

charter member of Zeta Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a member and past president of the Red Bank Men's Club. He was also a member of the National Guardsmen, Inc., and a member of the H.M. Club of America. He was a member of the New Jersey Medical Association and the American Medical Association and was formerly affiliated, before his retirement in 1994, with Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ, and Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to Dr. Wiley, a patriot who served his country with distinction during a time of war, and then came home and continued to serve our society in many ways; as a physician, a leader in community affairs and as a devoted husband and father. He will be missed deeply by his family, friends, colleagues and by our entire community.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON
R.S. 2477

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation that would once and for all resolve the issue known as RS 2477 right-of-ways across Federal lands. RS 2477 right-of-ways provide the rural West access across the expanses of Federal lands in the West. For 110 years, counties, cities, States, and individuals were allowed to establish necessary right-of-ways across Federal lands to provide travel routes between towns, to schools and to homes. In 1976, Congress terminated this ability to establish new right-of-ways but failed to provide the mechanism to adjudicate the established routes. My legislation is a reasonable and efficient way to resolve the thousands of RS 2477 right-of-way claims that exist in the West.

In 1866, Congress promoted the settlement and use of western lands by enacting R.S. 2477, a self-executing, open-ended grant of right-of-ways across public lands. The grant acted as an offer. Where the public accepted the offer, property rights became vested in the holder. The rights were severed from the public domain and are entitled to the same protection as any other property that is not owned by the Federal Government.

RS 2477 simply states:

And be it further enacted, That the right of way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted.

While the language of the grant and the legislative history accompanying the grant may be sparse, the purpose of the grant is not in doubt. As Senator Steward stated, "The mineral lands must remain open and free to exploration and development. * * * It would be a national calamity to adopt any system that would close that region to the prospector." The grant was a crucial element of Congress' scheme to settle the public lands of the West. Access rights were needed across the vast Federal domain to accommodate Congress' goals of economic progress in the West. RS 2477 helped achieve those goals.

In short, the West grew up around these right-of-ways. They made it possible for one

settlement to communicate and trade with another. They made it possible for citizens to legally traverse the broad expanse of public lands in order to interact with the rest of the forming Nation. It is no wonder, then, that courts have commented that revocation of RS 2477 rights would make Congress' original act "a delusion and a cruel and empty vision."

Secretary Babbitt currently has pending regulations that would lead to the closure of thousands of right-of-ways across the West that would cripple our ability to travel, engage in commerce, or access our property. My legislation will resolve these issues in a fair and equitable fashion. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, due to the fact that I was unavoidably detained at a meeting and missed the rollcall on the Chenoweth amendment to the Treasury appropriations bill, had I been present for rollcall Vote No. 532, I would have voted "nay" against the proposal which sought to prohibit use of funds to provide bonuses or any other merit-based salary increase for any employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HEBREW CONGREGATION LOCATED IN ST. THOMAS, VI

HON. VICTOR O. FRAZER

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. FRAZER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, I would like to share with the Members of this body, and the people of this country, a distinction of which we are proud but a fact that is little known to most of our fellow Americans, namely that the Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas, VI proudly boasts that it is the oldest synagogue building in continuous use under the American flag.

In 1976, a small Jewish community of St. Thomas founded the congregation and called it Blessing and Peace. Comprised of only nine families in 1801, the congregation increased to 22 with the arrival of Jewish settlers from England, France, St. Eustatius, and Curacao in 1803. In 1804, the small synagogue was destroyed by fire and was not replaced until 1812. This thriving congregation continued to grow, and in 1823 the building was dismantled and a larger one erected and renamed "Blessing and Peace and Loving Deeds," the Hebrew name it carries to this day. This structure was built in the city of Charlotte Amalie on one of the city's historical landmarks known as Synagogue Hill; it is here the current synagogue stands.

In 1831, the congregation, which by now numbered 64 families, witnessed a citywide fire which destroyed the synagogue. This dedicated and closely knit congregation rebuilt and

reconsecrated their synagogue in 1833. The entire island community, along with assistance from the worldwide Jewry, assisted in this noble undertaking. The lovely synagogue is still actively used today by over 200 families and is the only synagogue on the island of St. Thomas. Since the doors of the synagogue opened in 1833, there has always been a weekly Shabbat Service. Our synagogue also has the distinction of holding the first confirmation ceremony for Jewish youth ever in the Western Hemisphere. This monumental event took place on October 14, 1843.

In 1850, the congregation numbered between 400 and 500 members and the King of Denmark sanctioned and approved a constitution for the Kehilla community. This code of law governed the Jewish community, regulated its membership dues, and established its voting procedures with great precision. Members of the Jewish community held offices of trust and honor on St. Thomas. This period of Jewish activity on St. Thomas was significant and can only be equaled by the present day accomplishments.

