

who was moved from her home, started out with her family, came to a fork in the road, and her father and brother went in one direction and she and her mother went another. They came to an encampment or a camp area and she was separated from her mother.

The American people understand that a sustained air strike is imperative if we are to relieve the pain of separation and the crisis that is going on in the former Yugoslavia. This weekend I spent time with my constituents, many of whom expressed extreme concern about this crisis, questioning, of course, what we should do, but being supportive of the idea that Americans had to do something, as we failed to do in Rwanda and Burundi. I think now we are aware that ethnic cleansing, the murder of innocent civilians, has to stop and cannot be tolerated by the world family.

This weekend I joined the clerical community of my city and and prayed for peace. In fact, we have made this week in Houston a week of prayer, and we have asked for the respective institutions of religious concerns to offer up prayers or callings for peace. We did that this weekend, and I enjoyed and welcomed the opportunity to worship at the Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church this past Sunday, along with members of the Muslim community and other faiths, in calling upon and praying for peace.

I believe that as we sustain these air strikes, we should still be calling for return to the peace table. Although we must stand firm in what we require of Mr. Milosevic, and that is, of course, to allow the refugees to return to their homes, to remove the Serbian troops from that area, and to allow for peacekeeping troops to go into that area, we, part of the NATO allies, must not silence our voices from asking for return to the peace tables.

Seven hundred thousand have been removed from Kosovo. We now hear tell of the possibility of enormous atrocities, the killing of very many. But I believe that it is extremely important that we do not give up on the sustained air strikes, that we stay focused and unified; that the American people must be educated and informed about how we need to proceed.

Nothing should be excluded or precluded, but we certainly should not move precipitously into the use of ground troops. We have to recognize the importance of bringing along a unified position against Mr. Milosevic. And certainly we must continue to press for the release of the POWs, three young men who should not have been taken in the first place, who were part of a U.N. peacekeeping operation, who have been taken inappropriately and wrongly by the Serbians.

I would simply say that the American people can rise to the occasion. They have always come to the aid of those in need. This conflict is a serious conflict, and any determination on using ground troops should be one that

is done with the support and cooperation of the American people. NATO must remain unified.

I would ask that our NATO allies would engage all of us in the ultimate decisions that are made, and that we, as part of the NATO ally operations, be unified in our discussions so that there is not division, but there is unification and unity.

Most of all, I say, we must protect the children and families. We cannot afford to have the elderly march miles and miles and miles, tormented by being removed from their homes and getting finally to the border and dropping dead, which has happened to many of those refugees who have been sent from their homes. We cannot have the fathers and husbands and brothers being killed randomly, such that they are not even having a decent burial.

America is doing the right thing in joining with its allies in this sustained air strike, and we must stand united together as we move to make determinations, Madam Speaker, that will help bring peace to that region.

But I do say and call upon the national organizations of religion to call for a week of prayer, and also to call for a return to the peace talks so we can have peace in the Balkans.

Madam Speaker, I rise to address the ongoing situation in Kosovo. After 20 days of an intensive air war on Yugoslavia, I am pleased that the campaign is beginning to see results.

In its 20th day, the air war has produced results. Serb troops are beginning to feel the weight of the NATO air strikes. The air war has been successful in hitting both command and control structures and inflicting damage on Serb troops in the field. I feel that this body must stay the course and make Milosevic capitulate the NATO's terms. We must ensure that Milosevic pays a heavy price for his present policy of repression against the Kosovar Albanians, to alter his calculation about continuing on this course; and seriously, diminish his military capacity to exert his will over Kosovo.

This House has sent an invaluable message to Milosevic that aggression does not pay. In using air power we signal our willingness to establish a lasting peace in the region.

Many in this House were critical of the President when he sent our troops to Bosnia for peacekeeping operations. But today I feel that this was one of the best votes I ever made. Bosnia today is a nation on the way to recovery. Its people both Muslim and Christian live in peace and security and this is in tshanks in no small part to the men and women of our armed forces. It takes courage to make tough decisions and stand by one's convictions. We as a nation must be willing to stand against oppression and horrible atrocities being committed in the Balkans.

If this House fails to stay the course it would be interpreted as a vote of no confidence for our foreign policy in the Balkans. It would send confusing signals about our national resolve to persevere to friend and foe alike.

The conflict in Kosovo has caused great human suffering and if left unchecked this conflict threatens the peace and stability of Europe. Already there is evidence of massive graves in Kosovo and I fear that they contain many of the missing ethnic Albanian men.

Tension in this ethnic Albanian region has been increasing since the government of Yugoslavia removed Kosovo's autonomous status. Belgrade's decision came without the approval of the people of Kosovo, which has a population consisting of 90% ethnic Albanians. Several human rights groups report of Serbian forces conducting abductions and summary executions. These reprisal killings and the continued human rights violations confirm many of our fears.

