

Finally, I want to thank each Member of this body for their friendship. I say to them, I hope that God will give them many blessings.

Before closing, let me add another thing: It has been my opinion, Mr. Speaker, that we have here an awesome responsibility to protect our democracy and to defend our Constitution. Too often in today's debate on social economic policies, in this House of Representatives, I believe we have forgotten that we have the right to uphold these two important concepts of our Nation. It seems to me that during these nearly 24 years we have been in turmoil in this country on more than one occasion, but each time democracy has stood firm.

That is why I am saddened that as I prepare to leave here, I see our country not the wonderful liberal, loving country to all of us that we were when I first came in 1973, but instead I see a resurgence of racism, of hatred, of meanness, of mean-spiritedness, and that leaves me extremely saddened.

We know this is true because we hear it on talk radio. We see it in the burning of African-American and other churches. We hear it in remarks that are unkind and unwise. But you know, Mr. Speaker, I still believe in America because after having served here all of this time, I absolutely believe with all certainty that America can correct her failings if there is a public will to do so.

So now as I leave here moments from now, I place my belief in my fellow Americans and in the Members who will come to this body in the 105th Congress. I believe that they will in fact see to it that America lives up to the words of Thomas Wolfe who said:

To every person his or her chance, to every person regardless of birth their shining opportunity, to every person, the right to live, to work, to be themselves, to become whatever their ambitions and decisions combine to make them. That is the promise of America.

That is the promise I hope of the 105th Congress.

I thank you all. I say farewell and Godspeed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Hampshire [Mr. ZELIFF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ZELIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to certainly add my congratulations to two of my colleagues who just spoke on the floor of the House, the Honorable CLEO FIELDS of Louisiana and certainly applaud his

work and encourage his return. And then to certainly my friend and colleague, the Honorable CARLISS COLLINS, with a major place in history, I thank her for her leadership and caring for all of us.

I do believe that it is appropriate, on this last day, as I have acknowledged my colleagues and might I add also a tribute to the departing Members of the Texas delegation. So many of them have served so ably, and I thank them for their service.

This last day we had an opportunity to come together in a bipartisan manner to present to the American people an omnibus appropriations bill that would keep the Government open. As I listened to the Speaker of the House suggest that this was automatic or that this had to be the way it was and it was going to happen, I have to reflect that there was a long journey that brought us to this day. For as we started the 104th Congress, I am unhappy or sad to say that that was not the spirit in which we opened this session, for we spent an acrimonious first year of the 104th, with three times of shutting down the Government, with large attacks on Medicare and Medicaid, with proposed tax cuts of \$245 billion that would have gutted the Medicare program and given tax cuts to those who did not need it, with a fight over balancing the budget and establishing priorities, when many of us recognized that you could balance the budget but you could preserve education and the environment and you could maintain the quality of life for our senior citizens.

In fact, we spent an acrimonious time arguing over which direction this country should go.

I am very proud that the Democrats maintained a steady and evenhanded approach, which is to say that Medicare can be preserved, it need not wither on the vine, that Medicaid that provide health care for the indigent but, more particularly, for our seniors in nursing homes certainly had to be preserved, but we could also balance the budget.

This bill is not a perfect bill. There are many things that a lot of us disagree with. But I believe we have come full circle from a time when we were slashing education, cutting school lunches and school breakfasts.

Might I add, I read an article this past week that said, though our children still remain at risk, many children are better off because of the existence of school lunch programs, for some of these programs are the only good and decent nutritious meal that our children get. With all of this attention now to our children, with the understanding that they are no more stronger than what we make them, I am glad to see, albeit it was a tough time, that there has been some recognition by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that reason and moderation are the best approach.

So I am very gratified that we can say that this omnibus bill includes \$3.5

billion added to our education budget. Not a frivolous investment, I might add, some \$381 million of it belongs to Head Start, and documentation shows us that if you begin a child on an early sure footing of learning, you can be sure that that is a child that grows to love learning and is on the road to success; \$491 million dollars for Goals 2000, already a program attested to by Members by both sides of the aisle, a program started by President George Bush, and \$200 million for the school to work program documented in my own city of Houston, where young people leave high school prepared to be gainfully employed. Then I have already said in many of my town hall meetings and I have seen the faces of individuals agreeing with me, it is better to give out a Pell grant than to build a jail cell. And so we have increased Pell grants for our college students and direct student loans across the Nation.

□ 2330

Welfare reform got a lot of publicity, and many people were rising to the floor of the House and beginning to pound their fists and talk about those who were draining on America.

Well, if you tell people to pull up their bootstraps, many of them without shoes, it is going to be very hard to transition people from welfare to work without training and vocational training, and so it is important that in this legislation, unlike last year when the government was shut down, we have \$1.5 billion for vocational training and adult education.

That makes sense, but we had to work hard to get to that point, for the stridency of last year was, "We know the right way, and the only way is our way," a single focused highway to nowhere.

All of the debate that has come about over the last few weeks about the drug effort in this Nation was simply saying that we now have a better approach, and that approach, Mr. Speaker, is to support prevention programs and safe and drug-free schools.

In conclusion, let me simply say that I am glad we are at a point where we are, that this bill is passed, but it was a long journey, but it is better for America, and we are better for doing it, and America is good for us doing it for them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. Fox] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to address my colleagues and, first, to thank all of those who worked together this week on legislation which provides for the first time for those law enforcement officials on the Federal scene who have been killed in the line of duty, to make sure that their families and their children are protected when it comes to educational benefits. It is a bipartisan effort, and Congressman STUDDS and I worked in the House, Senator SPECTER in the Senate, in making sure this legislation was reality.

