

the law. Those are two different things. But we ought to be talking about whether or not there was realism to the idea that foreign funds were taken into campaigns. That breaks the law. We ought to be talking about the changing or shifting soft money to hard money. That is against the law. The allegations of laundering money, that is against the law. That is what we are talking about there. Then we ought to be talking over here about campaign reform, fine. But McCain-Feingold is not one this body is willing to accept.

As a result of that, we are not doing anything simply because of complaints—well, we can't go forward unless I get my way. I think the majority leader has done a great job of trying to negotiate something, trying to put campaign finance on the menu for next March—that is the thing to do—and then come up with a bill that has some support, bipartisan support, and we can do something. But that is not where we are.

Think a minute about the agenda that we might be able to pursue, the things that people really want to do. One, of course, is ISTEA, the funding of highways. Now, some say it doesn't matter, there is enough money, there is enough cash-flow, we don't need to do it until next year. And there is probably cash-flow to finish the contracts there now, to operate, but there is not the kind of money that highway departments need to plan for next year, to go ahead and let contracts and move forward as we should. We ought to be doing that.

IRS reform—most people want to do something about the IRS in two areas. One, change the way the agency works, and that can be done, to make it more friendly. There are proposals out there that most people agree with. The other is to start talking about changing the Tax Code which underlies the problem, which we need to be doing.

What are we doing? We just can't move forward with anything because you are not doing it the way you want to. Come on, that is not why we are here.

We ought to be doing something to make sure that our balanced budget agreement is ready for next year. A balanced budget means more than anything else. We need to be doing something, as I mentioned, about the Tax Code to make it simpler. Most people agree with that. We can do some things, but you can't do them unless you undertake it. You can't do it by just stalling.

We need to do something about educational IRA's to give people an opportunity to set aside money for education so they can use it not only for higher education but for elementary and secondary. Those proposals are out here and are ready to be worked on. Can't do that because you don't agree to what we want on McCain-Feingold. Give me a break. We have a lot of things we ought to be doing.

We ought to be talking about ways to have smaller Government, ways to bring the private sector into contracting those nongovernmental activities in Government that can be done to help small business—the main thing small business has talked about in the White House meetings for the last 3 years. Can't do that, though, because we don't have it our way.

States rights. We ought to be talking about the proper role of Government, individual freedom and responsibilities. Those are the things that we are here for.

Mr. President, I am disappointed that we aren't able to move forward. I am disappointed that we are not able to do some useful things while we are here. That is why we are here, why we were sent here. I have no objection to disagreement. That is part of the system. Certainly not everybody is going to agree. In the first place, we have different philosophies. That is kind of why we have two parties; we represent different philosophies on things. That is perfectly legitimate. Whenever anybody has a bill, there are reasons why others don't agree. That is why we have a system to vote to decide how they will work out. There is no problem with debate, no problem with argument, no problem with disagreement. But we need to move beyond that. We need to move beyond that and do some of the things that we were sent here to do—and there are so many. As people begin to look at next year's election, the issues begin to identify themselves, as they should, and we ought to be doing something with them. We ought to be doing something with them.

Mr. President, we will have an opportunity, I guess, this afternoon to move forward. Perhaps we can move on. At least we have six more appropriations bills to pass to keep the Government operating. We have had to extend the time twice because we haven't been able to get to them. It would be interesting at some time to have everybody in this body write down the 10 issues that they think are most important to this country and to set about to do them. Wouldn't that be interesting and useful? We can do that.

Mr. President, I hope that when we come together this afternoon to vote, we will also bring together the Interior appropriations bill and move forward on that. There will be things we don't agree with. I can tell you one I don't agree with procedurally. You will find on the appropriations bill—it was put on there—a \$400 appropriations dealing with endangered species, the jumping mouse. Well, I don't have any particular objections to jumping mice, but I do have an objection to someone putting it on the appropriations bill when it is in the conference committee, has never been talked about in either House, and they put it on there and you don't have any chance to do anything about it. That's wrong. It's the wrong procedure. We should not do that. But I am not going to try to hold

the thing up because of that. It ought to go forward. So should the other things that are before us here in this conference.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEGRADATION OF THE SALTON SEA ECOSYSTEM

