

whole slew of laws related to campaign fund-raising, the activities of Federal employees, the use of Federal property, and the expenditure of Federal tax dollars.

I've investigated and monitored this situation with such zeal since last October, not because of any partisan interest, but because of my genuine concern for this country's security, especially when a foreign power like China, under a Communist government I have viewed with distrust for many years based on a wide variety of policies, is being investigated for actively trying to infiltrate our political system for their own gain. In any other administration, Mr. Speaker, no matter who was in the White House, or the Justice Department for that matter, there came a point where politics were cast aside for the best interests of the country. Tragically, that line has been blurred, if not erased, as a great deal of the fundraising activities that may have compromised American business and security interests were condoned, and even orchestrated, by the Clinton administration.

But, I know and have known all along, that in order to prevent the entire controversy from being lost and consumed in the shadows and barbs of partisan politics, and independent prosecutor was necessary. Mr. Speaker, there are a few moments in history where a particular person in power or in public service will make a decision that will be judged over time as either a monumental stand for what is right and just, or as cow-towing to the powers that be. I fear Attorney General Reno has had her moment and the powers that be are smiling.

[From the Times-Union, Apr. 16, 1997]

JANET RENO, WRONG AGAIN

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was wrong to resist previous calls to appoint a special prosecutor to look into widening allegations surrounding President Clinton's campaign last year. She was wrong again on Monday, when she rejected, for a fourth time, a similar entreaty.

Ms. Reno's explanation for sticking to her position grows weaker by the day. She continues to insist that there is still no credible evidence of possible criminal wrongdoing by any of the high government officials who are covered under the special prosecutor statute. She argues the Justice Department is capable of handling the inquiry.

There are at least two reasons why a special prosecutor is warranted now. One is the accumulation of charges that point to possible criminal wrongdoing at the White House level. The now infamous "coffees" may have violated federal prohibitions against fund raising on federal property. So might Vice President Gore's phone solicitations. The trail of Asian money may have influenced Clinton administration policy on China and Taiwan. Government phones and credit cards may have been improperly used.

Each day, it seems, more allegations come forth, to the point where the public is now so overwhelmed by the charges and countercharges that only a credible, outside investigation can clear the air.

The second reason for Ms. Reno to act is even more compelling: To avoid the appearance that she is reluctant to turn on Mr. Clinton after he agreed to keep her on for his second term.

It is no secret that Ms. Reno had earned Mr. Clinton's disfavor with her readiness to appoint special prosecutors during his first term. It seemed apparent that she would remain on the Clinton team only if she promised to change her ways. Could this be the reason she has once again rebuffed a call for an independent inquiry?

There is only one way for the attorney general to give a reassuring answer to that question. By doing the right thing, and calling for a special prosecutor.

#### MANAGEMENT POLICIES CURRENTLY IN PRACTICE AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

**HON. JAMES V. HANSEN**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw my colleague's attention to an article on the management policies currently in practice at Yellowstone National Park written by Montana Representative RICK HILL. RICK invites us to give some serious reflection about the role and condition of Yellowstone and its future stewardship. Recent testimony in the Parks Subcommittee indicates that the park is badly overgrazed. The impact of this mismanagement goes way beyond the overpopulation of bison to impact the entire Yellowstone system. My friends our colleague has sounded the alarm, and I would ask you to take a few moments to read this article to gain a better appreciation of the current state of Yellowstone and the substantial problem we must address. I submit the article for the RECORD.

OPINION BY CONGRESSMAN RICK HILL

(February 28, 1997)

This week Congress received more bad news about our beloved Yellowstone Park: It's being ravaged by misguided environmental policies. In testimony before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Dr. Charles Kay, discussed his research that indicates many of the native plants and animals in the park are being wiped out.

How can this happen you ask in an area as carefully monitored and managed as a national park? According to Kay, it is those very management practices that have led to the near disappearance of willow, beavers, berry shrubs, and mule deer. Most alarming of all, is that even grizzly habitat, which we are spending millions of dollars to expand in other areas of Montana, is being allowed to dwindle within the park. According to one study, there is now 100 times more stream bank erosion on Yellowstone's denuded streams than on the same willow-lined streams outside the park.

It would seem only logical that the park service would reassess the natural management program it has used over the last 30 years, especially given the disastrous results of the "let-it-burn" policy. However, we now are seeing the "let-em-starve" version of that same misguided thinking applied to the animal population of the park.

