

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

PERIODIC REPORT ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC LICENSES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114, 110 Stat. 785, I transmit herewith a semiannual report "detailing payments made to Cuba . . . as a result of the provision of telecommunications services" pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 27, 2000.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions may be taken after debate is concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6 p.m. today.

SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 910) to authorize the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers and in coordination with other Federal agency heads, to participate in the funding and implementation of a balanced, long-term solution to the problems of groundwater contamination, water supply, and reliability affecting the San Gabriel groundwater basin in California, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 910

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative".

SEC. 2. SAN GABRIEL BASIN RESTORATION.

(a) SAN GABRIEL BASIN RESTORATION.—(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There shall be established within the Treasury of the United States an interest bearing account to be known as the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund (in this section referred to as the "Restoration Fund").

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Restoration Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary"). The Secretary shall administer the Fund in cooperation with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority, or its successor agency.

(3) PURPOSES OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amounts in the Restoration Fund, including interest accrued, shall be utilized by the Secretary—

(i) to design and construct water quality projects to be administered by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority and the Central Basin Water Quality Project to be administered by the Central Basin Municipal Water District; and

(ii) to operate and maintain any project constructed under this section for such period as the Secretary determines, but not to exceed 10 years, following the initial date of operation of the project.

(B) COST-SHARING LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not obligate any funds appropriated to the Restoration Fund in a fiscal year until the Secretary has deposited in the Fund an amount provided by non-Federal interests sufficient to ensure that at least 35 percent of any funds obligated by the Secretary are from funds provided to the Secretary by the non-Federal interests. The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority shall be responsible for providing the non-Federal amount required by the preceding sentence. The State of California, local government agencies, and private entities may provide all or any portion of such amount.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.—In carrying out the activities described in this section, the Secretary shall comply with any applicable Federal and State laws.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect other Federal or State authorities that are being used or may be used to facilitate the cleanup and protection of the San Gabriel and Central groundwater basins. In carrying out the activities described in this section, the Secretary shall integrate such activities with ongoing Federal and State projects and activities. None of the funds made available for such activities pursuant to this section shall be counted against any Federal authorization ceiling established for any previously authorized Federal projects or activities.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Restoration Fund established under subsection (a) \$85,000,000. Such funds shall remain available until expended.

(2) SET-ASIDE.—Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1), no more than \$10,000,000 shall be available to carry out the Central Basin Water Quality Project.

SEC. 3. PERCHLORATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in cooperation with Federal, State, and local government agencies, is authorized to participate in studies and other investigative activities and in the planning and design of projects determined by the Secretary to offer a long-term solution to the problem of groundwater contamination caused by perchlorates.

(b) INVESTIGATIONS AND PROJECTS.—

(1) BOSQUE AND LEON RIVERS.—The Secretary, in coordination with other Federal agencies and

the Brazos River Authority, shall participate under subsection (a) in investigations and projects in the Bosque and Leon River watersheds in Texas to assess the impact of the perchlorate associated with the former Naval "Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant" at McGregor, Texas.

(2) CADDO LAKE.—The Secretary, in coordination with other Federal agencies and the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District, shall participate under subsection (a) in investigations and projects relating to perchlorate contamination in Caddo Lake, Texas.

(3) EASTERN SANTA CLARA BASIN.—The Secretary, in coordination with other Federal, State, and local government agencies, shall participate under subsection (a) in investigations and projects related to sites that are sources of perchlorates and that are located in the city of Santa Clarita, California.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purposes of carrying out the activities authorized in this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$25,000,000, of which not to exceed \$8,000,000 shall be available to carry out subsection (b)(1), not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be available to carry out subsection (b)(2), and not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be available to carry out subsection (b)(3).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, who is the principal author of this legislation and the driving force behind it.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by saying first, I serve on the Committee on Rules, and it is a great thrill to stand here suspending the rules for consideration of this very important legislation.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, my very good friend, whom I supported in his quest for Whip 2 decades ago; and also the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the very distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment; along with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), the ranking minority member of the subcommittee.

