

Clinton administration is trying to persuade Congress to approve a cash buyout of the mining claim.

However, during this lengthy process the Clinton team apparently forgot to ask the private land owner, who had leased her property to the gold mining company, if she would be willing to sell the acreage.

She insists the land isn't for sale.

At the very least, the Clinton administration wound up with egg on its face. Even a first-year law student would know that to do a land swap, the land owner must be consulted. That the White House didn't do so is inexcusable.

This gaffe is unfortunate because it supplies new ammunition to Clinton critics who charge that the president rushed the land swap proposal to win points with environmental groups in the midst of an election campaign.

The issue now, though, is whether the Clinton team can make amends.

One possible solution would be to offer the land owner a cut of the cash.

But as it explores all lawful alternatives, the Clinton administration should avoid acting heavy-handedly. It was Clinton's minions whose omissions left the land owner out of the loop in the first place. It's now their job to fix the problem.

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

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

MEMBER RESPONDS TO
MENENDEZ PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this time to do something that I was not allowed to do, because I was given no time in the debate concerning our friend Bob Dornan and the banning of Bob Dornan from the House floor under what I would consider, in the least, a very flawed hearing, if you could call it that, a gathering of Members who heard the prosecutorial statement, heard the statement by the gentleman who claimed that he was wronged, with absolutely no defense allowed to be given, no time for a defense, and then a vote and a punishment.

Mr. Speaker, all we can do is give our own perspective of events from our own experience. I want to do that right now.

Bob Dornan came in here the other day, a couple of days ago, walked over to a bunch of us right here at the majority leadership table, and had small talk with us. He did not lobby for any cause, much less for his cause. He chatted with us. In fact, he said at one point, "I know I can't lobby here. I just want to see how you guys are doing."

After a few minutes, we walked back to the cloakroom. As we sat down in the cloakroom, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] came rush-

ing out on the floor and proceeded in a very pointed way to attack Mr. Dornan. He did not attack him by name. He asked the Speaker to tell him what the rules were with respect to whether or not a former Member could lobby Members of Congress on the House floor, come out here and lobby.

Of course, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] being an old hand at this, knows you cannot lobby. He also knows that Mr. Dornan had just been on the House floor and was the only person there, and it was a very pointed attempt to embarrass Mr. Dornan, and it worked.

So Mr. Dornan rushed back on the House floor and talked to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. MENENDEZ] right over here and told him what he thought of him. Maybe he should not have told him what he thought of him. Maybe he should not have used harsh words, but on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we have had Members of Congress grab each other, mug each other, put each other in headlocks, punch each other, do all kinds of things, and that includes members of the leadership, Mr. Speaker, and we have never banned any of them from the House floor.

I just want you to consider that when a former Member comes out here, he cannot defend himself. The one thing all of us can do if another Member takes us on, especially if they take us on personally, is we can get time at the mike and we can get up and defend ourselves.

But a former Member who comes out here, who is embarrassed and humiliated by a sitting Member who stands up and starts to imply that he is out there lobbying, which is not legal or against our rules on the House floor, that former Member can do nothing. He has to sit there and take it and be humiliated.

Interestingly, in all of these other cases that have come before us when Members have grappled, punched, and done other things to each other, we have always looked at the full context of the case. We have never just taken a snapshot and said, "You shouldn't have done that." We have said, "What happened? What provoked it?" Was there a provocation?

In my assessment, Mr. Speaker, there was absolutely a provocation. Mr. Dornan was provoked to do this. The other Member did this simply to embarrass him. He knew what the rules were. He did not have to learn the rules anew. He knew darned well you cannot lobby on the House floor. He also knew that everybody who had seen Mr. Dornan on the House floor would realize that those pointed remarks were directed to him. He knew it would embarrass Mr. Dornan, and he did it, and then he proceeded to say, look what has happened to me, and to reap the benefit of that, which is this precipitous move to ban a former Member from the House floor based totally on what the prosecutorial side says happened.

