

centers and specialized institutes. We applaud this effort, and will work with NASA to carry out the reforms of the zero-base review, including privatization of the Space Shuttle.

At the same time, we recognize the Administrator had two constraints placed on him that prevent a permanent solution to the underfunding problem. The zero-base review was not allowed to cancel NASA programs and was not allowed to result in the closing of any of NASA's field center installations. Those constraints were self-imposed, but as a result, the promised savings from this effort ring hollow.

In H.R. 2043, we propose the only credible, reasonable way to achieve a radical restructuring of NASA. That is, by a complete review of all NASA's capital assets: every piece of equipment, every building, every truck, every test facility, every everything. By looking at assets, we can see two costs: people who support the asset, and the mission supported by the asset. This kind of review is needed since NASA now owns more things—and has more people to use those things—than for which there is a purpose.

Up until our proposal, the conventional budget cutters would look only at the number of people or the missions. Decisions were being made on whether to cut raw numbers of people, close whole research centers, or cancel missions. These decisions can be terribly flawed and costly since missions require specialized skills and equipment that are, in fact, well distributed across the NASA system.

Our asset base review will turn the system on its head and look at the building blocks of the modern NASA budget: the maintenance and operations of capital assets. We propose to go to each such asset and ask, "What does this piece of equipment do for a mission? Who uses it? Why do they need it?" This approach will avoid the political and scientific pitfalls that have destroyed NASA's previous efforts to reform itself.

Our approach will not be vague. You won't hear us say, "Let's cut the fat." If it's not being used to perform a mission, it's fat. If it's not being used enough, or alternatives exist elsewhere in Government or through the private sector, NASA will go elsewhere, and not retain an underutilized asset. At the same time, if assets are needed, but are too old or too inefficient to do the job they are assigned, we will work to upgrade or replace essential assets on a cost-benefit basis.

Once the asset base review is completed, the President will propose to Congress, no later than September 30, 1996, legislation to implement the Administrator's recommendations based on the asset base review. In the meantime, we prohibit the Administrator from closing any of NASA's field centers. The Administrator may only close a field center if it is rendered obsolete as a result of the Administrator's recommendations, after enactment of the implementing legislation submitted by the President.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2043 is a real alternative. We navigate between the constraints NASA imposed on itself to bring fundamental change to the Nation's space agency. We navigate between the pressures facing our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and suggest a way to set NASA's priorities on basic research. In conclusion, I urge all of my colleagues to read the bill and consider the direction H.R. 2043 takes NASA and the Nation to-

ward. We are moving forward, building great science, and appropriately right-sizing the NASA infrastructure. We commend our approach to our colleagues, and look forward to working with the Senate to enact the kind of reform-oriented NASA authorization proposed here today.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment to transfer \$2 million from the salaries and administrative expenses of the Department of the Interior to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, which is slated for elimination under the current language of the bill. In this day and age of shifting decisionmaking power to the local level, it makes sense to keep the Advisory Council.

An independent Federal agency, the Advisory Council plays a critical role in ensuring that local residents have an opportunity to provide input on Federal projects that affect the historic and cultural resources in their community. If the Advisory Council is eliminated, citizens will not be guaranteed a voice and the process will suffer as decisionmaking becomes less participatory and, hence, less representative.

Without the Advisory Council and the accompanying section 106 process, the average person would be shut off from the consultation process. Decisionmaking will become exclusive and subject to domination by Federal officials and narrow interest groups.

It is imperative that we maintain funding for the Advisory Council to allow communities to continue to have a voice. After all, it is the people at the local level—not the Federal bureaucrats in Washington, DC—whose neighborhoods and towns will be impacted by Federal projects.

In my home State of Oregon, the section 106 process allowed public comment on the construction of the federally-assisted light rail transit project as it was being planned in the 1980's. The local landmarks commission and Portland businessowners, among others, were able to suggest ways to counteract the negative effects of the new construction on two important downtown historic areas—Skidmore Old Town and Yamhill District, both of which are recognized as national historic landmarks.

As a result of local involvement through the section 106 process, special historic-styled benches and shelters were installed and the cobblestone paving around the historic Skidmore Fountain was restored. As the inscription on the Skidmore Fountain reads, "The riches of the city are its citizens." The section 106 process carried out by the Advi-

sory Council similarly recognizes the importance of citizens.

