

freshman was seated at the far end of the dais from the chairman, heard this and said "nobody is going to tell me how to vote; nobody is going to tell me what to do" in a voice loud enough for everyone in the room to hear. And nobody did ever tell him how to vote and get away with it. Joe Resnick was a man of conscience. His campaign literature reflected this—"I am my own man. I represent no special interest. I speak and vote only in accordance with my conscience and judgment to benefit the people I represent. The political bosses don't control me." And they didn't. Speaker Foley went on to tell me that Joe Resnick never did hit it off with that committee chairman and never got help from him. But Joe Resnick had his own circle of friends in powerful places, most notably his friendship with President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Joe was an energetic public servant as well, working hard to bring Federal programs to the people who needed them—from food relief to helping to keep Castle Point veterans hospital from closing. He even brought President Lyndon Baines Johnson to Ellenville, for the dedication of Ellenville Hospital, on a day which is still remembered today. Although Joe Resnick was a prosperous man at the time of his untimely death in 1968, he and his brothers, with whom he founded the famed Channel Master Corporation, have never for a moment forgotten their humble origins as children of immigrant parents from Russia. His story, and the story of his large, extended family, is the story of America itself—hardworking, dedicated, and big hearted in all the right places and at all the right times.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow would have been Joe Resnick's birthday and I want to respectfully invite my colleagues to join me in offering our prayers and best wishes to Joe Resnick's family on that day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my present vote on H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act, respects the rights of all of my constituents. Those constituents who are members of the vast, believing and proud religious community along with those constituents who simply seek human dignity. This vote fulfills my commitment on behalf of my constituents to be accessible, accountable and responsible.

PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator and the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, recently wrote an eloquent Independence Day July Fourth guest column for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in support of our Nation's natural treasures. As Senator Nelson points out, our National Parks,

National Forests and National Wilderness Areas are among our Nation's greatest blessings. We Americans must treasure these special places just as we treasure peace, freedom, and democracy.

America's public lands constitute a historic, natural legacy that belongs to all Americans. We simply hold these lands in trust for future generations, and must manage them for the benefit of all. Our children and grandchildren deserve to enjoy the beauty and majesty of their rightful natural inheritance in the years to come.

Today, there are some in Congress who see the control of our Nation's crown jewels as the province of solely parochial special interests who desire to define the use of our parks and wilderness areas to suit their personal convenience and preferences, and even for commercial purposes. Within my home State of Minnesota, some individuals are advocating extending authority to a management council—a new expensive cumbersome bureaucracy of local parochial special interests—for control of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness [BWCAW] and Voyageurs National Park. These proponents also want to enshrine extensive snowmobile use on the pristine Kabetogama Peninsula of Voyageurs National Park and to increase motorized vehicle use within a BWCAW, a national wilderness. Such proposals benefit only a select few at the expense of the 250 million Americans who share common ownership of these national treasures in Minnesota.

I hope all my colleagues will take a few minutes to read Senator Nelson's insightful July Fourth essay on what it means to be an American and in defense of our National Parks and public lands. We have an obligation to protect these American crown jewels, not only our national legacy, but that of future generations.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 4, 1996]

WE SHOULD RENEW OUR PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

(By Gaylord Nelson)

As you watch the fireworks on the Fourth of July, what is it that makes you glad to be an American? The freedom to say whatever you please? The economic opportunities? Peace? On this Independence Day, all of those are worth celebrating.

But one of our greatest blessings is usually taken for granted. Every child born in this country instantly becomes a large landowner. He or she holds title to 623 million acres—nearly a million square miles. This acreage includes some of the planet's most spectacular places: the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and, closer to home, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. No other country endows its citizens so richly.

Most of us know about the national parks. But they account for just 12 percent of the lands that all of us own jointly. Three other systems of lands make up the other 88 percent and are less well known. There are 155 national forests (including the Chippewa and Superior), 508 national wildlife refuges and 267 million acres of western heritage lands, including ancient Pacific Northwest forests, the California Desert and red rock canyonlands in Utah.

These places offer world-class recreation opportunities and receive 1.4 billion recreation visits a year. They contain 4,000 developed campgrounds and 160,000 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. About half the game fish habitat in the United States lies on the

national lands, and 43 percent of all big-game hunters use these lands for their activities.