Also, I would like to point to several of my colleagues from the San Gabriel Valley, the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ), who is here and who, in fact, reminded me of an event out in California that they came to him and talked to him about introducing this legislation, and I am very pleased that he has played a key role in helping to make this possible; our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), who joined in cosponsoring; and also a very important driving force behind this legislation has been my colleague, the gentleman from

California (Mr. ROGAN), with whom I share representation of the City of Pasadena, which is in the San Gabriel Valley.

We are here for consideration of some legislation that is very, very important not just for Southern California; but, in fact, for the rest of the Nation.

I see the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my colleague from the Committee on Rules, here on the floor. He is very concerned about the discovery of perchlorates in groundwater, and it poses a very serious threat to many parts of the country. So this legislation is not simply geared towards dealing with the problem that has developed in Southern California but for the entire Nation.

During the 1950s and 1960s, when we were in the midst of our buildup which allowed us to win the Cold War, there were many companies which legally, and I underscore the word "legally," dumped spent rocket fuel; and, in so doing, it has created problems which have just recently come to the forefront.

I will say that we found that the threat of contaminated water in Southern California could affect literally millions of people. Literally millions of people could be affected by this.

And so, a very strong consensus plan was put together among those in Southern California who deal with the water issue. I am pleased that, in looking at that consensus plan, that we were able to come up with legislation which is designed to provide \$75 million for the cleanup and then a very important \$25 million to deal with research into ways in which we can ensure that this problem will not expand in other parts of the country.

And so I will say that I know that this very important environmental legislation will enjoy strong bipartisan support, as has been evidenced by those who serve on the committee of jurisdiction and other members from around the country who I know are strongly committed to this.

I want to say that I believe we should move this as expeditiously as possible. This is, in fact, a public-private partnership. I believe that those who are responsible for dumping this spent rocket fuel should be responsible. But unfortunately, many of those businesses which are responsible are no longer in operation. And so that is why we have had to step up to the plate and take on part of this responsibility.

Now, we could have embarked on a big load of litigation. But would those lawsuits do anything to clean up the groundwater contamination, the threat that those perchlorates have? No.

And so that is why the responsible thing for us to do is to say to those businesses which are still in existence, like Arrowjet and other companies, that they need to shoulder part of this responsibility. But at the same time,

when we have businesses that are no longer there, to make sure that we have clean drinking water in Southern California and in the rest of the Nation, it is important for us to again step up to the plate and take on the responsibility of cleaning it up and making sure that we do not have a threat that is posed.

And so I am pleased with the very, very strong support that we have enjoyed on this legislation. I hope very much that we will be able to move it through both bodies. And while there was early indication that the Army Corps of Engineers and the White House was less than supportive on this, I am convinced that President Clinton will want to join this strong bipartisan coalition and lend his support for this very important measure.

I again thank my very good friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), and the leadership of their committee and the subcommittee for the expeditious way in which they have moved this very responsible legislation.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the San Gabriel Basin is facing a serious water quality and public health problem. The groundwater aquifer underlying this basin has been contaminated with a variety of hazardous substances, threatening the primary water supply of over 1.5 million people in Southern California.

There is also evidence that this contamination may be spreading to the surrounding aquifers that supply drinking water for a majority of the residents of Los Angeles County.

I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), our distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules; the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO); the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ); and the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), a valuable member of our committee; and the entire area delegation for bringing this matter to the attention of the committee and for their efforts to address the cleanup of contaminated groundwater in the San Gabriel Basin.

The bill we are considering today would authorize the creation of a restoration fund to approve water quality within the basin. Monies from this fund could be used by the Secretary of the Army in conjunction with local water quality authorities to construct, operate, and maintain projects within the San Gabriel Basin.

□ 1430

This legislation would authorize funding for the design, planning, and construction of water quality projects in the Central Basin region of California. It is envisioned that these

projects would be helpful in halting the spread of perchlorate contamination into the neighboring aquifers.

