

reviewing public comments for a third proposal in the Resurrection and Palmer Creek valleys near Hope.

Environmentalists are not satisfied with the Forest Service decision to scale back logging plans and have admitted they won't be happy until ALL logging plans are dropped.

The Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) has formed the Forest Defense Network to whip up public opposition against logging and influencing public policy. In a recent mass mailing, ACE noted the Forest Defense Network is kicking into high gear with a door-to-door campaign. Media campaigns are being developed and demonstrations are being planned among other events and programs. ACE is asking Alaskans to join its network, write letters, participate in direct actions and "help stop senseless logging."

The Campaign has generated scores of letters to the Anchorage Daily News and the Forest Service in opposition to logging. ACE has asked its members to host letter writing parties targeting not only the Anchorage Daily News, but newspapers outside Alaska, including the Los Angeles Times.

The cover of the ACE mailer featured a picture of a clearcut with the superimposed headline, "It's Time To Clearcut Our Kenai Peninsula: Do You Agree or Disagree?" The mailer was filled with emotion and left readers with the impression that a healthy and green forest was being clearcut at alarming rates by the worst polluters in the entire Pacific Northwest.

Absent from the mailer was the fact that logging is occurring in areas heavily infested by the spruce bark beetle and that the infestation is transforming Kenai Peninsula viewsheds into grave-yards of brown dead or dying trees.

Forests concede logging cannot stop the infestation, but emphasize that a combined program of harvesting and reforestation can restore forest health much faster than if no action is taken.

Forest scientist explain that new harvesting programs utilizing modern forest management initiatives to protect wildlife and fisheries is a reforestation program that will lead to a young, healthy and vigorous growing forest. Since most of Southcentral Alaska is now a fire suppression area, they say logging would take out the dead trees, as opposed to nature's way—fire. If no logging is allowed, many timber stands on the Kenai may revert to grasslands.

With its varied patterns of land ownership, the Kenia Peninsula is a great ecological, long-term experiment in forest management. While extensive logging is occurring near Homer on State and private land, very little cutting is taking place on the much larger expanses of the Peninsula. Only a fraction of the beetle infested spruce will be cut on the Chugach while no commercial logging will occur on the Kenia National Wildlife Refuge and Kenai Fjords National Park. Foresters will be watching the different rates of regrowth, company areas actively managed for logging and reforestation with those forests left to stand as gray ghosts.

NATO ENLARGEMENT FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, today we have another opportunity to promote peace and se-

curity in the world. The NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act will prepare for the eventually inclusion of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. As an original cosponsor of the bill, I want to express my strong support for this measure.

The nations of East Central Europe, particularly Poland, have suffered tremendously throughout history. Indeed, they have paid a high price for their unfortunate geographic location. Caught between aggressive neighbors, the sovereignty of these nations has continuously been threatened.

Presently, NATO is in a unique position to help these emerging nations. NATO membership can provide the stability that this region needs as it strives toward democratic institutions and market economies. There is every reason to believe that the presence of NATO will lead to the same political and economic successes that Western Europe has enjoyed in the post-war era.

I am convinced that active engagement with Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic is necessary in the tumultuous years following the cold war. Western institutions such as NATO are crucial to fostering a close relationship with these developing democracies and bringing East Central Europe into the community of prosperous, peaceful nations.

RECOGNITION OF OHIO NORTHERN UNIVERSITY IN ADA, OH

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions made by Ohio Northern University of Ada, OH. In commending Ohio Northern University for 125 years of prominent service to higher education, I know the rankings are well deserved. As a child I grew up near Ohio northern's campus. My father even graduated from ONU's College of Law. From personal experience, I know ONU is a great contributor to our community. I submit my appreciation and acknowledgment of the efforts taken by the staff, students, and administration. Their combined work has distinguished ONU as one of the best universities in the Midwest according to "US News and World Report." ONU can boast such excellence with a student-faculty ratio of 13:1 and an incoming class in which 1 in 11 is either a valedictorian or salutatorian. Other accolades include recognition in Peterson's "Competitive College Guide" and in Barron's "Profiles of American Colleges" as a very competitive university. Considering the caliber of schools this fine institution competes with, one easily sees that all of Ohio benefits from such a productive and rewarding partnership. I feel that the tradition of quality higher education is being upheld and improved upon by ONU and all the other fine institutions recently listed among this Nation's best. I sincerely wish them continued success.

WAGE WOES BENEATH THE ROSY NUMBERS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. This article by Bruce Bartlett clearly describes the true economic worries that American families are facing. Because of stagnant wages and a median family income that has remained flat under the Clinton administration's leadership, families are feeling the Clinton economic crunch. This country would benefit instead from lower taxes that raise family income.