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None of us who wanted to defend Mr. Dornan had a chance to defend him. We did not have any time. I got up to make my statement, and we were out of time, because we were only given 20 minutes apiece.

So, Mr. Speaker, this has been a sad chapter in the House of Representatives, a sad chapter for people who talk about due process, talk about letting everybody have a fair hearing, talk about people being able to present their part of the evidence, present their views, their opinions. There was none of that. There was a self-serving statement by the prosecution, and then we all voted. It was a mistake, Mr. Speaker.

IN MEMORY OF MAJ. GEN. HENRY MOHR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri [Mr. TALENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Maj. Gen. Henry Mohr, a personal friend, an honorable man, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, patriot, soldier and hero, who passed away in St. Louis on September 7, 1997.

Henry Mohr's entire adult life exemplifies in the most profound manner what it means to be a "citizen soldier." He enlisted as a private in September 1941 and was stationed at Pearl Harbor on that day that will live in infamy, December 7, 1941. While most of us know of Pearl Harbor from movies and books, Private Henry Mohr was there.

In August 1942, he earned the gold bars of a second lieutenant by completing Army Officer Candidate School. As a field artillery officer, he served throughout World War II, participating in amphibious landings in New Guinea, the Philippines, and service in Korea.

Following the war, Captain Mohr left active duty, but continued to serve in the Army Reserve until 1950. After North Korea's attack against the South, he volunteered for active duty and served throughout that conflict as well.

Following the cessation of hostilities in 1953, Captain Mohr returned to Reserve status, serving in a variety of command and staff positions as he worked his way up through the ranks. He also participated in studies designed to improve the role of Army Reserve Forces, paving the way for the seamless integration of Active and Reserve components, years prior to Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird's formal implementation of the total army concept in the early 1970's.

Throughout the early to mid 1970's, colonel and then Brigadier General Mohr served as chief of staff, deputy commander, and then as commander of the 102d Army Reserve Command, or ARCOM, in St. Louis.

In June 1975, Henry Mohr was promoted to major general and called to active duty to serve as the Chief of the Army Reserve, commanding an Active Reserve Force of over 225,000 soldiers. During his 4-year command, General Mohr committed himself totally to the improvement of military readiness, appearing frequently before Congress to testify on immediate and strategic readiness issues, not the least of which was combat medical care, the first responsibility this Nation has to those it sends in harm's way.

The medals he wore were a testament to his character. The Nation awarded him a Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star with "V" device for Valor, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and, upon retirement, the Distinguished Service Medal.

Impressive as it is, Major General Mohr's character was by no means defined solely by his military service. He was a devoted husband to his wife Dorothy and father of 2 sons, Philip Mohr of Lake Saint Louis, and David Mohr of Table Rock, MO, 5 grandsons, and he had 10 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, to know General Mohr was to know a man of unmatched integrity and character, an officer who first and foremost cared for his troops, a man possessed of both physical and moral courage, a man who, as his family, his many friends and his fellow soldiers around the country will tell you, embodied what it means to be a patriot, a citizen soldier, a war hero, an American of the most exemplary kind. He always stood for the service and for his men, without regard to the consequences to himself personally.

We have lost a good man in Maj. Gen. Henry Mohr, his lifelong example of selfless service most of us can only aspire to. The man who can fill his boots is a rare man indeed. I hope and trust that many will accept the challenge.

To quote Shakespeare, in Julius Caesar,

... the elements so mix'd in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man!"

General Mohr, it was an honor to know you and consider you my friend. I appreciate the advice you gave to me on military issues over the years.

Good-bye, General, God bless you. Your country will miss you.

NO TAXATION WITH REFORMATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New York [Mr. PAXON] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, since January 1995, since the Republican majority took over the operation of the House of Representatives and the leadership of the Congress of the United States, we have accomplished, I think, many great things, many important steps forward, fulfilling our commit-

ment to provide a new direction for this country, the will of the American people.

