

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No, there is not.

Mr. GORTON. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT'S INTENTION TO VETO THE RESCISSIONS BILL

Mr. GORTON. This morning, Mr. President, the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, announced that he intended to veto the rescissions bill, a proposal to save some \$16 billion of already appropriated money as a modest down payment on the tremendous fiscal crisis facing the United States today.

This announcement was both a surprise and, I believe, almost unprecedented because, Mr. President, I am informed by the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and can speak from my own personal knowledge as the chairman of one of the subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, that there was no communication emanating from the White House and directed at the conference committee which has been in almost continuous session for some 2 weeks on this rescissions bill about the President's desires or about his bottom line.

Mr. President, this is in dramatic contrast with conference committees on appropriations bills in the past, in either the Reagan administration or the Bush administration, in which that contact between the White House and the Congress was constant and in which the bottom line of the President was always well and clearly known to members of the conference.

Here, by contrast, we had a situation in which the White House was almost totally silent with respect to its request about rescissions. The President still pays lip service to a \$16 billion goal which must be seven or eight times larger than the goal of his original rescissions bill itself. But only after the deed is done, only when all that remains for the Congress is the formality of the approval of this conference committee report, do we hear, first, that it does not cut enough dollars from what the President describes as pork, and takes too much out of proposals which are of greater interest to him.

Mr. President, a few general remarks.

The President attacks spending on Federal courthouses, on the building of U.S. courthouses in various parts of the country.

Mr. President, I have no dog in this fight. Earlier, there was a courthouse in Seattle in one of these appropriations bills, but it is rescinded in this bill. So none of the so-called pork exists in my State.

And there is also criticism of a number of highway projects that were not rescinded. But note, Mr. President, I said "not rescinded." Every one of these projects which the President of the United States now describes as pork, he signed into law less than a year ago. Last year's appropriations

bill for transportation, for the Treasury Department, for GSA, for the Post Office, was signed and hailed by the President. Those bills had every one of these projects contained in them and more besides, a significant number that are rescinded in this bill. So today we have described as pork proposals which the President hailed last year and proposals which spent more last year when he signed them than this year when some but not all have been rescinded.

What in the world could have happened to have changed the President's mind about specific projects in the course of 6 months, he does not tell us.

Mr. President, as recently as about 2 months ago, when the original rescissions debate had been completed in both the House of Representatives and here in the U.S. Senate, the President said of the Senate proposal,

The bill passed 99 to 0 in the Senate, and I will sign the Senate bill if the House and Senate will send it to me. That's how we should be doing the business of America.

Mr. President, I think it is more than safe to say that the bill the President attacked today is considerably closer to the proposal passed by the Senate just a few weeks ago than those passed by the House of Representatives. In many of the very education and job training areas which the President now uses as an excuse to veto this bill, the Senate provision prevailed, lock, stock, and barrel, was accepted by the conferees. In several others, the compromise is considerably closer to the Senate provision than it is to the House provision, in some, it is 50-50, and maybe, in one or two, it is closer to the House provision.

But, Mr. President, a tiny handful—2, 3, 4 percent—of the dollar amount of rescissions fall into the categories which the President now criticizes.

And, Mr. President, one more repetition of my first point. Not a word about this 1, 2, 3, 4 percent of these rescissions being deal busters, being entirely unacceptable to the President, was communicated to the conference committee while it was in being.

Mr. President, is it not safe to say, overwhelmingly safe to say, that the President of the United States wanted to have something in this bill that could give him a political excuse for a veto? I regret to say that I believe that to be the case.

And one more not incidental point, Mr. President: there is a part of this bill that the President of the United States mentioned today which comes very close to home. I know the Presiding Officer will remember the debate on the floor of the Senate here on so-called timber language. That vote was very close in language, of which I was the author, and was substituted for much more stringent House language in the course of the debate here in the Senate. But even our milder language passed only by a narrow margin.