Our lands provide far more than fun and games, though. They are like an enormous university, teaching youngsters on field trips and all other visitors about the natural world and about our history. The forests filter rainwater, which then flows to our cities and towns. In the West, 96 percent of the population depends on water from the national lands. Trees on these lands also help clean the air and stabilize the climate.

You can even think of these million square miles as a gigantic natural laboratory, where scientists study and researchers discover medicines that treat diseases and make us healthier. Without these places, many of our fish, plants and animals would have no chance of surviving.

These lands even play a vital economic role. Those 1.4 billion annual visitors create a lot of business for stores and companies located near these lands. Late last year, when gridlock in Congress led to the temporary shutdown of our national parks, businesses lost a total of \$14 million a day. Other businesses, which have nothing to do with tourism, are attracted to such areas because of their beauty and peacefulness and thus create jobs in those communities. In addition, the trees, minerals, and other commodities on these lands are tuned into paper and other products.

Ownership of all this land, including 3.48 million acres in Minnesota, carries a duty. "The nation behaves well," President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

Unfortunately, various special interests are eager to exploit these lands for maximum short-term financial gain, at the expense of the lands' many other values. Congress is now considering bills that would promote development of many of these places or give them to the states. One example is legislation to increase motorized activities and development of Boundary waters and Voyageurs. Passage of these proposals would harm the interests of all citizens, present and future.

On this most American of holidays, we should commit ourselves to honoring the vision of those who protected our best places. In our national lands, we have inherited the very essence of "America the Beautiful," and we must make sure our grandchildren do, too.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to oppose the funding measure before us. While Chairman PORTER and the other members of the subcommittee have worked to

produce a bill that is much better than last year's legislation; I believe that it still falls short of the important needs of our children and schools.

Let me first commend the efforts of the subcommittee for their efforts in the field of health research. Given the many funding restrictions, I am pleased that the National Institutes of Health have received an increase of 6.9 percent. NIH is the world's leading biomedical research institution and funding such research is today's investment in America's future.

However, I am troubled by the cuts the bill makes to the education budget. These cuts fall below the level necessary to keep up with inflation and projected future growth. Moreover, such decreases would result in a total cut to education programs of 7 percent below the fiscal year 1995 levels at the same time that school enrollment is projected to increase by 7 percent. Similarly, Perkins loans and State student incentive grants are eliminated, affecting over 220,000 college students. Goals 2000 education reform and Eisenhower teacher training grants are also eliminated.

The bill provides \$475 million less for title I funding than the president requested; \$307 million less for special education; and \$729 million less for student financial assistance. Funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools is cut \$25 million below last year's level, and bilingual education is cut \$11 million below last year's amount.

These proposed cuts in education funding run the risk of creating a real crisis in education for the Nation's children. State and local governments already face difficult challenges in educating our children given the growing demands placed on schools at a time of constrained budgets and aging facilities.

I believe that these cuts are dangerously short-sighted. Funding education programs and initiatives should be one of the top priorities in creating a better future, both for the Nation and for individual families everywhere. Indeed, a better educated citizenry and workforce are critical to competing in the changing global economy and in maintaining a strong democracy.

In addition to the cuts in education, the bill also contains unnecessarily harsh cuts in programs needed to enforce labor, wage, and health standards for American workers. For example, the bill provides \$43 million less than the President requested for OSHA, and \$46 million less for enforcement of employment standards, including wage and hour standards. Funds for the National Labor Relations Board are cut \$25 million or 15 percent below last year's level.

The American worker has been under attack since the first day of this Congress. These men and women are the engine of our economy and they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. They also deserve a safe workplace. I am very pleased that the amendment offered by my colleague from California, Mrs. PELOSI, was accepted by the House. This important amendment deleted a rider that would have banned OSHA from protecting workers from musculoskeletal disorders, which represent America's fastest growing workplace health problem. In spite of our budget constraints, we must not retreat from worker protection laws that have benefited thousands of American workers.

As I stated at the outset, this bill is much improved over last year's Labor-HHS bill.

However, critical funding deficiencies remain and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the final passage of H.R. 3005, Securities Amendments of 1996, when the yeas and nays were ordered on June 19, 1996. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the bill.

