

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2000. This legislation offers strong protections of taxpayers, including much-needed safeguards on personal information. This bill recognizes the importance of protecting taxpayers' privacy and would help prevent the illegal disclosure of personal information.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights, however, fulfills only a small part of our obligation to protect individual privacy. Last year, I voted for legislation, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization bill, that contained new federal protections of consumers' financial privacy. This legislation, which passed Congress and was signed into law by the President, allows consumers to protect their privacy by choosing to opt-out of information sharing by their financial institutions.

The protections included in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act are an important beginning and represent a minimum federal standard. Most importantly, the new law affords states the opportunity to pass even tougher restrictions on information sharing, thus giving them the chance to enact their own consumer privacy protections above and beyond the federal minimum.

Allowing consumers the right to opt-out is a step in the right direction, although we still have many challenges ahead of us with regard to adequately protecting medical information and safeguarding Internet privacy. I urge my colleagues to join me in this important effort and continue to work hard to protect the privacy rights of every American.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY J.
HEIMLICH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Henry J. Heimlich, a community hero, an internationally recognized leader in health care, and a dear friend who will be honored on April 20 by the Rotary Club of Cincinnati. This recognition will come during National Heimlich Maneuver Week. He was selected for these honors because of his outstanding contributions to the medical community that have literally saved thousands of lives.

In fact, Dr. Heimlich has been credited with saving more lives than any other living person. Dr. Heimlich's most notable accomplishment, of course, is the Heimlich Maneuver, which he created in 1974. Since its creation, the Heimlich Maneuver has been used to save the lives of countless people from choking deaths, to prevent and halt asthma attacks, and to clear near-drowning victims' water-filled lungs more safely.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Perhaps lesser known is the Heimlich Operation, which is considered the first successful organ transplant in history. This operation enables patients with an esophagus birth defect, who previously only could be fed through a tube inserted into their stomachs, to eat normally.

Dr. Heimlich also invented the Heimlich Micro Trach, a tiny tube that is inserted into the trachea to deliver oxygen from a small tank directly to the lungs, enabling oxygen-dependent patients to become mobile and return to work and social activities.

Dr. Heimlich's Chest Drain Valve is credited with saving the lives of thousands of American soldiers during the Vietnam War. It is used in emergency treatment of people with chest wounds to clear air and fluids from the chest cavity. Up to a quarter million of these valves are used worldwide every year in civilian and military medicine.

Although he has already achieved much, Dr. Heimlich is still working to save lives. He continues development of malariotherapy, which, through a curable form of malaria, increases the body's immune responses to fight viruses and cancer by increasing production of such biochemicals as interferon, interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor. Dr. Heimlich believes that malariotherapy can be used, with more research, to fight cancer, AIDS, and Lyme disease.

At the age of 80, Dr. Heimlich continues his important work at the Heimlich Institute where new ways to improve and save lives are being researched. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion, service, and most impressive contributions to our community and the world.

WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3671) to amend the Acts popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to enhance the funds available for grants to States for fish and wildlife conservation projects and increase opportunities for recreational hunting, bow hunting, trapping, archery, and fishing, by eliminating opportunities for waste, fraud, abuse, maladministration, and unauthorized expenditures for administration and execution of those Acts, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I submit the following into the RECORD in support of H.R. 3671.

ARCHERY MANUFACTURERS AND
MERCHANTS ORGANIZATION,
Gainesville, FL, March 13, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR DON: We heartily support H.R. 3671, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. We feel this

April 13, 2000

measure will tighten-up the administration of these programs and we are particularly supportive of Sec. 102, Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program Grants of H.R. 3671. This will go a long way toward fulfilling the commitment made to our sport and industry when we agreed to be taxed under Pittman-Robertson some 30 years ago.

We also are greatly appreciative of having had the opportunity to participate in discussions with staff leading up to the writing of H.R. 3671. There was a refreshing openness in this entire process.

Sincerely,

DICK LATTIMER,
President/CEO.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA, INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLA-
TIVE ACTION,

Fairfax, VA, March 13, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: The NRA wholeheartedly supports your bill, H.R. 3671, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act. We speak on behalf of every one of our 3.2 million members who pay into the Pittman Robertson trust fund whether they own firearms for self-defense, recreational shooting, collecting or hunting.