Eliminating the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation runs counter to the very principles of citizen involvement on which our country was founded. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation deserves our support, and I urge the passage of this amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2043, THE NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 1995

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 1995, Representative WALKER and I introduced the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 in order to continue the process of prioritizing NASA's missions and programs for the remainder of this century. The multiyear space station authorization bill, which the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics and the full Science Committee endorsed by wide margins with strong bipartisan support, placed the space station at the top of NASA's list of priorities and provided the programmatic stability NASA needs to reduce costs. The bill builds on this strategy to focus NASA on the goal of becoming the leading R&D agency it once was. By moving NASA away from operating large, expensive programs such as the space shuttle and Mission to Planet Earth, this authorization act will enable NASA to focus on those activities which the agency does best, namely space science and technological research. At the same time, the bill preserves U.S. national interests in the space shuttle and Mission to Planet Earth by laying the foundation to privatize the space shuttle and bring the emerging commercial remote sensing industry into Mission to Planet Earth.

By taking these steps, we bring new revenue streams and capital assets from the private sector into Government space missions. More importantly, we introduce market efficiencies into the large operating systems that NASA created but was never intended to run. In this manner, Congress enables NASA to leverage its resources against those space activities that the private sector cannot perform.

As needed as these measures are, this bill is also important for what it does not do. The Fiscal Year 1996 NASA Authorization Act does not force the precipitous closing of any NASA field centers. While we have encouraged NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin to more aggressively to streamline and consolidate the NASA bureaucracy, Congress must ensure that this process proceeds logically and with long-term programmatic goals in mind. NASA's ongoing zero-based review is the first attempt to restructure the agency without affecting its programs. While this is a commendable effort, congressional action to prioritize NASA programs will also have an impact on the agency's structure. The authorization bill Chairman WALKER and I introduced begins this process by focusing first on NASA's priority programs and then calling for an assessment of Government assets that match those priorities. This assessment will

enable the NASA Administrator to identify those elements of NASA that are crucial to its future and then empower the President to work with Congress on those bureaucratic adjustments deemed necessary to bring the agency into line with national priorities. Our bill complements the intention of the VA/ HUD/ Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee to have the NASA Administrator report his intentions for bureaucratic streamlining to Congress prior to any action, but does not empower the Administrator to close any NASA field centers without first studying the implications of and seeking congressional approval for such an action.

In the end, this bill will help us build a new NASA that once again can lead the United States into a sound economic and technological future.

TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
BLAKESLEE ON THE OCCASION
OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 1995

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to an exceptional city located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. This year, the city of Blakeslee, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding.

Blakeslee is located in Williams County in northwest Ohio. The area has a rich history dating back to earliest settlements in the Ohio Territory. Its position above the St. Joseph River made it a favorite for pioneers traveling West. The city itself dates from its incorporation in 1895.

Today, Blakeslee is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to service. Throughout its history there has never been a lack of enthusiasm or volunteer labor for its many projects. The citizens have continually displayed the Ohio tradition of neighborliness and caring for others.

Mr. Speaker, anniversaries are a time to reflect upon past accomplishments. They are also a time to look toward new horizons. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the history and achievements of the city of Blakeslee and encouraging its citizens to continue to uphold its impressive legacy.

JAPAN APOLOGIZES TO COMFORT
WOMEN

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 1995

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, the Japanese military was quite brutal in its conquests. They raped and pillaged their way across Asia. At some point the Japanese became concerned that the rapes would provoke a backlash against Japanese troops. Therefore, the military established comfort stations, wherever they went—from the Korean peninsula to the Burmese mountains—to provide sexual services to their soldiers. Over 100,000 young women, mostly Ko-

rean, were taken from their homes and forced to serve in these camps as comfort women. They were repeatedly raped, often by dozens of soldiers per day.

As a result of their bondage, many suffer long-term effects of venereal diseases and psychological disorders. In these cultures, rape and prostitution carry such a stigma, that many of the comfort women may never come forward due to the shame associated with the degradation. Those who came forward did so after many years and risked ostracism by their families to do so.

Until 5 years ago, Japan flat out denied the existence of these comfort women. Even after 1992, when they owned up to these war crimes, the Japanese Government denied any legal responsibility to the women involved. Last week, however, Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama reached out to these women, announcing that Japan will send official letters of apology to the surviving Korean victims, make financial reparations, and provide medical care for the abuse that they endured. I commend the Japanese Government for taking such strong action on behalf of these women. I hope that Japan's acknowledgement of their responsibility will aid the healing for the victims.

