

inflationary results of their anti-timber campaigns—where is their righteous indignation when working Americans and families find it increasingly difficult to put a roof over their heads?

What is most disappointing in this debate is that news articles and extreme environmental organizations fail to mention the greatest loser if such a proposal was ever enacted: our public education system. Some 25 percent of the revenue from Federal timber sales goes directly to counties to be used for roads and schools. These counties rely on these Federal revenues. In addition to providing essential local services as schools and roads, these counties also provide direct and indirect services to national forests, national parks, wilderness areas, fish and wildlife refuges, and reclamation areas. Without some timber harvests in these financially-strapped counties, the public education of our children will suffer.

The argument that the only good harvest is no harvest at all overlooks the fact that up to 10,000 acres of Federal timber lands fall victim to forest fires every year. This does not even take into account the insect and disease outbreaks which ravage thousands of acres of public lands.

In 1994, devastating wildfires ravaged forests in Washington State. The fires were fueled by the excessive buildup on the forest floor. The forest floor was composed of dead, dying, insect infested, and diseased timber which had built up due to a lack of active management on Federal forest lands, including thinning and removal of insect-infested trees.

The health of our forests will deteriorate under the status quo, as dead and dying trees are left untouched.

Thinning, on the other hand will create a desired condition in which more trees will survive because of less competition for a limited amount of available moisture. By reducing natural fuel loads through thinning, removal of underbrush, and dead and dying trees, we will be creating a win-win situation in which our forests will be healthier and our mills will be stronger.

I think it is also important to note that as I heap scorn on the proposed legislation in the House and its supporters, we are beginning to see a rejection of this extreme approach by dedicated environmentalists who live in timber-dependent communities. Unlike their counterparts in Washington DC, and other urban areas who are busy turning out fundraising letters, these true conservationists send their children to the local schools, see the devastating impact of these radical policies on the local economy, and fear for their lives, livelihood, and homes due to the severe wildfire threat.

As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, it was encouraging to see the progress that is being made at the local level in northeastern California. There, local environmentalists, timber workers, and public officials have crafted a rea-

sonable land management plan that restores balance to our forests known as the Quincy Library Group approach.

Unlike this approach—a balanced, responsible approach to forest health and forest management—the zero-cut proposal introduced last week in the House does nothing more than carry out the agenda of extreme national environmental organizations. I urge moderate, responsible environmental organizations to join me in soundly defeating the proposal in the House and here, if and when the bill is ever brought before either chamber.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. NICKLES pertaining to the submission of S. 1381 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADM. (SELECT) JAY M. COHEN, U.S. NAVY DEPUTY CHIEF OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize and say farewell to an outstanding naval officer and good friend, Rear Adm. (select) Jay M. Cohen. For the past 4½ years, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen has served with distinction as the Navy's Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments and to commend him for the superb service he has provided this legislative body, the Navy, and the Nation.

A native of New York City, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen was commissioned as an ensign upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968. Since then, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen has spent the majority of his career patrolling the ocean depths as a Navy submariner. Following submarine training, he began his submarine service aboard U.S.S. *Diodon* (SS 349) in San Diego. Nuclear power trained, he has served in the engineering departments of U.S.S. *Nathaniel Greene* (SSBN 636) and U.S.S. *Nathan Hall* (SSBN 623), and

as the executive officer aboard U.S.S. *George Washington Carver* (SSBN 656). In 1985, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen took command of U.S.S. *Hyman G. Rickover* (SSN 709) and skippered the ship on three deployments.

When not underwater, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen has likewise served with distinction on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, as senior member of the Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board and on the staff of the Director of Naval Intelligence. He also commanded U.S.S. *L. Y. Spear* (AS 36), a submarine tender in Norfolk, VA. Following this command tour, he reported, in April 1993, to the Secretary of the Navy's staff as the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs. Among Rear Admiral(select) Cohen's many awards and decorations are five Legions of Merit and three Meritorious Service Medals. He is both submarine and surface warfare qualified.