Mr. Speaker, portions of the San Gabriel Basin have been designated as a Superfund site. That program assigns liability for cleanup costs to responsible parties. Nothing in this bill affects the application of Superfund's liability provisions to the recovery of the Secretary's costs under this bill. As the committee report clearly states, nothing limits the authority of the United States to pursue remedial action and to recover its costs from responsible parties, including the costs of work performed under this bill. I fully expect the Secretary of the Army to exercise his fiduciary responsibilities and recover expenditures made under this bill from responsible parties where such costs are recoverable under Federal or State law.

Finally, this bill would include within the existing studies, investigations and projects on perchlorate contamination an authorization that certain amounts be used to address contamination at designated sites in Texas and California. These projects are authorized to develop new and innovative solutions to the problem of groundwater contamination caused by perchlorates. I want to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) and our committee colleagues the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SANDLIN) for their work on behalf of this provision.

I urge an "aye" vote on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), the distinguished chairman of our Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 910, a bill to clean up groundwater contamination and protect water supply in the San Gabriel and Central Basins in California.

Let me start out by first acknowledging the super efforts of the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), chairman of the Committee on Rules, who brought this matter to our attention. He has been a leader in this effort. I also wish to acknowledge the area's bipartisan delegation, including the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), both of whom serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. There are a whole lot of people responsible for the success we are going to enjoy today,

none more important than the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) the chairman of the full committee and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) the ranking Democrat as well as my partner, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI).

Contamination of the groundwater in the San Gabriel Basin was first detected back in 1979. EPA placed the valley on the Superfund's national priorities list in 1984. Here we are 16 years later with very little progress.

At its hearing on this legislation last fall, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment learned that contamination from the San Gabriel Basin has already spread into the adjacent Central Basin aquifer. This groundwater contamination now threatens the drinking water for half of Los Angeles County. That is totally unacceptable.

Under H.R. 910, the Federal Government would assist the San Gabriel Water Quality Authority in conducting groundwater cleanup projects, and we provide \$75 million for that purpose. We also authorize \$25 million for investigation into solutions to groundwater contamination caused by perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel. As has been said so eloquently by previous speakers, this is a must-do bill; and we should put it on a fast track.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ), a Member representing the San Gabriel area and one who worked very hard on this bill.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle today in support of H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative introduced by my good friend and San Gabriel Valley neighbor, the chairman of the Committee on Rules the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER).

It is refreshing to sponsor and cosponsor legislation which not only crosses party lines but is also strongly supported by environmentalists, local government, and business. It is a bill that came together because of the people who were concerned in that area in an effort to try to avoid costly lawsuits and long litigation.

Since contaminants were discovered in the San Gabriel Valley water supply some 20 years ago, there has been a concentrated effort to find a solution that equitably distributes the responsibility for the pollution while removing the contaminants from our water supply as quickly as possible.

The rocket fuel contamination is a by-product of Federal contract work. For years the Federal Government contracted with local firms to produce greatly needed aircraft and rocket parts. Unknown to any at the time, this production led to the leakage of

rocket fuel and other substances into the aquifer, polluting the area's groundwater supplies. There is no question that the groundwater in the San Gabriel Valley is contaminated. Over one-quarter of the 366 water supply wells in the San Gabriel Valley have been contaminated, affecting approximately 1.4 million residents of the greater part of Los Angeles County. Much of the water pollution is a product of Federal contract work. These pollutants are rapidly making their way underground into the Central Basin of Los Angeles County.

I strongly support H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative. H.R. 910 addresses the importance of researching rocket fuel contamination and aims to stop the spread of contamination in an economical and time sensitive manner. It is time for the Federal Government to catch up with the others in the San Gabriel Basin in assuming responsibility for its actions. Eleven potentially responsible parties have voluntarily agreed to contribute over \$200 million in cleanup expenses. While this funding will cover a large portion of the cleanup, Federal funds are necessary to ensure cooperation by the potentially responsible parties and act as an immediate solution to an ever growing problem.

