

looks nothing like the plan originally passed by the Congress because of all the bureaucracy. There should be some way for local FSA representatives to make minor policy changes and avoid duplication with other agencies in order to better serve producers. Over the past seven or eight years there has also been a deterioration in the grass-roots nature of coordination and assistance. Now, local control is increasingly considered to be an area, state, or regional office. This assistance must continue to be administered by those who know the producers and their needs best.

While a number of farm programs are supposed to be phased out under the Farm Bill, agency staff is being reduced faster than the programs they are expected to administer. Ongoing programs are difficult to maintain, particularly when insufficient staff is available to administer and implement the large, ad-hoc programs that develop quickly and unexpectedly like this Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program. County offices must be given the time and ability to implement the programs correctly and efficiently the first time. The implementation software for this particular program, for instance, did not arrive from Washington, D.C. in a timely manner and it made things very difficult.

It is getting to the point that many offices do not know how they are going to handle the high workload. The counties of Eastern Colorado have among the largest workload around. The seven counties in this district have a higher workload than Utah and Nevada. Large programs and tasks are delivered to the understaffed offices as priority items but none of their other projects can be set aside or delayed. The level of paperwork is immense too—it might be helpful to revisit the Paperwork Reduction Act to determine if it is being fully implemented.

Many producers in this area are also very concerned about the Kyoto treaty. This treaty, if approved and implemented, will have a severe impact on the agriculture industry, which is expected to shoulder a large share of the burden.

DEB NICHOLS, EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR,
IRRIGATION RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Irrigation Research Foundation is a privately owned, non-profit, independent research and demonstration site. It is the only research station focusing on irrigation and is located over the Ogallala Aquifer. The primary purpose is to find ways to make production more economical and to demonstrate wise water use.

Earlier this decade, a group of local producers wanted to see studies useful to their own production and throughout the region. It was important to know what populations to plan, ways to work with soil compaction to produce better yields, different options for setting up variety trials, how to make more of a profit, and a way to see all of the different companies side-by-side to inspect their premier varieties. Ed and Jessie Troutman purchased a quarter of land north of Yuma in January 1994 from the Dekalb Seed Company and established the Irrigation Research Foundation. Today, the foundation has a board made up of diversified, farm-oriented individuals, both retired and working, who represent the banking industry, the insurance industry, dairy associations, cattle producers, commercial fertilizer sales people, and individuals from the University Cooperative Extension.

Some of the crops raised in 1998 were corn, wheat, sunflowers, soybeans, pinto beans, milo, sugar beets, millet, canola, field peas, and cotton. There is a silage plot, Iowa corn,

transgenic corn resistant to specific insects, a corn population study, herbicide-resistant corn, and the premier corn study is the water and nutrient management study.

The Irrigation Research Foundation works with Dr. Maudie L. Casey, a water specialist from Colorado State University (CSU), on a study which looks at variable fertilizer rates, population levels, and irrigation rates. This study is designed to determine the optimum which will produce the greatest profit, not necessarily the greatest yield.

In 1998, the foundation acquired a 5-year lease of dry land from the City of Yuma. While the primary focus of the Irrigation Research Foundation is on water, dry land research is also very important to many members. Evolving technology has presented new ways to manage dry land. The foundation is demonstrating ways to use continual cropping with various rotations to not only produce an annual yield, but also to at the same time preserve the soil, reduce wind erosion, and help wildlife.

The Irrigation Research Foundation also provides various forms of public service to the community. The foundation is currently arranging to hold several classes for the community through Morgan Community College, there are sugar beet planter test days where producers can have their equipment tested free of cost, training is available for commercial applicators and emergency personnel in the handling of hazardous products, such as fertilizers, chemicals, pesticides, and herbicides. The foundation also produces for the public an informative annual report and holds several field days throughout the year. Wheat field days are held in June, sugar beet days are held in September, and the premier show is the Farm Show held in August which allows affiliated companies to showcase their products, provides an opportunity for producers to learn about the foundation's studies, and presents an opportunity for many individuals in the industry to interact with one another.

ROSS TUELL, MEMBER, YUMA COUNTY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Yuma County Economic Development Committee is funded by the County of Yuma and the two cities of Yuma and Wray. The committee focuses primarily on retaining and expanding existing businesses by serving as an information service, helping write business plans, locate funding sources, and complete documents and forms. The committee also looks to add value to existing operations and add new businesses to the community. The most important effort is keeping producers on the farm, otherwise we lose them and the stores in town that serve them. One challenge is balancing the positives and negatives of expanding economic growth. The bigger the farms get, which they presently are, the larger the pieces of equipment they require, which means fewer implement dealers, fewer employees, and fewer businesses in town.