Briefly, the House of Representatives mandated a certain harvest level of

salvage timber in all of the national forests of the United States. The Senate, in language which I wrote, did not mandate any harvest at all but simply freed this administration to carry out its own plans for salvage timber and its own plans for harvest in the forests of the Pacific Northwest under option 9.

In no way did the House language require President Clinton and his administration to do anything that it had not planned to do. It simply freed what the administration wants to do, consistent with its views of all the environmental laws from the constant blizzard of litigation to which it has been subjected over the last several years.

And in fact, as recently as a week ago, the new Secretary of Agriculture, who, of course, has the Forest Service under his jurisdiction, wrote a letter to the chairman of this conference committee, one of the few interventions by anyone in the administration with the work of the conference committee, and said, and I am quoting him:

We believe that the Senate provision which directs the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to "prepare, offer and award salvage timber sale contracts to the maximum extent feasible to reduce the backlog volume of salvage timber in the interior" offers a more responsible approach than was adopted by the House.

So a week ago this Senate timber provision was evidently acceptable to the administration. Now, Mr. President, the timber provision which is denominated by the President of the United States today as being a giveaway to big timber companies is the original Senate language amended only in minor details in a way that the administration itself asked us to amend it.

I repeat, Mr. President, what Mr. Clinton now criticizes is a set of provisions his own Secretary of Agriculture approved of by this language a week ago with minor changes that they suggested themselves. It is not the original House language.

Now, our Chief Executive is either ignorant of the rules which govern timber sales in the Forest Service or deliberately disingenuous when he begins, once again, the class warfare of big timber companies. Most of the big timber companies in the Pacific Northwest at least are not eligible to harvest Forest Service timber because they export some of the logs that they own from their own lands—the Plum Creeks, the Weyerhaeusers of this world are not a part of this process at all.

Who are these so-called big timber companies that will benefit from this? Let me read you a couple of letters that I have received in the course of the last month.

The first one is from Tom Mayr, of the Mayr Bros. Co. in Hoquiam, WA, a local mill in that community. I am quoting:

Slade, you must realize that this amendment is the single most important piece of legislation in over 5 years to Mayr Brothers and many independent sawmills like ours. Congress and President Clinton have said

that they would get us timber, but there hasn't been any significance sold since 1990 on the Olympic National Forest. Your amendment would realize four of our 318 timber sales with enough log volume to run the large log mill two shifts for 1 year. This would put 50 people back to work immediately.

Or another one from one of what apparently are these huge timber conglomerates, the Hurn Shingle Co. in Concrete, WA, and I quote:

It is nice to see that there is some hope for our shake and shingle mill. We have not operated our mill, due to lack of raw materials, since December 1993. We only operated 12 weeks in 1993. So, as you and I both know, any help you can give us would be encouraging. These amendments are very important for our company, as a wood supply would be something that we have not had for a very long time.

These are typical responses, Mr. President, and it is that kind of small-town, independently owned company providing employment where it is not otherwise available that will be modest beneficiaries of the President's inadequate, in my view, option 9 and of the opportunity to harvest timber which has been partly destroyed by forest fires or by bug infestation all across the country and which, within a relatively short period of time, will rot to the point at which it is not worth anything from a commercial point of view but becomes magnificent kindling wood for future forest fires, fires like that which devastated the Northwest last summer.

So, Mr. President, we have a Chief Executive who criticizes timber provisions his own Secretary of Agriculture previously approved, who criticizes as pork spending on public buildings that he approved by his signature on appropriations bills last year, and who criticizes modest reductions in programs he likes about which he was entirely silent during the deliberations of the conference committee.

Mr. President, that is not the way in which a Chief Executive of this country should act. It is not responsible to the affected people. It is not responsive to his duty to help us to begin to work toward a balanced budget. It is not responsive in his relationships with this body or with the House of Representatives.

I regret this politicization of the process, and I have every hope that if we must begin this process over again, we say to the President, what we said this time we mean next time and if you want cooperation, if you want the additional money you have asked for for other programs, you need to be willing to work with the Congress and stick to your own word in the future.

