

June 10, 1999

I am attaching a fact sheet giving more details about the bill:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
WILDERNESS ACT

1. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the nation's most visited parks, possesses some of the most pristine and striking alpine ecosystems and natural landscapes in the continental United States. This park straddles the Continental Divide along Colorado's northern Front Range. It contains high altitude lakes, herds of bighorn sheep and elk, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra, old-growth forests and thundering rivers. It also contains Longs Peak, one of Colorado's 54 fourteen thousand-foot peaks.

2. CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN
NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS PROPOSAL

Former Congressman David Skaggs from the Second District had been working for years to designate certain areas within the Park as wilderness. Congressman Skaggs introduced a bill last year, and this proposal by Congressman Udall is essentially identical.

The Udall proposal would designate nearly 250,000 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, or about 94 percent of the Park, as wilderness, including Longs Peak—the areas included are based on the recommendations prepared over 24 years ago by President Nixon with some revisions in boundaries to reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted; designate about 1,000 acres as wilderness when non-conforming structures are removed; and add non-federal inholdings within the wilderness boundaries to the wilderness if they are acquired by the United States.

The Udall proposal would NOT create a new federal reserved water right; instead, it includes a finding that the Park's existing federal reserved water rights, as decided by the Colorado courts, are sufficient, nor include certain lands in the Park as wilderness, including Trail Ridge and other roads used for motorized travel, water storage and conveyance structures, buildings, developed areas of the Park, and private inholdings.

3. EXISTING WATER FACILITIES

Boundaries for the wilderness areas are drawn to exclude: existing storage and conveyance structures, thereby assuring continued use of the Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way; the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel and gauging stations of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project; Long Draw Reservoir; and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated by the bill), or other Colorado-Big Thompson Project facilities. Additional activities for these purposes will be allowed, subject to reasonable restrictions, should they be necessary to respond to emergencies.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETURN OF VETERANS MEMORIAL
OBJECTS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an amendment to the Senate version of the FY2000 Defense Authorization Bill. Section 1066 of the Senate version prohibits the return of veterans memorial objects to foreign nations without specific authorization in law.

Although it might seem to be a well-intentioned attempt to protect veterans memorials, this amendment is, in fact, an underhanded attempt to infringe upon the chief executive's authority to, in good, return questionably acquired items to their rightful owners.

We all agree that this nation had been involved in a number of unjust conflicts. Regrettably, our troops have been involved in dubious actions, both here and in foreign lands. Without, taking dignity away from those who have fallen and those who followed orders, we should strive towards preserving our ability to right certain historical wrongs.

Under the cloak of protecting veterans memorials, this amendment is actually an attempt to impede the facilitation of a compromise between the United States and the Republic of the Philippines. F.E. Warren Air Force Base plays host to a memorial comprised of two church bells seized from the Philippines. As the bells are equally important to Filipinos, they have requested the repatriation of one.

I have worked in the last Congress to bring this compromise. Veterans groups, church officials, and members of this body have expressed support. Section 1066 of the Senate version is designed to undermine the progress we have made on this issue.

I urge the members of the conference committee to be mindful of this. Let us be straightforward and put the real issue on the table. I urge the members of the conference committee to act accordingly on this matter.

HONORING WILLIAM H. WALKER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor an individual who served our great Nation in war time, and served our children in peace. William H. Walker not only served our Nation as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, but also served as an educator at Lincoln Elementary School in Centralia, Illinois.

The Illinois native from Carbondale passed away at age 83. During his life, he was a patriot and an inspiration to the civil rights movement, City of Centralia, and children of Lincoln Elementary School. Mr. Walker is also an inductee in the Centralia Historical Hall of Fame.

Dan Griffin, Superintendent of the Centralia City School District in which William Walker served said of Mr. Walker, "He was well-re-

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spected by the black community and white community alike, and by all educators. . . . The best way I can sum up Bill Walker is that he was a gentleman's gentleman."

I commend him on his life-time service to the Nation. His life should be a reminder to us all about what service to the Nation means.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1401) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in opposition to the Gilman-Goss amendment.

This foolish and dangerous amendment would prohibit the use of funds to maintain a U.S. military presence in Haiti after December 31 of this year. The effect of this amendment is to gut US Support Group Haiti, an important humanitarian, engineering and civic affairs operation, and deny our President the flexibility he needs to determine our nation's troop deployments.

Haiti is currently planning to hold elections later this year. This elections follow months of political instability. It is vital that the United States show our support for the democratic process in this country.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that Members on the other side of the aisle have attempted to interfere in our nation's support for democracy in Haiti. Last month, Republicans led an effort to squash a human rights observation mission that represented the one credible human rights organization in Haiti during this difficult time.

Now, these same critics of our nation's policy toward Haiti are attempting to force our troops to leave at a time when their presence is especially important to support stability and aid in democratization efforts.

The people of Haiti are looking forward to having elections later this year. Requiring the courageous and dedicated men and women of our nation's armed forces to leave the country now would send a terrible message to the Haitian people about our willingness to support the democratic process in this country. Now is not the time to consider withdrawing these men and women at this critical point in Haiti's history.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Gilman-Goss amendment.

IN HONOR OF CHARLES REYNOLDS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Charles Reynolds for his

commitment to educating and shaping the lives of our youth. Mr. Reynolds is retiring from his position as principal at Benedictine High School in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Reynolds' school spirit and enthusiasm for sports was demonstrated in the 1950s as a student at Benedictine where he was an All Scholastic basketball and football player for the Benedictine Bengals. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree from Purdue University, Mr. Reynolds returned to his alma mater as a teacher and football and basketball coach. From there he went to Warrensville High School as head football and assistant basketball coach.