From a producer's standpoint, the policies that would help agriculture the most are those which would expand markets and reduce burdensome regulations and expenses. Specifically, the Congress and the president should work to enact Fast Track trade negotiating authority, eliminate the death tax, cut capital gains taxes, and lower the marginal income tax rate.

While some opposed to cutting capital gains taxes and the death tax claim it benefits only the extraordinarily rich in the country, it is simply not the case. The extremely wealthy do not worry much about these taxes. If they have something they

want to sell or bequeath, they are going to do it anyway and the tax is not going to affect them much. But family farms are different. Families must sell the farm just to pay the taxes and then nothing is left.

Furthermore, as mentioned earlier in the forum, the U.S. must revise its policy regarding the sanctions currently imposed on over 70 countries. As Dr. Barry Flinsbaugh from Kansas State University (KSU) has stated, if the U.S. is going to continue using food as a weapon, we ought to change the way we do it. Instead of holding it back, we should simply give it to them. We are not fighting the people who are starving, we are fighting governments, and the governments do not care that the people are starving, which is why we have human rights concerns in the first place. It is much easier to throw forty metric tons of wheat at them than it is to throw a million-dollar piece of electronic hardware at them.

DAVE THOMAS, YUMA COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Commissioner Thomas addressed his comments to me. He said, "Congressman, I would like to thank you for coming to Yuma County and for being our voice in Washington because we have a lot of concerns here today. I know you will carry those forward. All of the concerns mentioned today affect Eastern Colorado and I know you will be our voice."

CINDY HICKERT, FORMER WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSIONER

While not a resident of Yuma County, Commissioner Hickert does conduct business here. For one reason or another, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been exerting more pressure on the Health Department to develop more of a paper trail. It should really be more important to get things done correctly than to concentrate more staff on creating a paper trail. As was mentioned earlier in the forum, any new regulations and restrictions must be based upon sound science.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by thanking all of the participants for their input. Mr. Tim Stulp moderated the forum and did an outstanding job of drawing many helpful thoughts and comments from our expert panel of speakers. I might also point out Mr. Speaker, that mid-way through the forum, Mr. Combest of Texas addressed the crowd, by telephone and loudspeaker, and assured Colorado producers of efforts in the House to strengthen America's agriculture economy.

INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY FLATS OPEN SPACE ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Flats Open Space Act. This legislation will preserve important open space and wildlife resources of this former nuclear weapons production facility in the heart of a major metropolitan area.

The Rocky Flats facility sits on land purchased by the federal government in the early 1950s for the production of nuclear weapons components. Since 1992, Rocky Flats' mission has changed from production of nuclear weapons components to managing wastes and materials and, cleaning up and converting the site

to beneficial uses in a manner that is safe, environmentally and socially responsible, physically secure, and cost-effective.

The land at Rocky Flats is generally divided into a buffer zone of about 6,000-acres and an industrial area of about 385-acres. The industrial area contains the building and facilities that were used to manufacture nuclear weapons components. The buffer zone has been generally used as an open space perimeter around the centrally located industrial area.

Since it was established in 1951, the Rocky Flats buffer zone has remained essentially undisturbed. This land possesses an impressive diversity of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. It also represents one of the last sections of critical open space that makes up the striking Front Range mountain backdrop.

The concept of preserving this land as open space is not new. Recently, the city of Westminster, Colorado, just east of Rocky Flats, conducted a citywide poll asking residents how they thought the Rocky Flats site should be managed into the future. The results of that poll were released in February 1999 and they show that people overwhelmingly support the preservation of Rocky Flats as open space. In fact, 88 percent of the respondents picked open space as the preferred land use. Additionally, from 1993 to 1995, The Rocky Flats Future Site Use Working Group, composed of a broad range of local community representatives and the public, evaluated the potential future uses of the Rocky Flats site. In 1995, the Group issued a set of recommendations, which included keeping the buffer zone in open space. Furthermore, the 1996 Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement and corresponding Rocky Flats Vision Statement, the documents which govern cleanup of the site, contemplate open space uses for the buffer zone. In short, my bill reflects the preferences of the citizens who live around the site by designating the buffer zone as open space.

Just last month, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson designated about 800 acres of the northwest section of the buffer zone as the Rock Creek Reserve to preserve and protect the important wildlife, cultural and open space resources of this area. My bill complements the Secretary's action by acknowledging the important wildlife and open space opportunities of the entire buffer zone. Because a number of future management decisions still need to be made, my bill also creates a Rocky Flats Open Space Advisory Council, composed of representatives of the communities, citizens and state and federal agencies, to make recommendations as to how the buffer zone should be managed as open space.