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the Senate what I believe to be a building environmental crisis in southern California, and that has to do with the Salton Sea. Let me begin by telling you what the Salton Sea is. The modern day Salton Sea is often referred to as the largest manmade water body in California. It was formed in late 1905 as a result of a break in a temporary levy along the Colorado River. For a period of about 16 months after the breach, the Colorado River flowed into the below-sea-level depression then known as the "Salton sink," filling it to a depth of more than 80 feet above its lowest elevation. Since that time, the water level in the sea has been seeking a balance between desert forces that extract water as a product of evaporation and the inflows of water from surface and subsurface sources. The Salton Sea is about 350 square miles. It is 35 miles long, it has 115 miles of shoreline, and it is 15 miles wide. It is a big body of water. Today, the depth is about 51 feet, and I believe it is about 234 feet below sea level.

This lake was originally a freshwater lake. It is now dying because of a confluence of events. It is the combination of the rising salinity levels caused by the evaporation I just mentioned—and the body of water is now 25 percent saltier than the ocean—plus major disease outbreaks and other up to this point identified as unknown causes that scientists believe are linked to millions of gallons of polluted agricultural drainage as well as chemical wastes coming out of Mexicali. Now, these wastes flow from the Alamo and the New Rivers, which go from Mexico, flow north, and empty into this huge body of water. The body of water is best known as being between Palm Springs and the Mexican border. It is near the areas we considered for the Desert Protection Act, and originally it was hoped that it would be a major recreation area. As a matter of fact, it was hoped that about \$500 million a year in revenues would be produced because of recreational and job opportunities. Instead, it is now just a dreadful situation.

The two rivers I just mentioned, the New River and Alamo River, account

for about 78 percent of the water replenishment of the Salton Sea. The Whitewater River on the northern end also dumps agricultural runoff into the Salton Sea. I first visited the area in 1990 when I was in El Centro. I remember going to the banks of the New River and there were workers there, volunteers, picking up rubbish along the riverside. They had on elbow-high gloves. I asked the question, "Why do you wear these gloves?" They told me that even above the gloves they would get blisters when they worked around the area. So in 1990 something was going on. It has gotten a lot worse since then.

In 1996, pathogenic micro-organisms were identified in the sea's environment, and that includes the New River. Among them were the organisms capable of causing polio, typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis. Also, concerns about public health from disease-causing agents have resulted in the issuance of public health advisories warning of the dangers of eating fish caught in the sea.

Because of its diverse ecosystem, the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge has been ranked among the top 10 of our Nation's 510 national refuges. It is of critical importance to the western region because of its proximity to the Pacific Ocean and Mexico. It is a key component in the Pacific flyway for millions of migratory water birds that rest at that refuge on their annual journeys to and from Canada and South America. So birds that touch down there may well also be dying elsewhere. However, an increased frequency and severity of massive die-offs of thousands of waterfowl and shore birds and millions of fish have been occurring in the Salton Sea in recent years, and it's threatening the existence now of the entire regional ecosystem.

The size of the calamity is mind-boggling. The mortality toll includes birds from every one of the species that visit the sea, including the endangered California brown pelican, with which I happen to be particularly enamored.

The degradation of the Salton Sea ecosystem is also taking a toll on the economy of the surrounding area, and we have seen economic values drop off precipitously. There are some who believe it is too late to save the Salton Sea because the problems are too complex and too large. I don't share that point of view, and I am asking this body's support for increased efforts to address the sea's problems to prevent further degradation of this environmentally rich ecosystem and to preserve it for all time.

Let me quickly mention a brief chronology of happenings. In 1992, more than 150,000 waterfowl, known as eared grebes, died from an undiagnosed cause. In 1996, a severe botulism outbreak killed more than 15,000 birds, including more than 1,400 endangered brown pelicans. About 15 percent of the western race of the North American

white pelican have perished in the last 2 years. That is 15 percent of the entire white pelican population of the west coast.