Everything in the synagogue is original and dates back to 1833. The benches, the Ark, and the bima are all made of mahogany wood which flourished on the island, but were decimated through overuse by the lumber industry. The chandeliers are from Europe. The lamps are made of Baccarat crystal. The peripheral chandeliers have since been electrified, but the central ones are still lit by candles on important holidays. The walls are specially designed to be hurricane proof, as are the windows. They allow for the free passage of air while blunting the force. The stones are locally quarried, but the bricks come from Europe. The huge sailing ships that arrived from Spain, Portugal, England, Holland, and Denmark had relatively little to sell in the Virgin Islands, and so, filled the hulls of the ships with bricks to be used as ballast. Once they arrived in the islands, the bricks were unloaded and used for local building needs while the ships took back to Europe the locally produced rum and sugar. The cement that holds the bricks together is a mortar made from sand, limestone, and molasses. It is said that in earlier years, children used to lick the walls of the synagogue to taste the sweet molasses. The four pillars that support the building symbolize the four matriarchs in Judaism; they are Sarah, Rachel, Rebecca, and Leah. These pillars, like those at the entrance to the building, were handmade in Denmark from rounded bricks especially for the synagogue.

Another unusual feature of the synagogue is the sand floor. Legend tells us that it is symbolic of the desert through which Moses and the children of Israel wandered for 40 years. The more acceptable explanation had to do with the fact that this was originally a Sephardic orthodox community. During the Spanish Inquisition, when Catholic Spain persecuted all other religions and forcibly converted them to Catholicism, the Jews were forced to practice their religion in the privacy of their home. This was an offense punishable by death. Since religious worship had to be performed in secrecy, they met in cellars and used sand on the floor to muffle the sound of their prayers.

Our beautiful synagogue is a gem in the midst of the Caribbean. Visitors of all faiths experience wonder and awe when standing within its simple and stately interior. On behalf of the Hebrew congregation of St. Thomas

and the people of the Virgin Islands, I invite you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, and my fellow Americans to visit this treasure in the American paradise, and join us in celebrating the bicentennial of this national treasure.

WESTERN PAPERS DECRY
ATTACKS ON RESOURCE AGENTS

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, we are all familiar with the rhetoric of the special interests who benefit from public resources—mining companies, subsidized irrigators, timber companies, coal companies. We hear the same inflated rhetoric from the leaders of the media, county rights, property rights, and Western movements:

The government is threatening our property; the government is controlling our land; the government is conspiring to take away our liberties.

And, moreover, we are told that these allegedly anti-Western actions are promoted by Eastern elites who just don't understand the Western way of life.

The fact is that vigorous defense of our public resource and environmental protection laws is spread throughout the West and the Southwest just as it is through every other region of the country. People in Utah and Montana, California and Oregon, Idaho and Arizona are just as outraged by our giving away of billions of dollars to international mining corporations as people in New York and Florida. They are just as angered by the billions we waste on subsidized forest practices or irrigation subsidies.

The so-called Western voices we hear, in many cases, are the voices of anti-government extremists and the free-enterprise spouting but publicly subsidized corporations that are conspiring to destroy sound management practices.

No aspect of the extremist assault on the environment is more outrageous than the growing threats, intimidations and assaults on law enforcement officials who defend public resources and the people who use them. This House just voted to cut law enforcement funds for the Bureau of Land Management, on whose lands more than 12,000 crimes occurred last year. We have been unable to secure formal hearings in the Judiciary and Resources Committees on the issues of militias and attacks on Federal law enforcement officials. So, the attacks go on, the threats go on, and the Republican leadership of the Congress turns a deaf ear—or worse—to this scandalous behavior.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that people in the West do not share the extremist analysis or the extremist agenda. As usual, it is a tiny fraction of people who, for whatever misguided reason, have decided that the government is the enemy. Large numbers of Western Members of the House have joined us in passing legislation to protect the environment and to reform resource policy as recently as last year.

The reason is that westerners don't like to see their lands desecrated or their resources exploited any more than southerners or east-

erners. If you're a taxpayer living in Boise or Billings, or Salt Lake, or Seattle, you're every bit as outraged as the hundreds of millions of dollars with which we subsidize grazers, or irrigators, or mining companies. People are moving to these Western areas because they treasure the land and want it preserved, not opened up, blown up and peeled back in the relentless search for private profit.

I want to insert into the RECORD a recent editorial from the Seattle Times-Intelligencer, a distinguished Western newspaper, that speaks eloquently to these issues. I am also including an editorial from the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle that speaks to the obsession of the Republican leadership with the Waco shootout but its seeming indifference to the threats to public officials.

[From the Seattle Post Intelligencer]

RIISING TO THE DEFENSE OF FEDERAL LAND
AGENTS

A member of Congress finally has stood up to defend federal land managers in the West who have been under attack from extremists who imagine that they are above the law.