JAPAN TO APOLOGIZE TO "COMFORT WOMEN"—
PRIME MINISTER PLANS LETTER TO WWII
VICTIMS

(By T.R. Reid)

TOKYO.—Facing serious political trouble in a national election 10 days away, Japan's pacifist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has made a daring decision: He plans to send official letters expressing "humble apologies" to hundreds of victims of Japanese brutality during World War II.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi said the unusual plan would be announced next week—just before the July 23 election for the upper house of the national Diet, or parliament—as part of a broader plan of aid and compensation for so-called "comfort women" in several Asian nations.

"Comfort women" is the term used here to describe the hundreds of thousands of women who were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers fighting in various Asian nations during the war. About 800 to 1,000 of these women are believed to be alive today, and each one will receive a personal letter from the prime minister, Igarashi said, as well as cash and medical care.

If Asian nations accept the step as a sincere Japanese apology, the letters might help alleviate lingering bitterness toward Japan in the region. The forced prostitution—which Japan has only acknowledged in the past five years—is one of the cruelest memories of Japan's harsh colonial rule over much of east Asia in the 1940s.

In domestic political terms, though, the move is a gamble, because any form of apology for World War II has proven controversial here.

But it is something Murayama—long a bitter critic of Japan's aggression in the war—believes in personally. And the prime minister is in such hot water politically that a dramatic move may be worth a try.

The coming election will choose 126 members of the Diet's upper house. Because the upper house has only limited powers, the elections for half its seats every three years are often meaningless. For Murayama, however, this one could prove momentous.

Polls and pundits suggest that Murayama's Socialist Party could lose up to three-quarters of the 41 seats it has at stake. In normal times, Japanese political tradition would de-

mand that the chairman of the losing party resign to take responsibility. And if Murayama were to step down as party leader, he would give up the prime minister's spot as well.

Even if voting day turns into disaster for the Socialists, Murayama might avoid the worst-case scenario. The grandfatherly 71-year-old heads an unlikely liberal-conservative coalition government. The parties can't seem to agree on a possible replacement, so Murayama clings to his job despite meager approval ratings.

Still, a big loss on election day would presumably weaken him even more.

There are some 20 parties competing in the election campaign. They range from major political forces like the Liberal Democratic Party—the most conservative of the major parties—and the reform-minded New Frontier Party to tiny, ad hoc groupings such as the UFO Party, the Refreshing New Party and the Sports and Peace Party, headed by a pro wrestler.

The campaign has failed to grab the attention of the public; voter apathy is so broad that many experts think the turnout will drop below 50 percent for the first time in a national election.

All parties seem to be presenting similar, if vague, plans to revive the sputtering economy. The issue agenda is so blank that more than two dozen of the candidates around the country are TV, movie or sports personalities hoping to trade on their famous names.

In those circumstances, it could make good political sense for Murayama to offer his bold proposal on the comfort women.

Igarashi said the government will announce next week the creation of a fund-raising campaign called "The Asian Peace and Friendship Fund for Women," which will collect private donations plus government money to provide compensation and treatment for any survivor of the sex-slave plaintiffs.

When these funds are distributed to the surviving comfort women, they will be sent with a letter, signed by the prime minister, expressing "humble apologies" for the suffering the Imperial Japanese Army caused the women half a century ago. The apology, Igarashi said, will be expressed in highly respectful, subservient language—a linguistic form of groveling.

The proposal for a fund-raising campaign was set forth tentatively last month. Some of the surviving women praised the idea, as did the government of South Korea, the nation where the largest number of survivors live. Others said the plan was inadequate.

But the idea of a personal letter from Japan's head of state has not been broached here previously. Igarashi revealed it today in a meeting with foreign reporters. His goal may be to have the proposal for a "humble apology" letter reported widely overseas, giving the letter some quality of a fait accompli.

But Murayama and his political advisers may have decided that a battle with conservatives on this point could be a political plus in the days before the national election.

Last month, when Murayama pushed for passage of a formal parliamentary resolution of "deep remorse" for Japan's aggression, his efforts seemed to shore up his standing with the public. Although veterans' groups and nationalist conservatives are bitterly opposed, opinion polls here repeatedly show that most people agree Japan should apologize for its role in the war.

The need for an apology is more broadly accepted in the case of the comfort women than for other Japanese actions. But there are still some politicians who say Japan's use of sex slaves was not different from what other armies tend to do.