Earlier this year, an outbreak of Newcastle disease decimated an entire nesting colony of nearly 2,000 double-crested cormorants. The destruction of the cormorant nesting colony on a small island less than 100 yards long, which had been popular with the birds, shows how quickly death comes in this area. One week the island was alive with the sounds and sights of hundreds of nesting waterfowl, of eggs hatching and new fledglings checking out their surroundings. The next week they were all dead, every one of them. Today, all that is left are the skeletal remains and the rotting carcasses that dot the island. It is a macabre, tragic scene, as I think some of these photos begin to show. This is a bird skeleton in a nest. Right here you can see one of the bird skeletons and a baby carcass in the sand with a nearby pen, just to show you the size. There are just a few in this photo, but they dot the whole landscape.

The birds died in their nests or where they collapsed in the sand, unable to fly or walk. So the scenes you see are depicted all over the island. Two of my staff members visited the Salton Sea recently—just a couple of weeks ago—and had to carefully pick their steps in order to avoid stepping on dead birds.

Equally tragic is the sight of birds stricken with botulism which affects the nervous system. First they lose their ability to fly, and then the ability to stand upright or walk. Lastly, as the deadly disease progresses they become completely paralyzed and can no longer raise their heads, and they drown or they die of starvation.

So the task of rescuing sick and dying birds and cleaning up the endless stream of carcasses is being handled by dedicated men and women of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in Imperial County. I have the utmost respect for their work.

Since last March, they have been bringing in boatloads—often three times a week—of stricken birds and carcasses of the dead that have been picked up throughout the sea. The death toll as of October 22 for this year stood at 6,792 birds, including 234 endangered California brown pelicans. The White pelican held by refuge worker, Marcos Orozco, rescued a week or so ago, and the other sick birds in the boat may have a chance to survive. They are the lucky ones who will undergo emergency treatment at the refuge's recently completed hospital in an attempt to stabilize them until they can be transferred to a volunteer organization's rehab facility in Orange County. If successful there they will be released back to the wild.

Let's talk about the brown pelican that you see dead in this photograph. And you see part of the Salton Sea here with this small island and vast-

ness behind it. Last year more than 1,400 of these birds perished in the waters and on the mud flats of the sea. For refugee worker Orozco, it was the first time in his 26-year career at the Salton Sea that he had seen a die-off of brown pelicans. However, the deaths are continuing, and the prospects are not good.

"It is not a pretty sight," notes refuge manager Clark Bloom who has observed grown persons breaking down and crying when they witnessed the sick and dying birds.

My big concern here is that not enough is being done. And I am almost as sure as I am standing here that it is only a question of time before some of these micro-organisms also begin to impact people as well. Right now it is birds. But if it were people, I think the shouts would be deafening.

And it is hard for me to imagine what 1 million dead fish floating on the surface of this lake must look like. But for Ken Sturm, the wildlife biologist at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, the scene is one he will not forget.

He reported that the lifeless mass of Tilapia, a popular sport fish which he observed at the northern end of the sea, extended more than 3 miles in length. That was on September 8, about 6 weeks ago. But that isn't the beginning nor the end. On September 24, another floating mass of at least 1,000 dead fish was spotted at the southern end of the refuge.

Scenes like this are commonplace along many shoreline areas, and in much larger numbers, I am sorry to say. A parasite which affects the gills of the fish is a prime suspect in some of the fish die-offs, but more scientific research is needed to pinpoint the exact cause.

Another suspect which some experts believe could trigger conditions leading to the fish kills is a purplish algae like that shown in this photo. It doesn't look like much. But they believe it is a potentially deadly algae. I would hazard a guess that it probably comes from some chemical waste.

There are some bright spots.

The first, of course, is the staff of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. They have been doing a truly commendable job. However, they need additional resources, including boats and personnel, in order to respond adequately.

Also, the Pacific wildlife project in Orange County, a volunteer group, deserves commendation. Ninety percent of the birds that are rescued would have perished without their care.

Also noteworthy is the fact that private groups, agencies, and businesses in the area have contributed to date more than \$60,000 this year in cash and services to finance construction of a field hospital for sick birds at the Federal refuge. Whether the sick white pelicans in the refuge that you see in the photo here make it or not is unknown. They have just been brought in from the sea and given emergency

treatment, and we will see if they survive.

While these efforts are underway, the Federal Government and others are analyzing projects for restoration of the Salton Sea. This is where it gets very complicated.

The Bureau of Reclamation in September of this year issued its final draft on the Salton Sea which evaluated 54 alternatives to improve the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the sea. Five of those alternatives will be now considered further. The problem is no one agrees.

