

Senate Dirksen room 226, to hold an executive business meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRINKING WATER,
FISHERIES, AND WILDLIFE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife be granted permission to conduct a hearing Tuesday, June 11, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., hearing room (SD-406), on implementation of salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest to solicit testimony on installation of the surface collector at Lower Granite Dam, recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences and the Snake River Recovery team on independent peer-reviewed science, and the establishment of an independent scientific advisory board.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

OREGON TREATY
SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, Saturday, June 15, marks the sesquicentennial of the Oregon Treaty, which extended the domain of the United States across lands that make up my home State of Oregon and the States of Washington and Idaho. With the ratification of this treaty, the United States for the first time spanned the American continent, from sea to shining sea. Nevertheless, this treaty is more than just a significant chapter in our young Nation's westward expansion. It also represents—perhaps more importantly—the victory of peace and compromise over ill will and nationalistic fervor.

On June 15, 1846, when the representatives of the British Crown and the United States signed the Oregon Treaty, the two nations concluded a long-standing but uneasy truce over the disposition of the Oregon country, the area bounded by the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean on the east and west, and Russian North America and Mexico on the north and south. Previously, a joint-occupation convention signed by Great Britain and the United States in 1818 and renewed in 1827 guaranteed both nations' citizens free and equal access to the Oregon country. Trappers and traders of the British Hudson's Bay Company and settlers from the United States navigated the same rivers and used the same resources, without common allegiance or uniform system of law. Charles H. Carey's "General History of Oregon" offers the definitive description of this era, during which conflicts between British subjects and the Hudson's Bay Company on the one hand and American citizens on the other sometimes flared—and did so ever more frequently as thousands of American settlers followed the Oregon Trail into the region beginning in 1843.

Throughout the United States, public sentiment flared as well. Indignation at the continuing British presence on Western American soil and concern for the rights of the United States citizens there compelled private individuals and politicians alike to demand the withdrawal of Britain from the Oregon country. On February 22, 1839, Senator Lewis Linn of Missouri exhorted this body to rush to the defense of Oregon settlers by annexing the Oregon country, saying, "Great Britain through the medium of the Hudson's Bay Company, has opened a trade with all the tribes of Indians on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, as far south as the Gulf of California. Their hunters and trappers have penetrated all the valleys and glens of the Rocky Mountains, scattering arms, munitions of war, and fomenting discontent against the United States in the bosoms of those distant Indian tribes. They have driven our people from the Indian trade, which yielded seven or eight hundred thousand dollars per annum, and even pushed their operations east."

In this increasingly volatile atmosphere, the Democratic presidential convention of 1844 nominated former Tennessee Governor James K. Polk, despite his relative obscurity on the national stage. Polk won the general election against the much more prominent Whig, Henry Clay of Kentucky, by capitalizing on the expansionist mood of the country. Polk proudly invoked the United States' manifest destiny to span North America and ran on the famous campaign slogans "All of Oregon" and "54-40 or fight!", arguing that the United States should go to war with Britain if she did not withdraw entirely and absolutely from the Oregon country.

Once Polk entered the White House, there was substantial political pressure to honor his fiery campaign rhetoric. By 1845, as Charles Carey described in his seminal study, the Oregon country was welcoming new American settlers at a dizzying rate—and with each one, the need for a common government increased. In addition, several influential Members of Congress, including Senator Lewis Cass of Michigan—who was favored over James Polk as the expansionists' candidate going into the 1844 Democratic presidential convention—were loudly advocating Britain's immediate withdrawal from the region.

Another factor also invited President Polk to assume a relatively belligerent posture with Britain. Numerous attempts by previous administrations to compromise with Britain over a permanent boundary had failed due to British demands for all the lands north of the 45th parallel, including the Columbia River. Despite contentions that the United States' contiguity with the Oregon country gave it natural title to the region up to the 54th parallel, Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams had offered both to settle the boundary at the 49th parallel and to permit British vessels free and

equal navigation of the great Columbia River. As Polk's Secretary of State, James Buchanan, advised his chief negotiator with the Crown, Louis McLane, in correspondence dated July 12, 1845, British negotiators flatly rejected this offer on three different occasions (in 1818, 1824, and 1827).

