon may be stored by forests and other ecosystems in the United States than is released by industrial activities in this coun-

try. Scientists believe that one reason global temperatures have not increased as much as expected over the past half century may be that the forested portion of the Western world has grown during that time.

Because young trees take in and store carbon dioxide, they act as nature's "sink" for vast amounts of carbon. It is through photosynthesis that trees and other vegetation generate life-giving oxygen and store carbon for decades in the form of wood.

A nationally coordinated program to plant large numbers of trees and improve the health of the nation's forests could have a major impact. A study by American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation organization, estimated that such a program could offset 20 percent to 40 percent of the estimated 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted each year in the U.S.

Why not launch a serious tree planting effort now? Anything that can be done to save forests and plant trees on millions of acres might have more effect on global warming than all the emission regulations combined.

Acre-for-acre, U.S. forests store 20 times more carbon than croplands do. Under the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, an estimated 4 million to 5 million acres of eroded land once used to grow crops have been converted to timberland. But with appropriate incentive to landowners, more than 100 million acres of marginal land considered biologically suitable for trees—an area three times the size of North Carolina—could be reforested.

Planting large numbers of trees would provide many additional benefits—erosion control, protection of drinking water sources and better habitat for wildlife. Moreover, forests provide great economic benefits in valuable wood products.

We should also plant more trees in cities and suburbs. By increasing the amount of shade in residential areas, trees and shrubs reduce the need for air conditioning while storing carbon from automobile exhausts and other fossil-fuel combustion. More trees mean cleaner air, and they provide green space for recreation.

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN UPRISING AGAINST CHINESE SUBJUGATION—TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY 1999

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the international human rights community commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the uprising of the Tibetan people against Communist Chinese oppression. On March 10, 1959, the people of this sparsely populated mountain region rose up against a despotic regime intent on destroying its liberty, its culture, and its ancient religious heritage. Inspired by the leadership and courage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people stood up and repulsed Chinese efforts to deny them their individuality and their rights. We celebrate Tibetan National Day to pay tribute to their brave crusade.

The uprising of March 10, 1959, was crushed by China's immense military might.

The Beijing authorities promptly instituted martial law and used armed soldiers in their brutal effort to suppress the Tibetan people. The Dalai Lama was forced to flee to India in order to preserve his own life, and some 120,000 Tibetans joined him in exile. The government of India has graciously permitted the Tibetan people and His Holiness to remain in India.

Chinese guns and tanks, however, could not destroy the indomitable spirit of the Tibetan people. Guided by the moral strength of the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his peaceful effort to resolve the conflict over Tibet, knowledge of the tragedy of the Tibetan people has spread from the Himalayan foothills to the consciousness of the international community.

China's heavy-handed brutality continues to this day. Buddhist monks and nuns as well as others who value and seek to preserve Tibet's unique cultural and historical heritage have suffered imprisonment, torture, and constant abuse at the hands of Beijing authorities. All signs of Tibet's pre-1959 existence, from its religion to its architecture to its music, have been targets for Chinese officials seeking systematically to destroy every vestige of Tibet's identity.

Mr. Speaker, our American democratic and pluralistic heritage and our principled views on religious tolerance and cultural diversity mandate that we stand firmly against these outrageous crime against international law and human decency.

The Chinese Government has marked the 40th Tibetan National Day by continuing its decades-long strategy of spewing deceitful propaganda about the Dalai Lama and his followers. The chairman of the so-called "People's Congress of Tibet" declared that the Dalai Lama "is the chief representative of the feudal serf system," and that "under his rule, the Tibetan people were reduced to animal status." The overseas edition of the official People's Daily accused the Dalai Lama of attempting "to stir up riots and terrorist activities."

In stark contrast with these Chinese absurdities, the Dalai Lama has expressed a genuine desire to achieve a just and fair resolution of the Tibetan issue. His Five Point Peace Plan—one of the principal reasons for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize—reflects a thoughtful and reasoned position in his quest for a peaceful settlement. As his Holiness stated ten years ago in his Nobel acceptance speech in Oslo, his sole desire is that his homeland to become "a sanctuary of peace and non-violence where human beings and nature can live in peace and harmony." The Dalai Lama is not asking too much.

I invite my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in urging Chinese authorities to take a more reasonable and more forthcoming position in dealing with representatives of His Holiness. It is time to make a serious effort to bring peace, justice, and religious freedom to the Tibetan people so that the Tibetans have the opportunity to preserve and perpetuate their unique culture.

Mr. Speaker, this 40th anniversary is a sorrowful event, an occasion that we mark in sadness and regret. But we also mark this event with rejoicing that, despite four decades of brutal repression, the people of Tibetan continue their struggle. The Chinese have not