In questioning Park Director Roger Kennedy, during the House hearing, the committee was told that this policy dates back 30 years and that no one has made a conscious decision how the bison will be managed. It is clear from the park director's testimony and meetings with Secretary Babbitt that the Department of the Interior and the Park Service do not consider their current management policy as a failure. Nor do they have any immediate plans to change the policy despite testimony that called it foolish and misguided.

While Secretary Babbitt continues to engage in finger pointing, he is overseeing the systematic destruction of our nation's oldest national park. In a letter to Governor

Racicot, Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman suggest three steps to reach a solution. The first of these is an expansion of the range for the bison. However, all parties agree that this is not much more than a temporary band-aid. What do we do when the bison have overgrazed the new range? Perhaps the secretary sees all of Montana as the eventual range of the bison? Their second proposal is that we control the size of the herd. We all agree the size needs to be controlled, but again there is no willingness on the part of the Department of the Interior to take the actions necessary to control herd size. In a meeting with Montana's delegation Babbitt refused to commit to any action that would result in a reduced herd size. Their third step is to eliminate Brucellosis. Once again there is total agreement on the need to eliminate this most serious disease. However, Babbitt flatly refuses to discuss even testing for the disease or a systematic vaccination program. It is hard to see how Brucellosis can be eliminated without either testing or vaccination.

No one is advocating the wholesale slaughter of bison. However, we cannot ignore the fact that over population which leads to overgrazing is killing Yellowstone Park. For the Department of the Interior to insist that nothing can be done to control the size of the herd is irresponsible. Bison herds at Moiese, Montana, have been successfully managed for years, as was the herd we are discussing in Yellowstone Park up until the change to hands-off management.

What every Montanan knows and now many Americans also realize from sensationalized news reports, is that Bison are dying. Overlooked by most of these reports is the cause of this "slaughter." Until we turn the discussion to the underlying cause of this problem, we will repeat this same tragedy every few years. Our goal must be a complete reassessment of management policy for Yellowstone Park. Montanans and Congress need to prevail upon the National Park service and the Secretary of the Interior to take action immediately in order to stop this from happening again.

#### DEFENSE WORKERS HEALTH BENEFITS LEGISLATION

**HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am today again introducing legislation to provide health insurance benefits to former employees at defense nuclear facilities such as the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

This bill, the Defense Nuclear Workers' Health Insurance Act of 1997, is essentially identical to a bill I introduced in the last Congress, and is based on provisions of a Defense nuclear workers' bill of rights that I introduced in 1991. Other provisions of that larger bill were enacted as part of the 1993 defense authorization bill.

The bill I am introducing today would establish a health insurance program to help with the costs of serious illnesses resulting from workplace exposure to radiation or toxic materials. This would be funded through the Department of Energy and would cover treatment costs exceeding \$25,000 for the covered illnesses or injuries.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear weapons plant workers were on America's front lines in the cold war. They helped our national defense mission, working with dangerous materials often

under conditions that would not be acceptable by today's standards. Now, as the work force at these sites is reduced, we need to act to assure prospective future employers that company health insurance rates will not be adversely affected if they hire these former defense workers. We also need to act to give these workers assurance that they'll have insurance coverage for work-related illnesses.

This is the right thing to do. America has already rightly recognized a special obligation to veterans and to those exposed to dangerous levels of radiation during the cold war—uranium miners, people who were downwind from nuclear tests, and "atomic veterans." Nuclear weapons workers deserve similar consideration, and this bill would provide that.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FARMER ESTATE TAX RELIEF ACT

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Farmer Estate Tax Relief Act of 1997. This bill is designed to make it easier for America's farming families to keep farming.

In discussions and visits with farmers throughout my district, I have learned that there is serious concern about the ability to pass farms on to future generations. The \$600,000 exclusion from estate taxes is not enough to preserve these small businesses that are so dependent upon large capital and land investments.

In Maryland, I understand that there are about 1,000 farms valued at more than \$1 million. A typical farm has anywhere from \$20,000 to \$200,000 worth of equipment.

It is a shame to hear stories of sons and daughters that must sell off part of their parents' farm simply to pay off the estate tax. While retaining the \$750,000 "special use" valuation, my legislation would raise the exclusion by \$1.4 million, allowing these heirs to exclude a total of \$2 million of farm assets.

To encourage these heirs to stay in one of America's most crucial professions, my bill offers the total higher exclusion only to heirs that continue farming for at least 10 years.

Maryland farmers have raised a second issue with me that is addressed by my bill. These independent business people, who often do tough, physical labor into their 70's and 80's, must sometimes sell farm assets to pay high medical bills.

The legislation I am introducing today would allow a one-time exclusion from capital gains taxation for up to \$500,000 of medical expenses. Taxpayers could apply this exclusion to the sale of farm or farm assets in the year of, before, or after the medical expenses occurred.