During his tenure as the Deputy Chief of Legislative Affairs, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen provided the Senate with timely support and accurate information on Navy plans and programs. His close work with the Congress and steadfast devotion to the Navy mission helped ensure that the U.S. Navy remained the best-trained, best-equipped, and best-prepared naval force in the world. Faced with countless challenges and a multitude of complex and sensitive issues, Rear Admiral (select) Cohen's unflappable leadership, integrity, and limitless energy had a profound and positive impact on the U.S. Naval Service.

As a testament to his extremely valuable contributions to the national security of this country, the Navy recently selected him to flag rank and I am pleased to say that the Senate recently confirmed his nomination. The Chief of Naval Operations will pin on his star Friday, November 7, in the Pentagon. With this well-deserved promotion, Admiral Cohen will continue his outstanding service to the Navy and the Nation as he moves on to positions of even greater responsibility. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I wish Rear Adm. (select) Jay Cohen fair winds and following seas. I know we will see and hear from him again.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, November 4, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,432,371,961,282.81 (Five trillion, four hundred thirty-two billion, three hundred seventy-one million, nine hundred sixty-one thousand, two hundred eighty-two dollars and eighty-one cents).

One year ago, November 4, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,248,378,000,000 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-eight billion, three hundred seventy-eight million).

Five years ago, November 4, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,070,185,000,000

(Four trillion, seventy billion, one hundred eighty-five million).

Ten years ago, November 4, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,392,996,000,000 (Two trillion, three hundred ninety-two billion, nine hundred ninety-six million).

Fifteen years ago, November 4, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,145,846,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred forty-five billion, eight hundred forty-six million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,286,525,961,282.81 (Four trillion, two hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred twenty-five million, nine hundred sixty-one thousand, two hundred eighty-two dollars and eighty-one cents) during the past 15 years.

U.S. FOREIGN OIL CONSUMPTION FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 31

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the American Petroleum Institute reports that for the week ending October 31, the United States imported 7,986,000 barrels of oil each day, 948,000 barrels more than the 7,038,000 imported each day during the same week a year ago.

Americans relied on foreign oil for 55.6 percent of their needs last week, and there are no signs that the upward spiral will abate. Before the Persian Gulf war, the United States obtained approximately 45 percent of its oil supply from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970's, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Anybody else interested in restoring domestic production of oil? By U.S. producers using American workers?

Politicians had better ponder the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the United States—now 7,986,000 barrels a day.

FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last week the First Lady visited Dublin and Belfast. When the President and the First Lady visited those cities 2 years ago, they received a warm welcome from the people of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and Mrs. Clinton was warmly received on her return visit last week.

During her visit, she emphasized the President's commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. All friends of Ireland in the United States are grateful for the continuing interest and involvement of the President and the First Lady in this issue, which is of such great importance to so many Americans.

In Dublin on October 30, Mrs. Clinton spoke warmly of her previous visit in 1995 and the continuing strong commitment of the United States to the peace process.

At the University of Ulster in Belfast on October 31, Mrs. Clinton delivered a

lecture named in honor and in memory of Joyce McCartan, a courageous woman of peace whom the First Lady had met during her visit 2 years ago, and who had inspired many other women in Northern Ireland to take up the cause of reconciliation.

I believe my colleagues will be interested in Mrs. Clinton's eloquent remarks about the positive role of women in Northern Ireland and around the world in the search for peace and hope and opportunity. I ask unanimous consent that the First Lady's remarks in Dublin and Belfast be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the remarks were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY DUBLIN CASTLE; DUBLIN, IRELAND

October 30, 1997

Thank you very much, it is such a great pleasure for me to be back and I must tell you that although my visit is far too brief, my husband is very jealous. He is green with jealousy, and as I left this morning, he said "tell everyone"—as though I would have a chance to tell the entire populace—how much he wishes he could be here as well.

It has been as, we have heard, nearly two years since we were here, and I don't think we will ever have a better time anywhere than we did here. The warmth of the greeting and the outpouring at College Green are images that we think about and talk about in our house all the time. It is wonderful to be back here in this Castle, and I am especially pleased that since our visit, Ireland hosted here, the European Union leaders, to such success.