Thus it was that, when his administration began anew to seek a boundary settlement with the British, President Polk confronted a dilemma. British negotiators had shown repeatedly that they were uninterested in a compromise—but if the president succumbed to political pressure to annex all of Oregon he risked a western war with Britain just as America's recent annexation of Texas was threatening to ignite a southern war with Mexico.

In response to this dilemma, the Polk administration exercised the self-restraint, caution, and peaceful spirit of compromise in international relations of which the Oregon Treaty endures as a lasting reminder. President Polk instructed his Secretary of State, James Buchanan, to offer once more the compromise border of the 49th parallel. This time, however, President Polk refused to offer British ships free navigation of the Columbia; instead, he invited Britain to take whatever lands and ports she desired on Vancouver Island that were south of the 49th parallel. Once again, the British negotiators refused the compromise. President Polk then withdrew the offer, indicating that the onus was therefore on the British to draft their own compromise. To ensure that one was indeed forthcoming, the president called, in his first State of the Union Address—on December 2, 1845—for Congress to support him in giving Britain 12 months' notice that the Joint-Occupation Convention of 1827 was to be abrogated and nullified. Congress obliged, passing a joint resolution to that effect on April 27, 1846.

The United States' move to vacate the Joint-Occupation Convention successfully inspired in the British a conciliatory and cooperative spirit—without imperiling the peace that existed in the Oregon country. On June 6, 1846, Richard Pakenham, the British minister plenipotentiary, offered a proposal almost identical to President Polk's and transmitted it to him through Secretary of State James Buchanan. In accordance with the constitutional requirement that all treaties are negotiated with the advice and consent of this body, President Polk conveyed the proposal to the Senate on June 10. On June 12, the Senate voted 38-12 to advise the President to accept the British offer.

One hundred and fifty years ago this Saturday, Secretary of State James Buchanan affixed his signature to the Oregon Treaty. With this stroke of a pen, the administration of James Knox Polk peacefully secured for our young Nation the fruits of its manifest destiny—and made Oregon a great and lasting tribute to the power of cooperation and compromise. •

ALABAMA "TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

• Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Alabama's most outstanding teachers. Harriet Tyler, a sixth-grade teacher at Springwood School in Lanett, AL, was recently selected as Teacher of the Year for the State of Alabama by the Alabama Independent School Association.

Harriet Tyler—a native of Decatur, AL, and a graduate of Butler High School—has influenced the lives of countless elementary students since she graduated from Auburn University in 1965. As a sixth-grade teacher, she has had the unenviable task of preparing the senior members of the playground for the traumatic transition to junior high school. Sometimes we think our work here in the Senate is difficult, but I don't think that it compares to the difficult job that Harriet Tyler has done year after year for over 30 years. Her commitment to her job, her school, and most importantly, to her students is truly inspiring.

Mr. President, teachers like Harriet Tyler represent the key to America's future. As our children face the challenges of the 21st century, it is dedicated educators like Harriet Tyler who accept the challenge of turning the young people of today into the leaders of tomorrow.●

TRIBUTE TO LT. GEN. MARC A. CISNEROS

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a great patriot, statesman, and soldier from the Lone Star State of Texas, Lt. Gen. Marc A. Cisneros. General Cisneros is retiring after a distinguished 35-year military career in the U.S. Army.

Marc Cisneros entered the military in 1961 after graduating as an ROTC distinguished military cadet from St. Mary's University, in San Antonio, TX. He was commissioned a 2d Lt. in the field artillery and has faithfully and selflessly served his country in a wide array of demanding command and staff assignments within the continental United States and overseas. Most notable was his assignment as Commanding General, U.S. Army South and Joint Task Force, Panama, during Operation Just Cause. During Operation Just Cause, General Cisneros played a significant role in the combat operations in Panama and helped negotiate the capture and surrender of Panamanian General Noriega. Besides this action, General Cisneros served two combat tours in Vietnam.