It was not that long ago that there was a Federal officer, Chuck Reed, killed in my district who was an outstanding FBI agent and a real leader in the war against drugs, and William Degan, of course, who was the Federal official who was killed at Ruby Ridge. It is those kinds of individuals for whom we need to make sure that we are attending to the needs of those families, because they gave up so much to help make this country safer and stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to salute those retiring Members who are leaving our Chamber who have done so much. One especially from Pennsylvania I wish to point out; that would be Congressman BOB WALKER who, more than any other Member, knows the rules of parliamentary procedure and helped newer Members to learn the rules, to make sure they respect each other in the Chamber and to make sure that we are civil and still worked in a bipartisan way to make sure the people's business is done here in Washington.

So to BOB WALKER who did so much for this House and one of its finest Members, we salute you for all you have done for our country, for this Chamber, and for your resonance in your Pennsylvania district. We know that BOB WALKER has done much to bring honor to himself and to his family and to his community, but to his colleagues here we know how special he was as a fighter for beliefs, as someone who is unyielding in principle, but when it came to making sure we got the job done, he knew when to compromise and how to compromise.

So we salute a very special American, BOB WALKER, who I know we will miss greatly, and we hope he returns often to visit.

WHAT IS THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Armed Services Committee it is very interesting to me to see when our four star generals and admirals come in and talk to us as to what is the reason that we are going into Iraq at this particular time. One

of the reasons that always jumps out is that we are protecting the oil supply, this great energy sources that comes to America and to other areas, and in protecting that we will be able to protect the free world. Because of that we are sending a number of our young people in harm's way, young men and young women going over there to protect this oil supply that happens to flow through the Middle East.

It is very interesting to me that in my little State of Utah we have something call the Kaiparowits Plateau. President Carter referred to it as coal or ace in the hole. In this particular area we probably have more energy and coal then they have in oil, and we set there at this time in the Kaiparowits Plateau sitting on a supply of coal that is worth \$1 trillion and is billions and billions of tons of coal.

It is amazing then, Mr. Speaker, that 2 weeks ago the President of the United States went into Arizona, the south rum of Arizona and stood and pointed out to the north in Utah. He was creating a national momument, and one of the reasons that the President gave for creating this national monument was because he wanted not to have that coal mined. Much of that would accrue, the royalties that is, would accrue to the benefit of the State of Utah. In fact just a small amount that Andalux coal would be mining would be \$6.5 billion. Over \$1 million would accrue to the schoolchildren of Utah.

It strikes me rather odd, and the irony of the thing is why we go to one place and put our children and our armed people in harm's way when we have a great supply of energy right here and we say, no, we cannot do that even though I think it has been proven that we could do it environmentally sound. What law is there that gives this power, this complete power to one man? That is called the antiquity law written in 1906, and if we go back and read that it is very interesting.

It says that the President may do this to protect Indian ruins, that he may protect it for some historical significance, whatever that may be. Indian ruins; there is one that they always bring out, and I would like to ask the question of this 1.7 million acres, and keep in mind that is the size of Delaware, and maybe throw in 2 other States, that is the size of Yellowstone; keep in mind that we do it for historical significance.

May I ask the President of the United States or anybody who would like to respond: What is there in the 1.7 million acres that has any historical significance? Can anybody name one thing? Is there one scintilla of anything that is there?

The second part of the act in 1906 says to protect this historical significance they will use the smallest amount of acreage. No. 1, there is no historical significance; No. 2, the smallest amount of acreage to protect this nothing that is there, except a very beautiful spot, is smallest amount turns out to be 1.7 million acres.

Do I concede that there is areas in this 1.7 million acres that is absolutely gorgeous and beautiful and should be protected? Absolutely. There is, and much of it should be protected. And we had that opportunity, but we did not take advantage of that opportunity because the President did not seem fit to talk to anybody in Utah. He did not talk to Governor Leavitt, he did not talk to Senator HATCH, he did not talk to Senator BENNETT, he did not talk to Members of this congressional delegation. I am the chairman of the committee that goes through. I did not hear one word. He did not even talk to the man of his own political persuasion. Nobody but nobody heard a word on this area.

But he comes in, not even knowing where it is himself. I think if you put a map down in front of the President of the United States, he would miss it by 500 miles, but yet he talks about the beautiful, historical significance and ties it up into a national monument.

I have since introduced legislation which would limit the antiquities law to 5,000 acres. I have had a number of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, come to me and say do not let that happen to my State. Mr. Speaker, I say, "Well, let's not do away with the antiquities bill because there may be something come up that needs to be protected, but what we must do is limit the President so he can't abstractly go out on a huge land grab like he has in the State of Utah, and I would urge my colleagues as we introduce this in January that we immediately pass this legislation to prevent this type of thing happening.

I just really feel bad that there is so little respect for the West, that there truly is another war on the West, that we are constantly being hit with things such as I have just mentioned. I feel very bad that the President of the United States took it upon himself to take 1.7 million acres out of our State, ruin the economy of many of our little cities, hurt so many people, without as much as one sentence on it and not one minimum of spending any time on an investigation of what it would do to the people in Utah.

Mr. Speaker, that is the largest arrogance of power I have seen in 36 years as an elected official.

OMNIBUS INSULAR AREAS ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the title of the bill (H.R. 1332) to establish certain policies and responsibilities with respect to the administration of the Rongelap Resettlement Trust Fund, and for other purposes, agreed to earlier today, is amended so as to read: "A bill to make certain technical changes affecting United States territories, and for other purposes."

There was no objection.