It is important that there be a rational and more predictable process for addressing land use and the open space potential of Rocky Flats. My bill ensures that state and local government will have a seat at the table in determining the future of land use at Rocky Flats.

In addition, it is important to underscore that my bill will not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure activities at Rocky Flats. My bill encourages DOE to remain on track for the cleanup and closure of the site by the year 2006. It also directs that the bill's provisions for open space management cannot be used to establish cleanup levels for the site, and in-

stead directs that the appropriate cleanup levels be based on public health and safety considerations.

Specifically, the Rocky Flats Open Space Act would declare that the lands owned by the federal government at Rocky Flats will remain in federal ownership, and that the lands comprising the buffer zone (about 6,000-acres) remain as open space. Additionally, the bill would create an Open Space Advisory Council, comprised of representatives of the local community and citizens, to make recommendations on the appropriate entity to manage the wildlife, wildlife habitat and open space resources of the buffer zone. The advisory council would also provide any other advice on how this open space resource should be managed. Furthermore, the bill would stipulate that the U.S. Department of Energy continues with all required cleanup and closure activities.

The bill would not establish the Rocky Flats industrial area as open space, but that would not be precluded by the bill if the communities find such use appropriate. Similarly, the bill won't affect the scope and schedule of cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats—it does not hamper achieving a cleanup and closure by the year 2006—or affect the historic former Lindsey Ranch Homestead facilities that presently exist in the buffer zone. It also won't affect the recently created Rock Creek Reserve established by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for about 800-acres in the northwest area of the buffer zone.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FIVE ANTONIO B. ECLAVEA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate Chief Warrant Officer Five Antonio B. Eclavea, a native son of Guam, on his very distinguished career and well-earned retirement. CW5 Eclavea has made his contribution to the strength and security of our nation through his faithful and professional military service.

By having been one of the first soldiers ever to be promoted to the grade of Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5), Antonio B. Eclavea has brought great recognition to himself, the island of Guam and her people. Although the first warrant officers promoted to the rank of CW5 were selected in 1992, it was not until 1993 that the United States Army first appointed active duty CW5's. CW5 Eclavea holds the distinction of being the first Army warrant officer promoted to CW5 in the Adjutant General Corps.

Born on September 9, 1934, in the city of Hågatña, CW5 Eclavea initially served in the military through the United States Air Force. Attaining the rank of Master Sergeant, he made a career move and joined the Army in 1969. After eleven years, he traded his Air Force stripes for warrant officer's bars.

For over four decades CW5 Eclavea served at various posts, including tours of duty in

Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, and the Republic of Korea. He was also stationed at a number of stateside locations, earning the respect and admiration of superiors and troops. In addition to completing the Army Adjutant General Course and the Master Warrant Officer Course, he also received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration from Marymount College. Awards and decorations conferred to him include, among others, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal. Currently the most senior warrant officer in the United States Army, he is serving in his final assignment as the Assistant Executive Officer to the Army Chief of Staff.

CW5 Eclavea's distinguished military career is a source of pride for the people of Guam. I congratulate CW5 Eclavea on his outstanding achievements. Together with the people of Guam, I join his wife, Rose Marie, and his sons Johnny, Anthony, Michael, and Mark, in proudly celebrating his great accomplishments. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF NELSON CINTRON, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first Hispanic Councilman in the City of Cleveland, Nelson Cintron, Jr.

Mr. Cintron has had many extraordinary accomplishments as a city councilman. He expanded the Puerto Rican Parade from 1 day to 4 days thus creating the Puerto Rican Society of Cleveland. Fulfilling a promise he made to his father, he brought the first 24 hours a day Hispanic Radio Station to Cleveland through Cablevision in 1991. He was also the first to win local primaries for Cleveland City councilman 1989, 1993, and to win the election in 1997, thus fulfilling another one of his life long dreams.

Mr. Cintron has also been an outstanding leader in his community. He is currently a member of several clubs and community organizations including: Alma Yaucana Club, Azteca Club, San Lorenzo Club, the Puerto Rican Society of Cleveland, Spanish American Committee, the Ohio Latin Broadcasting Inc, St. Michael Church, Latinos Unidos and the Hispanic Club.

Through his hard work and dedication to helping the Puerto Ricans in Cleveland, Mr. Cintron has set an example of what can be accomplished and has been a positive role model for the Hispanic community in Cleveland. Mr. Cintron is a tremendous inspiration to all Americans. Through his strong devotion he has been an exceptional leader in the Puerto Rican Community and has helped them make a name for themselves.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Nelson Cintron, Jr., a dear friend and the