NATIONAL PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1996

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 12, 1996

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, this week I introduced legislation that would help alleviate the enormous \$4.5 billion backlog of capital needs in America's national parks. I believe this is a problem that demands the immediate attention of Congress, even as we seek to balance the Federal budget and struggle to reduce the Nation's staggering \$5.2 trillion debt. Congress has increased funding for national parks in fiscal year 1997, but the need is growing much faster. Park utilization is rising rapidly, and infrastructure needs replacement. We cannot expect appropriated funds to meet all of these needs. The time has come for us to explore more creative solutions to this vexing problem.

One thing Congress can do is to make it possible for substantial funds to be raised in the private sector for parks. The bill I am introducing today does just that. It provides an innovative mechanism for the public to invest directly in the preservation and enhancement of our national parks.

Specifically, my bill enables private, nonprofit organizations associated with the National Park Service to issue taxable capital development bonds that would be paid for by park entrance fees, that are not to exceed \$2 per visitor. Money collected in a particular park will be used to secure bonds that fund improvements in that park. I think the preceding statement is the cornerstone of this legislation and it bears repeating. Money collected in a particular park will be used to secure bonds that fund improvements in that park. Any national park with capital needs in excess of \$5 million will be eligible to participate in the revenue bonds program.

I believe park officials will enthusiastically embrace this program, and the Director of the National Park Service has already informed me that he is excited about the prospects of this legislation. After all, the needs are real, immediate, and nationwide. Moreover, my bill offers a practical solution to a serious dilemma. Rangers at Grand Canyon National Park, for example, are obliged to live in squalid conditions because funds have not been available to build sufficient housing. Saguaro National Park has an estimated \$10 million backlog in infrastructure needs, while Rocky

Mountain National Park has deferred \$50 million in needed improvements.

Yellowstone National Park has had to close a major campground and two museums for lack of funds, and this year, Great Smoky Mountains National Park shut down 10 campgrounds and adjoining picnic areas. The national cemetery at Vicksburg National Military Park has been forced to defer \$6 million in restoration and stabilization work, while Shenandoah National Park reports a \$12 million backlog in facility maintenance.

My legislation is similar to a bill recently introduced by my distinguished colleague and friend, Senator JOHN MCCAIN. It allows private, nonprofit groups to enter into partnership agreements with individual parks and the Secretary of the Interior, to act as authorized organizations for the benefit of the parks they serve. These organizations will work with park superintendents to prepare lists of capital improvement projects that are to be financed by taxable capital development bonds. These nonprofit groups, also, would be authorized to issue and manage such bonds on behalf of the parks.

My bill adds a stipulation that no part of the bond proceeds, except interest, may be used to defray administrative costs. Bond holders and the visiting public will be assured that every dollar raised will actually be spent on in-park improvements. Also, the bill will allow memoranda of agreement between nonprofit entities and the National Park Service to be modified in the event funding priorities change. Perhaps most importantly, bonds issued by the nonprofit associations will be backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government in the event that Congress should remove the authority to assess the \$2 entrance fee.

Mr. Speaker, in these fiscally austere times, we simply must become more creative in finding ways to address the needs of our National Park System. The concept of issuing revenue bonds to fund capital improvements is not new. Private industry, municipalities, and other sectors of local government have used revenue bonds for decades and with great success. We can successfully apply this approach to fund capital development needs in our national parks, as well.

My bill also encourages real, beneficial partnerships between the Federal Government and the private sector. Many groups, like the National Park Foundation, the Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the nearly 70 cooperating associations that presently serve the National Park Service, already provide invaluable financial support to the National Park Service. Their success proves that public-private partnerships can and do in fact work for the benefit of our public institutions. My legislation will greatly expand the ability of these organizations to aid the parks we cherish, and I believe they are ready and eager to rise to the challenge.

Some have suggested that we should allow corporations to become commercial sponsors of the National Park Service. Indeed, legislation to this effect has been introduced in the Senate, and some park supporters have voiced qualified support for the proposal. But I, for one, take a dim view of the prospect that we should commercialize America's crown jewels—our precious national parks—in order to save them.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Senator JOHN MCCAIN recently noted that "Americans are