Those successes I believe are in many ways historic, starting with the very opening days of that Congress in January 1995, the decision to reform Congress, to open the doors of this institution once again to the American people, to diminish the power of the all-powerful committee chairs that in the past did what they chose, not what the American people chose, for example.

We also were able to pass what I think will go down in history as one of the most historic pieces of legislation of any Congress, basic fundamental welfare reform, giving our States the opportunity to replace welfare with work requirements.

We passed illegal immigration reform, and freedom to farm legislation for the first time in 60 years, changing the face positively of American farming. We passed telecommunications reform, and this year plan to extend the life of the Medicare System that has saved the lives of my parents and so many other Americans, as well as tax relief for families.

Last, but not least, we passed legislation that will balance our Nation's budget no later than the year 2002, hopefully even sooner if we can keep our steady hand on the rudder in controlling wasteful Washington spending.

These are important accomplishments, but I think the most important accomplishment is just on the horizon, and to illustrate that I want to go back to the issue of balancing our Nation's budget.

You know, sometimes we as Americans are so forward looking that we do not even look back 15 or 20 minutes, much less a couple of years. But it was two decades or longer that people in this Chamber and Americans across the country talked about, "jeez, cannot we get Congress to balance our Nation's budget again? Cannot we get our government to live within the means of the American taxpayer?"

We spent decades and decades talking about balancing our Nation's budget, but, you know, it was that Contract With America in 1994 that, right out on the steps of this Capitol, looking out across the country, we signed our names to and committed ourselves to, that finally moved the talk of balancing the Nation's budget to the reality of getting it done, the hard work of getting the Nation's budget balanced.

We walked out on those steps, signed that document, and said not just that we would balance it; we turned that talk into action and said it would be done no later than 2002.

Again, we are Americans and like to look ahead, and we sometimes forget the obstacles out there. Not only were the institutional forces of Washington, DC, opposed to balancing the budget, but they would like us to continue to just go on our merry way of spending more than we take in to pander to all

the groups that Washington likes to pander to.

But you know, more than that, it just becomes an act of self-preservation of so many in Congress to talk about balancing the budget, and not really get down to turned that into action in saying the budget would be balanced no later than 2002, and let the national debate begin.

Ultimately, even the opposition of the President and the other party here in the Congress could not stop the will of the American people in getting that budget balanced. Once we put that marker down, that it will be balanced by 2002, the debate began and we were able to capture the attention of the American people and build the momentum necessary to balance our Nation's budget.

Now, that process of laying down a date certain and of moving toward it is fundamental to tackling another important issue before this country that we have talked and talked and talked about for years, but we just cannot seem to get under way, and that is sweeping income tax reform.

Everywhere I go in my district in upstate New York, in the Buffalo and Rochester New York regions and western New York and the Finger Lakes, and as I have traveled around the country and also talked to colleagues from both parties around the country, everybody at home and across America seems to agree: They are tired of the IRS and the intrusiveness of that 5.5 million-word Tax Code in their everyday lives.

They want fundamental change in the Tax Code. The American people want to have that kind of fundamental change. But Congress just keeps talking about this reform, without moving forward on it.

Of course, in this body we have some great proposals. We have proposals for a national sales tax to replace the income tax. We have proposals to have a flat rate income tax to replace the current income tax system. There are many other ideas out there, but we just cannot seem to move from talking about it to acting upon it.

Every day we wait, that Tax Code keeps putting a greater and greater burden on the backs of the American people. Just think about it for a minute. A 5.5 million-word Tax Code enforced by 110,000 people in the Internal Revenue Service defines everything we do as American citizens. It limits our personal and economic freedom. The Tax Code discriminates against children, it discriminates against families, it discriminates against small business people and entrepreneurs. It encourages hundreds of billions of dollars, hundreds of billions of dollars, in the underground economy and in tax avoidance, things that never end up on the books, so the government can never collect its share of them in tax revenue. Certainly the Tax Code and its complexity and unfairness lead most folks to distrust this very Congress and this very government that