[From the Washington Times, July 8, 1996]

WAGE WOES BENEATH THE ROSY NUMBERS

(By Bruce Bartlett)

For many years, economists and political scientists have studied the relationship between elections and the economy. Their unsurprising conclusion is that when the economy is good, voters tend to reward the incumbent president. On this basis, Bill Clinton would appear to be in good shape. The unemployment rate in May was 5.6 percent, down from 7.5 percent in 1992. At the same time, inflation has been stable at about 2.5 percent and real economic growth has been slow but steady at about 2.2 percent per year.

But beneath these adequate, if unspectacular, numbers lies a potentially serious danger for Mr. Clinton. That is the stagnation in wages and incomes. In short, while the macroeconomy has moved upward, workers and families have been left behind. Real median family income—the single best measure of economic well-being—has been flat during the Clinton years, and down considerably from the Reagan years. Real wages have been flat as well, with increasing numbers of workers forced to work two jobs to make ends meet. And the Clinton administration is not unaware of this problem. Indeed, Labor Secretary Robert Reich has been the most eloquent spokesman for the malaise of the working class. As he put it in a 1995 report:

"In the past year, the American economy has caught fire—but the gains to most American workers have gone up in smoke. Last year at this time, the median full-time worker in this country was earning \$479 per week. This year, factoring in inflation, the median wage is \$475 per week—\$4 less in average weekly paycheck. Among working families, 11 percent do not earn enough to lift themselves above the poverty line. Compared with last year, this year some 636,000 more Americans are working two jobs."

In the year since, all of the concerns expressed by Mr. Reich have gotten worse. The only thing that has changed is the administration line. Recognizing that Mr. Clinton is vulnerable on the issue of wages and incomes, the Council of Economic Advisers issued a report in April totally contradicting Mr. Reich's position. According to the CEA, workers are actually doing great. Since then, Mr. Reich has been noticeably less vocal about the problem of stagnant wages, except for a strained effort to blame the whole thing on a decline in the real minimum wage.

The vast majority of workers make well above the minimum wage. Their problems are the result of slow growth and higher taxes that have reduced their disposable incomes. What they need is faster growth and lower taxes. If the Republicans can make this case, they will find a receptive audience among many Democratic workers and families.

TRIBUTE TO V.F.W. STATE
COMMANDER CRAIG SWARTZ

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Craig Swartz, an outstanding individual and a fine soldier, who was recently installed as State commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Ohio.

A resident of Fremont for 45 years, Craig is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was wounded three times in Vietnam. He has been active with the V.F.W. since 1983. Over the course of his service, he was elected commander of the Fremont Post 2947 in 1986 and served three terms in that capacity. In 1989, he was elected commander of Firelands County Council and was named all-State and all-American county council commander. He has now been honored six times as an all-American, an accomplishment that had never been achieved by an Ohio member.

I firmly believe that we can never thank our veterans enough for putting their lives on the line in defense of our Nation. As a veteran myself, I am aware of the tremendous service veterans organizations give to their communities and the country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, Craig Swartz's distinguished military service is a model of patriotism and citizenship. His commitment to the V.F.W. continues this exemplary service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Craig, his wife Cindy, and their children well as the Swartz family begins this new chapter in their lives.

May they fully enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom that Craig Swartz has so ably defended as a U.S. Marine.

NATO ENLARGEMENT
FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit for the RECORD a statement by Peter Lucaci and Dr. Nicholas Dima of the Union and League of Romanian Societies of America concerning NATO enlargement and the position of American-Romanians. The Union and League of Romanian Societies of America is the largest Romanian-American organization in our country, and strongly supports expanding ties between the United States and Romania.

However, although I often agree with Mr. Lucaci and Dr. Dima's views about Romania, I do not fully share their certainty about Romania's eligibility to join NATO in the near term.

NATO, for the past 45 years, has been a cornerstone of our Nation's defense, and the bulwark of Western democracy and free-market economics. The success of the alliance is without question.

A major reason for that success has been the alliance's intolerance of authoritarian or undemocratic regimes within its ranks. Although democratic governments were overthrown by military juntas in Greece and Turkey, both countries joined NATO as democ-

racies and both countries have reverted to democratic governments. Spain was not permitted to join NATO until it demonstrated its commitment to parliamentary democracy.

It must also be recognized that NATO is not anti-Russian, nor is it even anti-Communist; rather, it is pro-democracy. NATO is, and always has been, a defensive alliance behind which democracy and free-market economies could flourish.

It is my unshakable conviction that NATO membership must only be granted to nations that make a fundamental commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and free-market economies.