This is an extremely disappointing message, not just to the Members of this body who have worked so hard on coming up with an important bill, but because of its destructive impact on a drive toward responsibility, fiscal prudence, and a change in the way in which politics is practiced in the United States.

We were selected last year, Mr. President—I know this is particularly true with respect to the Presiding Officer—because we were going to do things differently and keep our commitments. We have done so, and we are now frustrated in carrying out the people's will by this action.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO KAY RIORDAN STEUERWALD

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Kay Riordan Steuerwald, who passed away earlier this week in Rapid City after a lengthy battle with cancer. South Dakota has lost an outstanding citizen.

Kay was one of South Dakota's premier leaders in the tourism industry for many years. To her many friends in South Dakota and throughout the Nation, Kay's name always will be associated with Mount Rushmore. As president of the Mount Rushmore Mountain Co., Inc., Kay ran a first-rate, visitor-friendly concession operation at our Nation's shrine to democracy for 42 years until 1993. She attributed her success to an emphasis on good service and reasonable prices.

Kay also was a leader on the national level in tourism and national park concession circles. In the early 1980's, I recommended Kay's appointment to the U.S. Senate National Travel and Tourism Advisory Council. Through her position on that council and her leadership in numerous other organizations, Kay was an outspoken advocate for the tourism industry, which has tremendous economic impact in all States.

Kay provided an excellent role model for women seeking to become small business owners. This is a reflection of her business acumen and her adherence to the work ethic. She succeeded as a businesswoman during a period when for many years business was traditionally considered a man's world. Her first job was in the South Dakota Transportation Department in Pierre during the administration of Democratic Gov. Tom Berry in the 1930's. Her career as a business owner began with her purchase of a coffeeshop and subsequently a hotel in Martin, SD. In 1941, she left Martin to become manager of the State Game Lodge in Custer State Park. Ten years later, she began operating the concession at Mount Rushmore.

Over the years, Kay touched the lives either directly or indirectly of literally millions of visitors to Mount Rushmore. Countless individuals have fond memories of a wonderful dinner—

topped off by a piece of the Mountain Co.'s famous strawberry pie—in the Buffalo Dining Room gazing out the windows at the priceless view of our four great Presidents on Mount Rushmore.

Kay was very active in many organizations and community activities. Too numerous to mention all of them, her civic involvement included the National Park Concessionaires, National Federation of Independent Businesses, South Dakota Tourism Advisory Board, National Park Foundation, South Dakota Historical Society, American Council of the Arts, South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, South Dakota 4-H Foundation, and executive board of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks.

Having led a life full of accomplishments, Kay also received numerous awards over the years. She was one of the few women ever to be named an Honorary Park Ranger by the National Park Service. She was the first woman to receive the South Dakotan of the Year Distinguished Service Award from the University of South Dakota and was named South Dakota Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration in 1980. May 5, 1982, was designated as Kay Riordan Day by Gov. Bill Janklow. In 1985, Kay received South Dakota's prestigious Ben Black Elk Award for Tourism.

In addition to her philanthropic contributions to numerous civic projects, Kay also helped many people privately on an individual basis. She frequently took young people under her wings and assisted them with furthering their education or getting started in business. Kay was a strong patron of the arts, particularly for native American artists.

Those of us who knew Kay can recall our own special encounters with her. I recall Kay's gracious hospitality when my wife, Harriet, and I spent our honeymoon in the Black Hills in the early 1980's. Kay always made visitors feel welcome whenever they stopped by her business or her second-story office with the beautiful view of Mount Rushmore. Many lessons can be learned from Kay's perseverance in the business world, her strongly held personal convictions, and her courageous struggle with cancer these past few years.

South Dakota has lost a true pioneer. In business, in her community, and in her heart, Kay was a trailblazer. Harriet and I extend our sympathies to her husband, Charlie; her nephew, Jack; and all her family and friends.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD FROM THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, each year an elite group of young women rise above the ranks of their peers and confront the challenge of attaining the Girl Scouts of the United States of America's highest rank in scouting, the Girl Scout Gold Award.