This officer has risen through the ranks emphasizing military readiness and displaying a genuine compassion for soldiers and their families. Marc Cisneros has been a caring leader committed to the values and ideals that have made this country and its military so great.

His final assignment was as Commanding General, 5th U.S. Army, Fort

Sam Houston, TX. In this most important position, Marc Cisneros provided vision, enforced standards of excellence, and committed himself to helping sustain the readiness of the Nation's reserve component forces.

Mr. President, our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to Lt. Gen. Marc A. Cisneros, and I am honored to recognize him today. With our deepest appreciation, the United States of America says thank you. I wish him, and his wife Eddy and their children, continued success and happiness in all future endeavors.●

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUYANA

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the nation of Guyana as it celebrates its 30th year as a sovereign nation, and to pay tribute to the citizens of this nation whose dedication to their country enabled Guyana to develop from a small colony to an independent nation.

Guyana was a Dutch colony from 1621 until it eventually came under the influence of the British who acquired formal possession in 1814. While still under British control, Guyana obtained its first constitution in 1928, although universal franchise was not recognized until much later in 1953. From 1957 until 1966 the People's Progressive Party was elected and controlled Guyana under a system of internal self rule.

In 1965, the British Guiana Independence Conference met in London to the authorize a new constitution. When ratified on May 26, 1966, the new constitution marked the beginning of the independent nation of Guyana.

Throughout its years as both a Dutch and British colony, Guyana became home to workers from many different lands. With a population of 739,553, Guyana is comprised primarily of East Indians and people of African descent. Guyana is also home to native South Americans as well as citizens of Chinese and European heritage.

Guyana was one of the founding members of the Caribbean Free Trade Area [CARIFTA] which was established in 1968. Guyana has been called the bread basket of the Caribbean because it is blessed with many natural resources and the potential for a strong economy. Guyana is dually blessed with both natural resources and a vibrant and diverse people. These attributes ensure that in the years to come this young country will grow into a leader in its part of the world.

Today, I rise to offer my congratulations to Guyana on the anniversary of its independence as a sovereign nation. The future of Guyana has never looked brighter. New Jersey's multi-cultural heritage has benefited from citizens from Guyana. I congratulate its citizens on their perseverance and potential, and extend my best wishes for continued success as an independent nation.●

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SALINE, MI AND THE TOWN OF BRECON, WALES AS SISTER CITIES

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of the successful partnership of the city of Saline, MI, and the town of Brecon, Wales in the Sister Cities Program.

Thirty-years ago next month, under the People-to-People Program established by President Eisenhower, a bond was forged between these two communities. In the words of Saline Mayor Patrick J. Little, "We have become one community separated by a large body of water. Over two generations have had the pleasure of learning about each other's culture."

To celebrate this occasion, next month approximately 50 members of the Brecon community will visit Saline, the highlight of which will be the first ever Celtic Festival on July 6. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Brecon, and congratulate the citizens of both cities for their three decades of cooperation and friendship.●

A CASE AGAINST INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I supported the creation of the office of independent counsel and have voted for its reauthorization.

I am now convinced that is the wrong way to solve this particular problem.

My judgment is that we should look at the office of Attorney General with great care when a nomination is made. And if the nominee is too close, in any way, to the President, that nomination should be rejected.

And if the nominee has been active in political life beyond the normal type of engagement, that should be weighed. Such a person should not automatically be rejected, but there should be ample evidence that the person will serve with honor.

An ideal type of arrangement was when Ed Levi was chosen as Attorney General by President Gerald Ford. No one for a moment thought that the man who left as president of the University of Chicago to become Attorney General could be politically manipulated by the President, even if the President wanted to do that.

My impression is that Janet Reno is made of the same stuff and that her appointment was a good appointment.

When I was sounded out about John F. Kennedy appointing Bobby Kennedy as Attorney General I indicated to Bob Wallace, the Kennedy staff person who asked me about it, that I thought it was a mistake because the Attorney General should not be too close to the President. As it turned out, Bobby Kennedy did a good job as Attorney General, but as a precedent it was not good.

In the same way, Ed Meese was much too close personally and politically to Ronald Reagan to serve the Nation as effectively as he might have as Attorney General.