Although there are still many hurdles to overcome in saving our water supply, the time for Federal action is now. The primary responsible parties in the San Gabriel Basin have demonstrated their commitment to saving the region's groundwater with their checkbooks. They are doing it with their checkbooks. It is time for the Federal Government to use this broadly supported bill as an opportunity to do the same.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), a member of our committee.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for this. The gentleman from Pennsylvania chairs the most bipartisan committee in this House and Members can tell how both sides, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) have come together and moved this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation we consider today is absolutely essential. H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative, will help restore vital groundwater resources in California where up to 3 million have lost or are in danger of losing access to critical groundwater reserves in our area. H.R. 910 is the key to fixing this problem.

The bill is a product of local cooperation that should be also an example to

other areas of the country. Faced with a difficult and expensive problem, the local stakeholders have come together to restore and maintain groundwater for millions of people. H.R. 910 authorizes the closure of a small but critical gap in funding needed to accomplish this goal.

Here in Congress, this bill is also a product of cooperation as I noted earlier. The gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Rules, has forged a bipartisan coalition to support this bill. If a real cleanup is going to occur in California or elsewhere, it requires the level of cooperation demonstrated in H.R. 910.

Let us pass this model pilot program. If this program is successful, many parts of our Nation will soon follow. Vote for H.R. 910.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), a prime sponsor of the bill.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am so happy that I am hearing the support, the bipartisan support for this measure, and I am also here to join as an original cosponsor of this measure. I would like to also thank my good friend and respected colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for offering this legislation and helping it move quickly through the House.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI) and others from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for understanding the importance of this particular area of contamination in California that has affected a lot of us that live and work in those areas.

The San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative is of critical importance to the people of my district. Those water aquifers, the underground streams running through the San Gabriel Valley which supply drinking water to 1.4 million people, have been known to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds for over two decades.

I have been working on this issue and trying to bring it to some kind of closure since I served on the local city council and managed to get a water coalition and been following its non-progress. Then in the past 3 years, perchlorate and other dangerous chemicals related to rocket fuels have also been found in that water. The contamination is seeping below the spreading grounds at Whittier Narrows and into my district. Volatile organic compounds have seeped from the San Gabriel Basin into the Central Basin and it comes down into my area, a large underground water system that provides water for an additional 1.5 million people in Montebello, Pico Rivera, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Long Beach, and other communities.

H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative, provides the way

and the means by which Federal, State and local government agencies and private business can collectively work towards a timely cleanup of the important San Gabriel and Central water basins, and will also serve as my colleagues have heard as an example of how aquifer contaminants can be addressed and effectively implemented to clean up.

Since it was a Federal Government defense contract that led to the introduction of the perchlorate and other rocket fuel related chemicals into our groundwater, I believe that the Federal Government has its share of responsibility and should take a role in helping clean up the contaminated area that threatens our communities.

This legislation will help more than 3 million people in our county that trust the water that flows from their tap.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to work with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) today.

I rise in support of H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative. I commend not only the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) but also the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) for bringing this legislation to the floor in such a quick and expedited manner.

H.R. 910 is sponsored by my colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER). I believe it provides a national model for protection of our Nation's water supply from perchlorate. Perchlorate is an inorganic chemical used to manufacture solid rocket fuel and other explosives. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for his assistance in addressing this important conservation issue in a part of my district which also impacts the entire Brazos River Corridor in Central Texas by adding funding to the study of perchlorate contamination originating from the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in McGregor, Texas.

With this funding, the Brazos River Authority and the Corps of Engineers will be able to carefully assess the extent of perchlorate contamination in this very critical watershed. By doing so, they will not only protect the drinking water of Central Texas but will also protect the Brazos Basin from Waco to the Gulf of Mexico.