Sportsmen and other firearm owners put their faith and trust in the Federal Government when they elected to be taxed to help fledgling state fish and wildlife agencies of the 1930's begin to launch what we take for granted today as scientific wildlife management. For over six decades, sportsmen have trusted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage their excise tax dollars for the benefit of state wildlife restoration programs. However, alarmed over several programs created with the use of administrative dollars, but without legal authority, the NRA went on record in a statement submitted for your 1996 oversight hearing on the "Teaming with Wildlife" concept urging the Congress to examine how the Service was spending trust fund administrative dollars. Never did we imagine the extent of waste, abuse and mismanagement that was uncovered through your Committee's investigative efforts.

The NRA strongly believes that meaningful, long-lasting reform can only be assured through legislative reform as embraced by your legislation, H.R. 3671. What the Service can implement administratively to strengthen internal controls and management for Pittman-Robertson trust fund and its counterpart, the Dingell-Johnson trust fund, should be encouraged. But those efforts alone cannot restore the trust of our members. Reform must be anchored in corrective measures made as amendments to the underlying laws.

The NRA appreciates the opportunity that you accorded us to participate in discussions regarding the shape the reform language should take. Your bill reflects a very deliberative process in assimilating a diverse array of recommendations and views. There are two provisions of H.R. 3671 I would like to comment on that are of particular importance to our membership. First, the bill ensures that none of the administrative funds will ever be used by any organization that promotes or encourages opposition to hunting, fishing or trapping or for any project that promotes such opposition. This is language critical to a reform bill.

Second, on behalf of all our members that rely on shooting ranges for firearm and

hunter safety courses and recreational and competitive shooting, we appreciate having language in the bill that earmarks funds for shooting and archery range purposes. These funds will supplement the discretionary funds made available to states from one-half of the excise tax revenue collected on the sale of handguns and archery equipment. For years our recreational shooters have expressed concern that states have not lived up to the bargain struck with them in support of the extension of the excise tax in the 1970's. We trust that the states will look to these funds as additional support to assist them in meeting the needs of the excise tax paying shooters, hunters and archers and will not attempt to use these funds as an offset to the discretionary funds.

We thank you for your leadership in overseeing the examination of Service's management of the trust funds and your commitment provide an avenue to restore health and vitality to the programs. These trust funds are unprecedented in the world and while the conservation dollars can be counted in the billions, the conservation benefits are inestimable. It is important for all of us who cherish our fish and wildlife resources to see that the sportsmen and women of this country are given a sound reason to be taxed for the benefit of the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of those same resources.

Sincerely,

JAMES JAY BAKER,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL TRAPPERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.,

New Martinsville, WV, March 13, 2000.
Congressman DON YOUNG.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: This communication is to indicate the support of the National Trappers Association for H.R. 3671.

NTA has worked hard to assure corrective actions are taken to be sure the PR-DJ Funds from excise taxes are used for wildlife and conservation efforts as originally intended.

Thank you so much for doing the right thing for sportsmen in America, the true conservationists who put their money where their mouth is.

Sincerely,

SCOTT HARTMAN,
Director, National & International Affairs.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2000.
Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000. This bill will help stop the mismanagement by the current leadership of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act and other programs administered by the Division of Federal Aid. These laws are based on the remarkably straightforward idea of using an excise tax on guns, ammunition and fishing gear to provide a secure funding base for state fish and game departments. Most state fish and wildlife agencies get their budgets almost entirely from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and P-R and D-J funds.

In much of the world, sport hunting and fishing are the privilege of noblemen but America is different, and sportsmen here are determined to preserve our country's outdoor heritage and maintain hunting and fish-

ing opportunities for everyone. That is why sportsmen started these programs which have been largely responsible for the development of scientific wildlife management. Of course, the sound wildlife conservation efforts underwritten by sportsmen also benefit non-game species. When sportsmen create habitat for quail, ducks or trout, they also provide habitat for woodpeckers, eagles and all other species.

Sportsmen pay for conservation and the rest of us have pretty much gotten a free ride. That is why it was so wrong for the current leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service to loot this uniquely effective program to create slush funds and use it as a cash cow to cover foreign travel and unrelated administrative expenses. Their attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups is an even worse affront. The mismanagement of these funds is cause for concern about any new funding mechanism that do not require annual appropriations. We greatly appreciate your leadership in upholding our sportsmen-conservationist heritage and taking steps to clean up the problems at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

ROB GORDON,
Executive Director.