The recently enacted 1998 Energy and Water appropriations bill includes \$400,000 for the Bureau of Reclamation to continue its research project.

The conference report in the fiscal year 1998 VA-HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill includes \$6 million in the EPA's budget for continued research on the Salton Sea—now you are beginning to see the number of agencies that are coming into this—including \$1 million for the University of Redlands and \$5 million for the Salton Sea Authority.

I have written letters, which I ask unanimous consent be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 23, 1997.

Hon. FRANKLIN RAINES,
Director, Office of Management and Budget,
Washington, DC.

DEAR DIRECTOR RAINES: As you prepare the Administration's budget for Fiscal Year 1999, I would like to bring to your attention the need to provide \$2 million to address the environmental calamity which has struck the Salton Sea ecosystem in Southern California.

Disease outbreaks of catastrophic proportions have hit the bird and fish populations at the inland lake which is a major element of the migratory Pacific Flyway where some 49 bird species are found. Unless corrective action is taken, experts predict even more dire consequence which would mean the destruction of the Sea's ecosystem within a decade, or sooner.

In order to deal with the immediate crisis and to formulate actions needed to restore the Salton Sea ecosystem, the Fish and Wildlife Service had identified a number of programs, actions and equipment components in need of funding in Fiscal Year 1999. They are summarized as follows:

\$1 million for operational support at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge to include \$119,000 for four full-time equivalent employees (16 persons for a four month period) to pick up dead, sick or dying birds, and for sampling work; \$25,000 for equipment and supplies, \$88,000 for purchase of more cages, wildlife medical supplies and equipment for a field hospital and rehabilitation center; \$40,000 for a new incinerator for disposal of dead wildlife and to meet air quality standards; \$125,000 for assignment of a full-time science coordinator and one support person to the Salton Sea to orchestrate the implementation of scientific studies and associate field operations; \$350,000 for modular facilities for research and support staff to work on site; \$60,000 for purchase of two new air boats for field operations; \$40,000 for equipment maintenance that supports oper-

ations such as vehicles and boat repairs and minor equipment replacement; \$183,000 for a short-term study to provide information on how to understand factor driving the current pelican/fish die-offs and methods for eliminating the kills.

\$1 million for a Salton Sea Response Plan to included \$525,000 for hiring a team leader and assemble a interagency team and to pay for consultant contracts; \$115,000 for miscellaneous office equipment rental or purchase; \$125,000 for technical assistance contracts, such as a contract with the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to identify Native American sites within the study area; \$100,000 for rental of temporary work space for team members; \$85,000 for conducting public scoping workshops, and \$50,000 for printing of a final plan.

The catastrophic degradation of the Salton Sea ecosystem has helped to focus national and local attention to the problem, providing considerable momentum among various agencies, interest groups and the public for addressing the problem. The funding needs cited above are critical in getting a start on restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and preventing a recurrence of the devastation that has taken such a heavy toll of waterfowl and fish. Therefore, I respectfully request your cooperation in providing the \$2 million for the Fish and Wildlife in the Fiscal Year 1999 budget request. Because of initiatives underway to further identify critically needed scientific research associated with restoration of the Salton Sea, additional funding proposals will be brought to your attention as soon as they are identified.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your commitment to preserving our nation's precious natural resources.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
AND BUDGET,

Washington, DC, October 20, 1997.

Hon. DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: Thank you for your letter regarding the Fish and Wildlife Service's request for funding for the Salton Sea ecosystem restoration. I appreciate your bringing this matter to my attention, since OMB has just begun to review Administration budget proposals for Fiscal Year 1999.

In that process we have many important needs to address. The information you provided will be helpful as we undertake our evaluation of the Service's request. The Administration will strive to fund as many important projects as possible within the constraints of the Balanced Budget Agreement.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter. If I can provide further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

FRANKLIN D. RAINES,
Director.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, September 23, 1997.

Hon. BRUCE BABBITT,
Secretary, Department of the Interior,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am writing to ask your assistance regarding the environmental crisis at the Salton Sea in Southern California where the die-off of waterfowl and fish has reached catastrophic proportions.