I know that there are many other Members that share my concerns on these issues. While estate taxes can also have a negative impact on other types of family businesses, I am most concerned about the impact on the men and women who put food on our tables.

As a nation, we cannot afford to push these farm families out of business and I am pleased to introduce this bill to provide them with relief. I urge prompt passage of the Farmer Estate Tax Relief Act.

#### EARTH DAY

#### HON. WALTER H. CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, the main reason I am an environmentalist is because of a little guy named David—my grandson. Environmentalism is all about what we leave him and his generation.

The district that I live in and represent is one of the most beautiful places on earth—the central coast of California. Living in Santa Barbara, the birthplace of the environmental movement, has taught me a vital lesson. It has taught me that wilderness, nature, and open space has a value beyond what money can measure. While nature can be measured for its trees that can be cut, its fish that can be caught, and its ore that can be mined, its value is priceless as a resource that renews the human spirit.

For this reason, the protection of our public lands is such an important concept. All Americans regardless of where they live, must have access to the natural beauty of this Nation.

The more time that we spend in cars and offices, moving too quickly to think, the more our spirits require the rejuvenation that comes from being outside in fresh air surrounded by beautiful sights. That is what I have enjoyed in my district for three decades. I want to ensure our future generations have the same opportunity.

We are all responsible for the stewardship of our resources—conservationists farmers, ranchers, outdoorsmen, and sportsmen. We must use our resources wisely—in a manner that does not destroy the environment in which we must continue to live. While the strategies for putting that stewardship action are always an issue of vigorous debate, we must work together and remember that the only end game is ensuring a healthy environment for our posterity.

Earth Day serves the purpose of reminding us all of our common responsibilities of good stewardship. Today, we can forget all else and focus on this end—passing on these priceless resources to our grandchildren and our grandchildren's children. It is our responsibility to ensure that they too can live in and find refuge in a healthy natural world. Our children deserve nothing less.

#### CONGRATULATIONS OFFICER FARRI

#### HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, March 15, 1997 was a very special day in the life of my friend, U.S. Capitol Police Officer Vincent Farri. At 11:30 p.m. that night, Vincent's wife Christina gave birth to their first child, a boy named Richard Vincent. The child entered the world at the healthy weight of 8 pounds, 10.6 ounces, and a length of 21 inches.

I have known Vincent for some time now. He is an outstanding member of our Capitol police force. In addition to his fine service

overall, he has been a great help to me personally as I have brought constituents through the Capitol. I thank him for it, and I want to congratulate him on the birth of his son, Richard.

Knowing Vincent as I do, I can say with great confidence that he will be a terrific father. Young Richard may be unaware of it now, but someday he will understand how lucky he is to have such a good family raising him.

It is a true pleasure for me to enter these remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I am privileged to have the opportunity to play a small part in this special time for the Farri family. How wonderful it must be for Vincent and Christina to enjoy firsthand the miracle of birth! To them I offer my heartfelt congratulations. To their son Richard, I offer my warmest welcome into this world as a citizen of the greatest country on Earth.

#### TACTILE CURRENCY FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

#### HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that encourages the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to consider making Federal Reserve Notes tactually identifiable by the blind and visually impaired. This legislation enjoys considerable bipartisan support from my colleagues on the House Committee on Banking as well as other Members who share the same interests in assisting visually impaired individuals exert their independence.

In March 1994, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing commissioned the National Academy of Science to executive a study entitled "Currency Features for Visually Impaired People." This study explores methods of making currency more accessible for all Americans.

The report concluded that the needs of the blind could be better served if further study on specific changes such as size, color, and tactile marks be initiated.

Currently, the Department of Treasury is engaged in efforts to redesign the Federal Reserve note to prevent counterfeiting. Indeed, the new \$100 bill already been issued nationwide. With this window of opportunity upon us, I believe Congress has the change to assist the millions of visually impaired Americans who strive to live independently by making their money more accessible to them.

My bill simply endorses the efforts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to study cost-effective tactile changes in Federal Reserve notes and encourages the incorporation of those changes in the national currency.

My bill does not cost the Federal Government any money, nor does it impose and undue, unfair mandates.

Such a minor change in currency will have a significant impact on the independence of visually impaired Americans. Further, a tactual mark can serve other purposes, such as being an additional counterfeit deterrent.

Visually impaired individuals are capable, independent people whose valuable contributions touch all of our lives. It is important that all Americans are afforded equal opportunities to perform at the best of their abilities. My bill