NATO membership must not be granted willy-nilly to nations that fail to make these commitments. Membership cannot be granted simply because certain nations fear their neighbors or believe that membership will enhance their prospects for democratic or economic progress or reform.

Some formerly Communist nations of Central and Eastern Europe—such as the Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic—have clearly made the transition to free-market democracy and should soon easily qualify to join NATO.

Being half Romanian by descent, I am particularly committed to seeing Romania take its place among the other Central and Western European States with which they share so many political, economic, and cultural traditions. The stability and fate of Romania is vitally important to the peace and security of Europe.

However, I am concerned that many elements of Romania's democratic institutions are fragile and weak. Many veterans of the former Communist regime remain in positions of power. In addition, the government party's financial assets and dominance of the radio and television media give it an unfair advantage over opposition parties.

Thus, I am unconvinced that Romania's progress toward becoming a full fledged democracy with a free-market economy is guaranteed, or that Romania's government is genuinely committed to joining the Western community. For that reason, at this time I have deep reservations concerning Romania's efforts to become a full member of NATO. I now submit for the RECORD the views of Mr. Lucaci and Dr. Dima.

NATO ENLARGEMENT, AND THE AMERICAN-ROMANIAN
POSITION

(By Peter Lucaci)

INTRODUCTION

NATO was created as a means of common defense against the Soviet threat and as a safe mechanism to prevent further wars among its own members. In time, the organization fostered political democracy, prompted economic prosperity, and led to the European Union. Almost five decades later, NATO is seeking enlargement for more or less similar reasons. Our premise is that although no longer openly admitted, Russia continues to represent a potential danger for the stability of Europe. Therefore, the enlargement of NATO should aim at containing Russia while cultivating better relations with it. But, more importantly, NATO should aim at expanding itself to strengthen Europe and the Atlantic Alliance.

Currently, Eastern Europe is undergoing a radical transformation. If coopted by NATO and the European Union, it could become democratic, prosperous, and stable. In our opinion, this is chiefly what makes so many

countries of the region eager to join the two institutions. Another reason is the continuous fear of its powerful neighbors. Eastern Europe was dominated throughout most of this century by Germany and Russia. While Germany was crushed in 1945 and completely changed its attitude afterwards, Russia did not. Even after the recent dismemberment of the Soviet Union, Moscow is still harboring resentments toward the West and designs over the East. This is another reason that makes Russia's neighbors look for security in an alliance with the West.

In the nutshell, the Romanian-American position is identical to the interests of the Romanian nation. It coincides with the American interests in the area. And to a certain degree, it overlaps with the position of the current government of Romania. We simply believe that (a) it is in the interest of Romania to join NATO; (b) it is in the interest of the United States; and (3) it is in the interest of Europe.

If Russia does not share this sentiment, it is because Moscow did not make a political commitment to become a normal member of the international community. In addition, from an economic point of view, Russia is far from offering any model of development capable of attracting other countries. Thus, one can bring stability to Eastern Europe either by changing Russia, or by linking Eastern Europe with the West.

APPROACH TO NATO ENLARGEMENT

Ideally, Russia itself should be coopted into the North Atlantic Organization, but as a culture and mentality, the Russians are not ready to join it. The Russians love their status as great power and the present generation does not appear willing to change this mentality. As a second best, NATO should bring Ukraine into its ranks. However, for the same reasons Moscow would not accept it, and Kiev does not want to challenge Russia. Consequently, if the West wishes to foster more security in this region, the best bet is to coopt as many countries as possible, and make Romania an advanced outpost of NATO.

In this light, from an American-Romanian point of view the best Western approach to any enlargement of NATO would be to bring some countries in on an individual basis if necessary, and to bring others together. If coopted together, Romania and Hungary for example, will be compelled to a more rapid mutual reconciliation, will greatly enhance the stability of the area, and will strengthen NATO position.

ROMANIA'S POSITION

According to several polls, almost the entire population of Romania, and most of its political parties and leaders, agree that Romania should strive to become a full member of both the European Union and the North Atlantic Organization. This will guarantee Romania's security and will consolidate its new democracy, market reforms, and economic development. And Romania is willing to join NATO as soon as possible.

Romania in turn will bring into NATO one of the largest medium-size European countries, an unshakable willingness to be part of Europe and to serve the organization, new resources and markets, and a very useful geo-strategic position at the eastern end of the continent. Romania is at the center of Eastern Europe and it borders the Black Sea, where it has one of the best port facilities of southern Europe. Romania also controls a long stretch of the Danube River, its main navigable channel, and a man-made canal linking the great river with the Black Sea. With this location, Romania makes one of the best links between Europe, southern Russia, and Asia Minor.

From an ethno-cultural point of view, the Romanians are a homogeneous nation of