I am grateful to my colleagues in the Brazos Basin including the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority whip; the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST); the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY); and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY), all of whom have united in requesting this provision. Texans are proud to join with our colleagues from not only California but

also other areas of the country in creating a national model for addressing this threat of perchlorate.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN).

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, first I thank the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for yielding me this time.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 910, the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative. In the Southern California area, like much of the West, water is possibly the most precious commodity for local cities. However, in parts of my district and in water tables throughout the Los Angeles Basin, contamination as a result of industrial runoff has become a serious threat to public safety.

In 1984, this water basin was designated a Superfund site. The problem continues.

□ 1445

Today, cleanup is vital, and it is imperative that government act at all levels.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 910 is supported by a bipartisan coalition interested in protecting the environmental resources in and around the Los Angeles area. This legislation will establish the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund that will be comprised of a unique partnership of State, local and Federal funding sources.

Our measure will authorize \$75 million over 5 years and set aside \$25 million for research and development of treatment programs to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not the mistakes of the future. This bill will improve the quality of the environment in the San Gabriel Basin region and will put the resources of the Federal Government behind local environmental experts.

Even more significant is the opportunity to make the San Gabriel Valley Water Quality Initiative a test case for similar programs around the country. The Los Angeles area faces unique challenges, but by uniting these officials, we are confident that these challenges can be met and the environment protected. What is more, the San Gabriel Water Quality Initiative can serve as a model for similar areas when they confront cleanup of underground contamination.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for his incredible leadership on this bill and in bringing it before the committee.

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, this is a powerful piece of environmental legislation, and I strongly urge its support.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our esteemed colleague from California, Congressman DAVID DREIER, for his leadership on this important environmental legislation.

Ground water contamination was discovered in the San Gabriel Basin in 1979. EPA placed this area on the Superfund national priorities list in 1984. Although this basin provides drinking water to 1.4 million people, EPA is only now getting around to addressing the contamination at this site.

To make matters worse, in 1997, perchlorate was discovered in the groundwater. Perchlorate is a component of rocket fuel and is very difficult to treat.

And just this past year, the local community received even more devastating news: The contamination from the San Gabriel Basin has spread into the Central Basin aquifer that provides drinking water for half of Los Angeles County.

On a bipartisan basis, the representatives of the San Gabriel Valley and the Central Basin, led by Representative DREIER, worked with the local community to develop a solution to this problem. I commend their efforts and congratulate them on this legislation.

I also would like to thank the committee's ranking Democratic member, Congressman JIM OBERSTAR, as well as Subcommittee Chairman BOEHLERT and Congressman BOB BORSKI for their help in moving this important legislation forward.

Under the solution advanced by the local community and their congressional delegation, the Army Corps of Engineers will help the local community work with the State and the business community to build water treatment projects that will stop the spread of contamination and protect their water supplies.

These treatment plants will accelerate the cleanup of the San Gabriel Basin in advance of EPA's cleanup schedule. This effort also should reduce the overall cost of the cleanup because it is a lot cheaper to keep groundwater from getting contaminated than it is to clean it up.

This assistance should lead to a true public-private partnership for addressing an historic contamination problem of enormous magnitude.

As we looked at this matter, we also discovered that perchlorate contamination is a national problem, particularly at facilities that have manufactured or tested solid rocket fuels for the Department of Defense or NASA.

To address this, H.R. 910 authorizes \$25 million for research into solutions to groundwater contamination caused by perchlorate.

Again, I congratulate the sponsor of this legislation and urge all Members to support H.R. 910.

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 910, the "San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Initiative." The San Gabriel Basin supplies drinking water for almost one and a half million people in Southern California. It is a valuable natural asset whose management is vital for all who depend on it.

H.R. 910 encourages the input of local industry and businesses, community and environmental leaders and government officials from the local, state and federal levels. Instead of costly litigation to punish or shield from liability, H.R. 910 provides incentives for

these groups to participate in clean up and management efforts for ground water and water sources affecting the San Gabriel Water Basin.