Mr. Reynolds continued his career in education by serving as assistant principal at Monticello Junior High. He later became Unit Principal at Cleveland High School. Finally, he accepted the position of principal at Warren High School where he remained until he retired.

However, his retirement was short-lived. After Father Dominic Mondzelewski stepped down as principal at Benedictine, Mr. Reynolds was persuaded to come out of retirement to become Benedictine's first lay principal. During his tenure, he upgraded the school technology and implemented many new programs, including Project Real, the Renaissance Honors program. In addition, he has instilled a renewed pride and school spirit among the student body.

Mr. Reynolds took great pride in his leadership role at Benedictine, a school that excels in educating young men and sends 99 percent of its graduates to college. Benedictine is known not only for academics, but also athletics. The high school currently holds the record in the lower 48 states of winning five state athletic championships over two academic years.

I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Reynolds for his career as an outstanding educator. Benedictine will celebrate his retirement at a dinner on June 5, 1999. I wish Charles Reynolds and his family the very best.

TAIWAN EXTENDS A HELPING HAND TO THE KOSOVAR REFUGEES

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

President Lee has announced that he will sponsor an aid package amounting to US\$300 million for the refugees in Kosovo. He should be highly commended for his leadership. President Lee's generosity should inspire other wealthy nations of the world to open their hearts and pockets to help the war-torn region.

Taiwan is a geographically small nation, yet its government and people have large, unselfish hearts. They recognize the need for generosity toward the Kosovars, and they are always more than willing to help the less fortunate throughout the world.

President Lee's offer of financial assistance to Kosovo is very generous, and Taiwan should be recognized by the United States and the entire world for this selfless, charitable action.

A FITTING HONOR FOR SHEILA DECTER

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on July 27 I will be here on the floor of the House. Ordinarily that would be a source of pride to me, because I very much enjoy serving in this institution and appreciate the privilege of doing so which I receive from my constituents. But on July 27, I will be here with some regret, because my presence in the House will mean that I will be absent from the event honoring Sheila Decter, Executive Director of the American Jewish Congress in Boston.

From my days in the Massachusetts Legislature in the 70s, through my current service in the House, I have relied on Sheila Decter's wisdom, knowledge, and commitment to fairness for all people in my effort to do my job. Sheila Decter is one of the great natural resources of Massachusetts, and no one better deserves the honor she will be receiving on July 27 than she.

In her work through the American Jewish Congress Sheila Decter exemplifies the notion set forward by the great Rabbi Hillel, because she shows that working to protect the rights of Jews in this country and elsewhere are not only compatible with a strong commitment to universal human rights, but in fact reinforces and strengthens that commitment. Sheila Decter exemplifies the point that fighting injustice against any one group is best done by putting that in the context of the fight against injustice everywhere. She has enriched the life of our community, and she has made my job a lot easier. And while I know that our rules require us to address all remarks to the Speaker, I hope I will be permitted an exception so I can say: Mazel Tov, Sheila.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LECLAIRE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the LeClaire Christian Church of Edwardsville, Illinois which is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

Throughout the years, the church has seen great change as it has moved from Odd Fellows' Hall to Garfield Street to its present location on Esic. The church has also seen their membership grow by four times throughout the years. Through this growth the church has expanded construction in order to provide great-

er facilities for congregation and community use.

The Anniversary Committee, chaired by Twila Ellsworth said the celebration has brought back former members as well as ministers from the past.

I am happy to see the steps the anniversary committee has made to celebrate their past as well as continuing their steps to offer quality programs and services to the community.

YUMA AGRICULTURE FORUM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, this spring I held a widely-attended agriculture forum in Yuma, Colorado to hear from a panel of citizens representing Colorado's agriculture industry. Panelists shared their thoughts regarding the worsening agriculture economy in America and provided valuable suggestions for improving the industry's chances for success.

Record-low commodity prices, disease and weather-related problems, coupled with declining export opportunities and a weak demand, have taken a devastating toll on America's agriculture industry. Farm income has fallen dramatically over the past two years and it is difficult to predict how soon it might rebound. While Congress recently helped stave off disaster in rural America with an emergency assistance package, it is quite evident serious long-term policy decisions must be implemented to ensure the lasting future of rural agriculture.

Upon returning to Washington, D.C. from Yuma, I shared this report with House Agriculture Committee Chairman LARRY COMBEST, my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee and other key Members of Congress in order to provide them with the valuable information and suggestions I received from my constituents. This information has already proven quite helpful in prioritizing the agricultural policy agenda for the 106th Congress and I have been asked to distribute it to all Members.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD, the summarized comments and suggestions of Colorado's agriculture community.

DAVE FRANK, OWNER, MAINSTREET INSURANCE

When Mainstreet Insurance first began issuing multi-peril insurance policies to producers, the 1985 farm program was in effect which mandated participating farmers own crop insurance to cover potential nominal and catastrophic losses. This policy of mandatory coverage was reinforced under the Freedom to Farm Act of 1995, which imposed additional restrictions and sanctions upon uninsured producers. This is good for agriculture, because it encourages sound risk management practices among producers and can help prevent the need for frequent taxpayer-funded government bailouts.

However, following a year of historically low commodity prices, natural disasters, and lost export opportunities due to a worsening economic crisis in Asia and eroding markets in Europe and Latin America, Congress in