Recent disease outbreaks in birds and fish at the Salton Sea have brought local and national attention to the degradation that is occurring to the ecosystem of this inland lake which is a major stop for migratory

water birds along the Pacific Flyway. The scope of the devastation underscores the need for immediate steps to save the Salton Sea and its precious resources. Last year an outbreak of Newcastle disease killed 14,000 birds, and the die-off is continuing unabated. The bird mortality toll through September 15, for example, was 6,293, including 182 endangered California brown pelicans. Also, on September 8, a massive fish kill composed of more than 1 million Tilapia extending over three miles in length was observed by the biologist at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.

Several major engineering projects have been proposed by various interests, including the Salton Sea Authority and Congressional representatives for addressing the deterioration of the inland lake. However, because of the complexity of the problems confronting the Salton Sea, I agree with experts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others who stress the need to fully understand the ecosystem and its problems before committing vast amounts of funds to any single restoration project. In this regard, I believe it is imperative that the report to Congress which the Bureau of Reclamation is preparing on its findings and recommendations for solving the Salton Sea's problems be completed as soon as possible. I am hopeful that the bureau's report will contain an action plan, and recommendations for funding of necessary scientific studies associated with any proposed restoration project.

In that regard I respectfully ask your assistance in calling on federal agencies with responsibility in the Salton Sea to review and re-prioritize their FY 98 work programs so that research tasks which are deemed most critical for implementation of restoration projects can begin as soon as possible. Also, because the Salton Sea is an environmental and economic resource of regional and national significance, I strongly believe that the federal, state and local governments all must share in the responsibility for saving the Sea and in paying for its restoration.

In light of the environmental calamity which grips the Salton Sea, and the need for immediate action to prevent further degradation, I ask that you give your personal attention to these matters. I have been informed that because of limited staff and equipment, personnel to the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge are hampered in their ability to handle the rescue of waterfowl and in the cleanup and disposal of dead birds. Therefore, I would appreciate your consideration of what additional resources can be provided for field operations at the Salton Sea to deal with the massive die-off of birds and fish that is occurring there, including reimbursement for the Pacific Wildlife Project for the assistance in rehabilitation diseased birds. I believe it is imperative that the federal agencies be given the resources that they need to do the job and that wherever possible, volunteer groups who have provided invaluable service in rescuing and rehabilitating diseased birds, be compensated for their expenses.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that the causes of the environmental degradation of the Salton Sea are identified and eliminated, and pledge to work with you to make it a reality.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 19, 1997.

Hon. JOHN M. BERNAL,
Commissioner, International Boundary and
Water Commission, El Paso, TX.

DEAR COMMISSIONER BERNAL: I am writing to ask your assistance in providing a progress report on the cleanup of the New River pollution and in determining how completion of the improvement project can be expedited.

As you know, the cleanup of the New River is a critical factor to the elimination of the environmental degradation of the Salton Sea and the public health threat which the pollution poses for residents of Imperial County and the border region. Disease outbreaks among birds and fish at the Salton Sea have brought local and national attention to the degradation of the inland sea and the region's ecosystem. Moreover, the mortality toll of fish and wildlife continues to rise, and has served to heighten interests in finding solutions that will result in the elimination of the complex problems besetting the Salton Sea.

Because of the concerns cited above, I respectfully request your assistance in providing a progress and status report on the short term and long-term New River pollution cleanup measures which the IBWC is overseeing. I have been informed that while much progress has been made on the package of 11 so-called "quick fix" projects, that, because of technical and other reasons, the project has taken longer than expected to complete. I would appreciate information on the expected completion date for all of the improvements. Also of interest is the status of the other major work on upgrading of the Mexicali I wastewater treatment plant and construction of the new Mexicali II treatment plant.

Because of the importance of these projects for reducing New River pollution and other serious threats to the environment and public health, I also ask that the IBWC, in conjunction with its Mexico partners, do all that it can to accelerate completion of the improvements and certification by the Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

Thank you for your cooperation. I also pledge to assist in any way possible so please do not hesitate to contact me in that regard.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senator.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank the Chair.

The first letter is to Frank Raines of OMB asking that 2 million additional dollars in fiscal year 1999 be included, and giving the rationale for those inclusions.

I have received a letter dated October 20 indicating—and I thank him very much for that—that OMB is reviewing the request.