One of the greatest obstacles to ground water clean up is the economic cost incurred by private industry and the controlling government authorities. This bill addresses this problem by authorizing funding for technology research that will allow for more cost-effective clean up. Beyond this effort, it also provides for technology development that will help maintain cleaner groundwater systems.

As our population continues to grow, it is important that we protect our groundwater resources against pollution. H.R. 910 provides \$25 million dollars in research funding to study ways to prevent future groundwater contamination in areas, like the San Gabriel Basin, which supply drinking water. Through this research private industry and government agencies will have better resources to devise water management plans for future development.

I believe that this bill provides us with a model for future clean up efforts around the country. It maintains the groups already involved in the clean up while empowering those who have vested interests in this clean up effort. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Rules Committee for his efforts in constructing this legislation, and urge Members of this House to support H.R. 910.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 910, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 910.

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

There was no objection.

#### E. ROSS ADAIR FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2412) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 South Harrison Street in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2412

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 South Harrison Street in Fort Wayne, Indiana, shall be known and designated as the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2412 designates the Federal building and United States courthouse in Fort Wayne, Indiana as the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Edwin Ross Adair was born in 1907, attended public schools and graduated from Hillsdale College and the George Washington University Law School. Adair volunteered as a lieutenant in World War II and was awarded battle stars for the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhine and Central European campaigns. Congressman Adair was first elected to the 82nd Congress and served for 20 years in the United States House of Representatives. He became the ranking member on the Committee on Foreign Affairs and was active on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and on the Committee on Committees.

After his service in the United States House of Representatives, President Nixon appointed Adair ambassador to Ethiopia, and he served as ambassador until 1974.

This is a fitting honor for this dedicated public servant. I fully support this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2412 is a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as the "E. Ross Adair Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Congressman E. Ross Adair served his country and his State with bravery and distinction for almost his entire life. He was a dedicated teacher, decorated war hero, conscientious civil servant and diplomat. He served in the House of Representatives for 20 years, from 1951, the year that I was born, until 1971, representing the citizens of the 4th District of Indiana. In 1972,

President Nixon appointed him as ambassador to Ethiopia, where he was posted until 1974. In 1976, Adair served on the Indiana State Privacy Commission, and in 1976 he was appointed to President Ford's reelection campaign. He was active in many civic organizations as well as in his church.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting and proper to acknowledge the accomplishments of Congressman Adair with this designation. I support H.R. 2412 and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), the prime sponsor of the legislation.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me today to be here with this bill to name the Federal building and U.S. courthouse in Fort Wayne, Indiana, my hometown, after northeast Indiana's longest serving Congressman, E. Ross Adair. He served 20 years in the district, getting elected the year I was born in 1950, and served until 1970, when he was appointed ambassador to Ethiopia.

It is also with great personal satisfaction that I have the honor of doing this, because as a young political activist, when I was still at Leo High School and moving to Indiana Purdue University at Fort Wayne, my first campaign was in Ross Adair's 1968 reelection effort when redistricting had put two Congressmen into the same district. The group that we developed was at that time the second largest youth group ever put together in the country, and as my colleagues can see from this old poster, E. Ross Adair was not necessarily who one would think would attract a lot of young people. In fact, one of my friends, Lauren Smith, did a campaign for Winston Prouty, a Senator in Vermont, and Winston Prouty dressed up in all of these fancy clothes and it said, do we elect Winston Prouty because he is a swinger? You open it up and it says, no, it is because he does a good honest job of representing the people of his district.

That is what E. Ross Adair did, and that is why many, 2,000 young people got involved in that youth campaign to elect him and he won a very close and, quite frankly, unexpected victory in 1968. This particular poster, I collect a lot of Indiana memorabilia, and it is in the 1952 campaign when he still had hair. He lost his hair not too many campaigns after that, as politics is prone to do.

Let me give my colleagues a little bit of his bio. He was born in Albion, Indiana, a small town northwest of Fort Wayne in 1907 to parents Lue and Alice Adair. His mother and father were both educators. His father was a school superintendent and newspaper editor and