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL,
Herndon, VA, March 10, 2000.
Representative DON YOUNG,
Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

RE: H.R. 3671, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: Safari Club International (SCI) considers H.R. 3671, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, to be of utmost importance for the future of sportsmen and wildlife in the 106th Congress.

This is a bipartisan reform legislative effort. The bill has been introduced with a diverse and respected group of co-sponsors, including yourself, Representative John Dingell (D-MI), Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX), Representative Owen Pickett (D-VA), Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA), Representative Chris John (D-LA), Representative John Peterson (R-PA), and others. The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus supports the legislation because of the positive impact it will have on wildlife, habitat and sportsmen far into the future.

H.R. 3671 will bring integrity and respect back into the system. As you know, the original intent of the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) excise tax was that it be used solely for the purpose of wildlife restoration in the 50 states. GAO investigations into the misuse of P-R funds revealed that "P-R funds were being administered like a big shell game." H.R. 3671 eliminates any ambiguity in the current statute by explicitly delineating proper purposes for the fund. In addition to setting clear guidelines for federal administrators it will also emphasize to state wildlife administrators the intent of the law when spending sportsmen's dollars. H.R. 3671 will ensure accountability when spending money that comes from sportsmen.

In many cases the past distribution and spending of Pittman-Robertson funds did not follow the intent of the 1937 law. The areas badly neglected were hunter education, firearms safety, archery ranges, archery training and firearms ranges. Groups like SCI, AMO, NSSF, and NRA had to privately fund hunter education. Seven thousand volunteers had to step in and assume responsibility be-

cause this intended use of P-R money was not fulfilled as it should have been.

For example, in 1970, archers were promised that if they came into the excise tax program, that 50% of the money raised would be used for ranges and instruction. Since 1975, \$282,189,160.00 have been raised. Very little of the promised \$141 million has been used for ranges or instruction. Most of it was diverted to other uses. A very important part of the legislation is a restatement of the original intent.

The final, and perhaps the most important part of the legislation is a provision that encourages NGO's to participate in a matching grant program for hunter education, shooting safety, and recruitment of young people into an appreciation of the outdoors. This section involves those who pay the tax by allowing them to have a voice in how their money is spent.

For over 60 years, Pittman-Robertson funds have provided an abundance of wildlife and habitat that is enjoyed by sportsmen and the general public. Thank you for your support of H.R. 3671, which insures that this work can continue far into the future.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE S. KATZ,
President.
ALFRED S. DONAU, III,
Government Affairs Chairman.
HON. RON MARLENEE,
Consultant.

TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION,
San Antonio, TX, March 31, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chair, House of Representatives, Committee on Resources, RHOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: One of the great honors of my life has been testifying before you and your committee describing the problems that resulted in your filing H.R. 3671. Passing without dissent out of your committee speaks volumes about bringing justice to the folks who have been paying for conservation since 1937, and before. Who are they? Hunters and anglers have paid for conservation . . . period.

Not only has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forgotten this fact, they have also ignored the central mission of government: government should enable rather than require, let alone try to do itself. Your H.R. 3671 reminds the USFWS that their first duty is to empower the states to foster effort from their citizens.

The thousands of members of the Texas Wildlife Association, who hunt and fish and lovingly conserve many, many millions of acres of private wildlife habitat, urge all members of Congress to vote for H.R. 3671.

Very respectfully submitted,

DAVID K. LANGFORD,
Executive Vice President.

TRANS TEXAS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION,
Alpine, TX, March 31, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: The Trans Texas Heritage Association and regional associations, Davis Mountains Trans-Pecos and Hill Country Heritage Associations, represent members who own more than 15.5 million acres of private land in Texas. It is on behalf of these members that we thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000.

The Heritage Association members are land stewards, sportsmen, and conservationists. We are outraged by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service's (USFWS) mishandling of funds from the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson Act and other programs which were specifically set aside to fund state fish and game departments. Even more reprehensible is the USFWS's attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups. We are thankful that The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000 will help to stop these and other abuses.

Chairman Young, we sincerely appreciate your commitment and efforts that will benefit the preservation and conservation of our nation's sportsmen's and outdoor heritage.

Very truly yours,

C.M. VAN EMAN,
President.