Much has happened in the Northern Ireland peace process since my husband was here. An IRA cease-fire broke down but was restored, and in this precious peace almost all the key parties of the conflict are sitting down to discuss substantive issues. There is a new government in Ireland, led by the Taoiseach, and this government has built on the determination of its predecessor to keep the political momentum moving toward a negotiated settlement.

But I've been especially pleased to see, since my visit, how Ireland has continued to prosper. It has been wonderful to read, as I have, of the important progress that has been made, not only in the peace process but in the move toward prosperity, on this island. I was very moved to have a visit just a few days ago in the White House from Mary Robinson, and I know that the polls have closed and you are about to elect her successor. She has moved from being your President to being in the forefront of human rights, another example of Irish leadership.

Dublin as you know has an important critical role in producing a settlement. As my husband said two years ago on College Green, America will be with you as you walk the road of peace. We know from our own experience that making peace among people of different cultures is the work of a lifetime. My husband and I, and all who stand with you, are under no illusions that reaching an agreement will be easy. There are centuries of feelings behind each side's arguments, and events of the past 27 years have left wounds that are still raw.

I would like to highlight two themes on this short visit here and then tomorrow in Belfast—compromise and reconciliation. When the people want peace, it is the obligation of political leaders to find the common ground where it can thrive. It involves post-

poning or even giving up cherished ideals in the belief that others will do the same to end conflict and build a better future. All sides must compromise and seek this common ground in the weeks and months ahead.

I want, on behalf of the President, to pay tribute to both sides of the border and the community divide, who have worked so hard in recent years to bring about reconciliation in the wake of this bitter conflict, and I want to mention women in particular. Women have paid a heavy price for the social turmoil generated by the troubles, and it therefore comes as no surprise that women are leading the efforts towards a lasting peace. Tomorrow, in Belfast, I will honor one such woman, Joyce McCartan, whom I was privileged to meet on my visit. The National Women's Council of Ireland has launched a project in collaboration with partners in Northern Ireland called "Making Women Seen and Heard." It features workshops designed to empower women who are politically and socially marginalized. These workshops held on both sides of the border are a tangible example of what can be done to foster communication and reconciliation.

The United States will continue to do its part to support the peace process. My husband remains personally committed to this effort and to those who take risks to make peace happen. We are also fortunate to have Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith, who has contributed so much to the relationship between our countries, to Ireland, and to the peace process. Be assured that the United States is your partner for the long haul.

I want to thank you also for the warm hospitality extended to my daughter during her private visit in June. She was able to come with a friend and just a few other keepers, and enjoy the people and the beauty of your country, and I am grateful to you for that. I also must tell you that my husband has been practicing his golf, looking at his calendar searching for a date that will enable him to return here with a seven-iron in hand. I hope that that is not too far off in the distance, and that he will have the opportunity that I have now to greet you personally, to thank you for your friendship and your support, and to wish you Godspeed in the many important efforts that you are undertaking today.

Thank you very much.

REMARKS OF THE FIRST LADY AT JOYCE MCCARTAN MEMORIAL LECTURE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER; BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

October 31, 1997

Thank you, Thank you very much, Chancellor. I am delighted to be here at this university. I want to thank the university for this invitation, Robert Hanna, Professor Sir Trevor Smith, Pro Vice Chancellor, and Provost Ann Tate. And I'm especially pleased that I could be joined today by the United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James Philip Lader, U.S. Counsel General Kathleen Stevens, and Senator George Mitchell, who is here in the room with us.

I want to welcome all of you because I feel so very welcome here, but particularly, a special welcome to the family, friends and associates of Joyce McCartan who have joined us today.

It is a great personal pleasure and honor for me to be back in Northern Ireland and to reunite with some of the courageous women and men I first met when I came here two years ago with my husband. The sights and sounds and emotions of that visit, the lighting of the Christmas Tree outside City Hall, our walk from Guild Hall Square to Shipquay Street, Protestants and Catholics working side by side at the Mackey Metal