I also have a letter dated September 23 to Bruce Babbitt of the Interior, and to John Bernal of the International Boundary and Water Commission. I have received no response to either of these letters.

It is my view that the Department of the Interior should take this off of the back burner and put it on the front burner. And I would respectfully suggest that they utilize the same club-fed methodology that they have used I think with great success in handling California's water problems. This is where the Secretary of the Interior

really takes the responsibility to pull together all of the disparate groups into a kind of working commitment to see that the right thing is done.

My concern is that the die-off could continue for years, and the chemical and agricultural wastes continue to interface.

If you fly above this river you will see where the river leaches out a crystalline substance into the agricultural heartland of the Imperial Valley. You will see where it directly abuts green field row crops. This I think is the potential danger in terms of the future for people working in that area, not only for blisters but also for something potentially much more serious.

So I am hoping that Secretary Babbitt will elevate this into a club-fed effort and that we can really get cracking.

The House Subcommittee on Water and Power also held an oversight hearing in Palm Desert on October 3 of this year, a few weeks ago, helping to focus national and regional attention on the Salton Sea and the need for action. However, as I said, at this time there is no agreement on a plan. And the critical research must be done. But what is clear to me is that it must be expedited. We now have a die-off that has been going on throughout this decade, and is escalating. We now have identified microorganisms which yield typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis, and other diseases in what is a 350-square-mile body of water which is polluted in a major and very sad way.

So the longer a solution is delayed, Mr. President, the worse the situation will become.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, October 24, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,425,466,348,255.95. (Five trillion, four hundred twenty-five billion, four hundred sixty-six million, three hundred forty-eight thousand, two hundred fifty-five dollars and ninety-five cents).

One year ago, October 24, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,232,047,000,000 (Five trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, forty-seven million).

Twenty-five years ago, October 24, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$438,275,000,000 (Four hundred thirty-eight billion, two hundred seventy-five million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,987,191,348,255.95 (Four trillion, nine hundred eighty-seven billion, one hundred ninety-one million, three hundred forty-eight thousand, two hundred fifty-five dollars and ninety-five cents) during the past 25 years.

WYOMING'S POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the action of my State's Governor in proclaiming September 19,

1997, as Wyoming's POW/MIA Recognition Day. I believe such a proclamation to be wholly appropriate in light of the fact that over 2,000 Americans are still missing in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, and over 8,000 on the Korean Peninsula. These men gave their last full measure in causes whose worthiness is rendered more secure with every passing year of historical distance. Though the same can be said of all who sacrificed so, we often forget the sacrifice of those who have no headstones to call to us each memorial day. Hence the importance of efforts such as Governor Geringer's, which remind the Nation of our continuing and unfulfilled responsibility to account for the remains of these men for the sake of their families and our national conscience. I am reminded of something written half a century ago:

The universe is so vast and so ageless that the life of one man can only be justified by the measure of his sacrifice.

That passage was in a young Royal Air Force pilot's last letter to his mother before his death during the Battle of Britain. I commend Governor Geringer for his proclamation and I urge the President to intensify his efforts at retrieving the remains of America's missing in action. In their sacrifice they proved their measure. America owes them this small debt.

There being no objection, the proclamation was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

Two thousand one hundred sixteen Americans are still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, and their families, friends and fellow veterans still endure uncertainty concerning their fate. Six are listed from Wyoming.

U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence confirm that the Government of Vietnam could unilaterally account for hundreds of missing Americans, including many of the 454 still missing in Laos and the 76 still unaccounted for in Cambodia, by locating and returning identifiable remains and providing archival records to answer other discrepancies.

The President has normalized relations with Vietnam and believed that such action would generate increased unilateral accounting for Americans still missing from the Vietnam War, and such results have not yet been provided by the Government of Vietnam.

Wyoming calls on the President to reinvoke U.S. efforts to press Vietnam for unilateral actions to locate and return to our nation remains that would account for hundreds of America's POW/MIAs and records to help obtain answers on many more.

For these significant reasons, I, Jim Geringer, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim September 19, 1997, to be "POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY" in Wyoming, and encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wyoming to be affixed this 22nd day of August, 1997.

JIM GERINGER,
Governor.