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif. has called for Congress to examine what can be done about the rising tide of violence against government officials who are discharging their legal duties. He rightly chastised Western congressional colleagues who carelessly "legitimize" their paranoid fringe constituencies.

Violence toward and intimidation of federal officials is simply unacceptable, and no member of Congress should be in the business of appearing to indulge it.

Officials of the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service all report instances of violent acts and threats against their employees. The BLM has been bombed in Nevada, and guns have been drawn on national park rangers and fish and wildlife agents, Miller said.

Miller said the Western lawmakers most guilty of providing a small group of extremists "the political space to continue the attacks" are Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, who recently advocated taking guns away from law officers on federal lands; Rep. Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho, for stating that citizens have good reason "to be afraid of their government," and Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., who suggested that federal officials can avoid having guns drawn on them by "exhibiting sensitivity."

All of those lawmakers ought to know better. They deserve condemnation, not to mention a generous dose of ridicule, for their irresponsible statements.

Miller also found fault with House Speaker Newt Gingrich's fulsome remark that "The thing Easterners ought to understand . . . is that there is across the West a genuine sense of fear of the federal government. This is not an extremist position in much of the West."

We beg to differ, Mr. Speaker. If there is any genuine sense of fear across the West, it's a fear of lawless lunatics, not of the duly sworn agents of representative democracy.

"Will the speaker next rise with words of sympathy for the 'genuine fear' felt by the Bloods and the Crips, by the Aryan Nation and by the Ku Klux Klan?" Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., asked in a floor speech.

It is indeed "irrational," as Miller contends, to suggest that the federal government should retreat from its duties because of the paranoid delusions of a few frustrated citizens who fantasize that fish and wildlife agents are the vanguard of a tyrannical New World Order.

[From the San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle, July 16, 1995]

WHACKED OUT ON WACO—THE ONLY CONSPIRACY HOUSE REPUBLICANS WILL FIND IN HEARINGS ON THE BRANCH DAVIDIAN SIEGE IS THEIR OWN: TO GET THE PRESIDENT

If you believe this week's hearings into the 1993 Waco disaster will ferret out the truth, you might as well join the National Rifle Association, become a survivalist and move to Montana.

The hearings, called by House Republicans to investigate the siege of the Branch Davidian compound and its conclusion by holocaust, aren't about law enforcement. They're about politics.

They seek to embarrass President Clinton and butter up those increasingly visible radical right wingers who believe in the black helicopters and buy into the theory that maintenance marks on Indiana road signs are really secret codes for invading United Nations troops.

It's really too bad the Rev. Jim Jones isn't around to tell the House "probers" how he was harassed by government agents and forced to dispense poisoned Flavor-Aid to more than 900 of his followers in the Guyanese jungle. Just like David Koresh, Jones oozed phony charisma, stockpiled weapons and kept his enslaved and soon-to-be-slaughtered followers, including children, in brainwashed thrall.

The truth about Jonestown is that Jim Jones was a mass murderer.

The truth about Waco is that Koresh was a mass murderer. He gave the orders to start shooting when federal agents showed up in February 1993, resulting in a bloodbath. And he gave the orders to incinerate four score of his followers 51 days later when agents started to knock down the walls of his hypocrisy.

The feds made serious mistakes—but they were acting at all times to save lives, not snuff them out. After the final raid, Attorney General Janet Reno became a folk hero because she shouldered the blame. But she relied on bad information: There was no evidence children were being abused inside the compound. A September 1993 Treasury Department report—thicker than the San Francisco telephone white pages—details the bad decisions. Heads rolled, and policies changed.

Preoccupied with elections and its "Contract With America," the GOP couldn't get to oversight until now. The grotesque irony is that these congressional hearings take place when the terror of the Oklahoma City bombing is still in people's bones. How can House Republicans skip over the murder of 168 innocent Americans in order to dredge up ghosts of Waco?

Politics conquers all.

Incidentally, David Koresh is not the optimal Republican poster boy.

The hearings we need would inquire into real enemies: the paramilitary groups of disillusioned, disaffected souls who pose a threat to American values and lives. The Oklahoma City bombers—perhaps acting to "avenge" Waco—demonstrated the danger. Law-abiding citizens are, and ought to be, scared stiff of these gunslinging conspiracy nuts.

In a sense, the Waco hearings provide cover for a new-found right to hate government. The motto becomes: "Don't tread on me—or I'll blow you up." Great stuff to stamp with a congressional seal.

Congress isn't famous for consistency. Still for budget whackers, this bunch sure can spend the bucks on show hearings.

Instead of this ox goring—if we must indulge the inbred cousins of James Watt who wind up in Congress—let's throw a big, old-fashioned ox roast. Guests can eat the beast, chug Coors beer, listen to Pat Boone, snip a