THE MULE DEER FOUNDATION,
Reno, NV, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your leadership for The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000 is to be commended. The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) anticipates this bill, when enacted, will assist the US Fish and Wildlife Service to better manage Federal Aid funds. MDF is especially supportive of good management of the funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell-Johnson Act. These Acts are central to the conservation funding in this country and are, frankly, an unprecedented model for sustainable conservation worldwide. Hunters and fishermen in our country historically have been the first to step to the plate to support conservation and these Acts provide a critical source of funding for conservation to stated conservation agencies. With the disparate pressures that come from varied interests, it is of critical importance that we continue to safeguard and improve the management of these funds.

The Mule Deer Foundation recognizes that this bill passed out of the House Resources Committee with an amazing 36-0 vote. MDF would like to voice its support for this bill and congratulations to the Committee for its bi-partisan approach to improving management of Federal Aid Funds.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, charitable organization whose Mission is to ensure the conservation of mule and blacktailed deer and their habitats.

Chairman Young, on behalf of The Mule Deer Foundation, let me thank you and your Committee on this effort in behalf of American's conservation programs.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM I. MORRILL,
President, and CEO.

GULF LUMBER COMPANY, INC.,
Mobile, AL, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG, *Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the founding of the Mobile County Wildlife Association and the Alabama Wildlife Federation in the mid 1930's, my family has been involved in the innumerable conservation and wildlife organizations. We have spent untold dollars and man-hours furthering the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

I tell you this to say thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000. This bill will help stop the mismanagement by the current leadership of the Fish and Wildlife

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Service of the Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act and other programs administered by the Division of Federal Aid.

It is wrong for the current leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service to loot this uniquely effective program to create slush funds and use it as a cash cow to cover foreign travel and unrelated administrative expenses. Their attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups is an even worse affront.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in upholding our sportsmen-conservationist heritage and taking steps to clean up the problems at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

W.S. (SANDY) STIMPSON,
Sr. Vice President.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate April as the Child Abuse Prevention month and to inform my colleagues of a quiet but devastating situation that continues to plague our nation: that of child abuse and neglect. In this time of prosperity we are leaving needy children behind.

More than 1 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year. This is an amazing statistic, especially when most cases of neglect and abuse are not reported.

In Virginia, according to the American Humane Association's Children Division in 1997, there were 11,792 confirmed reports of maltreatment to children.

The situation, as it exists right now, simply cannot go on. These children need and deserve our help, and Congress can and must step in if we are to begin to better tackle this public health epidemic and national tragedy. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support vital federal programs that seek to address this problem through improved preventive and early intervention services.

The effects of child abuse are felt by communities as a whole and need to be addressed by the entire community. All citizens should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse and its prevention within the community. All citizens should become involved in supporting vulnerable and at risk parents to raise their children in a safe nurturing environment. This is why it is important to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

All citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses should increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

Child maltreatment has ramifications far beyond the actual physical and psychological harm done to the child. It also affects school readiness, juvenile crime and poor health outcomes. We simply must do more.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that I can count on my colleagues to recognize this month as Child Abuse Prevention Month and give strong sup-

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port of these and other measures so that we can seek to put an end to what can only be called a national epidemic.

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of H.R. 4163, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2000. I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important legislation.

H.R. 4163 is a bipartisan bill designed to provide further protections to taxpayers from regulatory abuse by the Internal Revenue Service. In recent years, the Congress has adopted several of these taxpayer bill of rights, which have done much to reign in some of the more outrageous abuses heaped on taxpayers, who, by no fault of their own, have run afoul of overzealous IRS personnel.

This legislation offers a number of important protections for those individuals who have been unable to pay their taxes on time and thus have incurred additional interest and penalty charges. Specifically, the bill repeals the present day penalty for failure to pay tax, for those taxpayers that have entered into installment payments with the IRS to repay large outstanding balances.

Additionally, this bill: Expands circumstances where interest on underpayment of taxes may be abated, simplifies estimated tax calculations, limits taxpayer exposure to underpayment interest through the use of qualified reserve accounts, and tightens the privacy rights of taxpayers through limiting disclosure options open to the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, similar bills in the past have done much to provide protection to taxpayers from overbearing Federal agencies with regulations that have had unintended consequences in their implementation. This legislation continues that tradition by offering important protections to have, for whatever reason, made under-payments on taxes owed and are subsequently trying to make good on any overdue balances.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING COLONEL ROBERT N. CLEMENT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that our colleague in the House of Representatives, Colonel Robert N. Clement, will retire from the Tennessee Army National Guard on April 30, 2000, after more than 31 years of exemplary military service.

Colonel Clement began his career as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve. In January 1969, he entered active duty for his Officers Basic Course in the Adjutant