The United States and its allies have taken concrete steps to ensure that this continued violence in the Kosovo region does not spread to Albania, Macedonia, Greece, and Turkey. We must continue the sustained airstrikes to protect the people of Kosovo from this siege of terror by Milosevic.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stay the course in our effort to provide a peaceful multi-ethnic democratic Kosovo in which all its people live in security.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO SELL IMF GOLD RESERVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak against the Clinton administration's recent proposal to dump a large portion of the International Monetary Fund's gold reserve on the open market, just to wipe off the books some of the debt of nations under the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries initiative, or HIPC.

Since Congress must initially approve such a transaction, I rise to state my clear opposition to such a sale. This proposal is wrong and misguided for at least the following reasons.

First, the IMF gold sales could harm, yes, harm, the very nations it is intended to help. Gold mining is a viable and productive part of the economies of well over half of the 41 countries included in the HIPC initiative. In 10 of those countries, gold mining accounts for between 5 and 40 percent of the exports, and in most of the other identified and indebted countries that currently do not mine gold, there are advanced plans for significant gold development.

It would be unfortunate and, yes, ironic if potential investment in gold mining were deterred by the adverse impact of IMF gold sales on the gold price and the economies of this industry.

Secondly, the sale of IMF gold reserves would further depress the gold price in America. The gold price is at its lowest place in 20 years. Mere discussion of a possible IMF gold sale has already depressed the price of gold by more than 3½ percent in the last 2 weeks, and outright sale would have a devastating impact on gold prices.

Finally, such gold sales would substantially harm the U.S. gold mining industry. Gold is a viable U.S. export commodity that substantially benefits our balance of trade. The gold industry

provides thousands of high-paying jobs in this country. In Nevada alone more than a thousand miners have been laid off due to the already depressed gold prices. A further decline would be a serious blow to rural communities in many States, including Nevada, and across this country, since many of them heavily rely on the stable price and production of this commodity.

While I understand the motives of those who support the HIPC initiative, I do not believe that the sale of IMF gold reserves is the best way to be helpful. Gold plays a special and significant role in the economies of this country and those around the globe as well, and this Congress should not take affirmative actions to adversely impact its value.

Accordingly, I oppose any initiative to sell the IMF gold reserve, and strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SAVE THE TIDAL BASIN BEAVERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Madam Speaker, I would like to identify with the remarks of my colleagues tonight on the very heavy issue of Kosovo. However, Madam Speaker, I am going to turn our attention back clear across to this side of the globe and to Washington, D.C. because, Madam Speaker, it is with great alarm that I ask my colleagues to join me in asking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide immediate and emergency protection for the Tidal Basin beaver.

Over 200 years ago General George Washington chopped down a cherry tree. Now, had General Washington had this happen at this time in his life, and a little later on, and if he lived today, he would have been disgraced in the nightly news, his wife trapped and hauled off, with his child being pursued by trappers.

I do not think this is the way to go, Mr. Speaker. It is time that we stand up and stop this pitiful removal of Bucky, the beaver. When you remove an indigenous species the effects are longstanding, and these beaver have made their pilgrimage back to their homeland where their ancestors once frolicked. They built dams and raised their families.

The cherry trees surrounding the Tidal Basin are not even native to the District of Columbia, they were imported from Japan. These beaver are indigenous to this area. This is their natural habitat. These beaver are also

an important part of the ecology in the District of Columbia and its unique environment.

Out West it is the policy of the Federal agencies to remove the people, rather than the animals, when there is a conflict between people and wildlife. Now, beaver are members of the Rodentia species, which include rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and rats.

Out West, in California, when a farmer accidentally ran over a rat, a kangaroo rat, with his tractor, the farmer was arrested and charged with a criminal taking of an endangered species, and his tractor was impounded so he could not use it anymore.

I just think that we need to bring equality in the way that we handle threatened and endangered species.

Out in Idaho, the Federal Government is reintroducing gray wolves and grizzly bears into and near populated areas. The Fish and Wildlife Service claim this reintroduction will restore the Canadian gray wolf, which never did live in Idaho, and the grizzly to its natural habitat.

Although I think this is debatable, I strongly suggest equal treatment for Bucky the beaver, the Tidal Basin beaver. These little beaver deserve equal rights and protection under the law, if not for the sake of the animal kingdom, Madam Speaker, for the sake of humanity.

If these rugged, pioneering beaver can make it in the polluted and murky conditions of the Potomac and the Tidal Basin, then by goodness, they deserve to be free. This is nature's way of reintroducing the native beaver. It is a natural occurrence, and who are we to fool with Mother Nature?

As the future of the captive victim, Bucky the beaver, lies at the hands of the Fish and Wildlife Service, her mate and offspring are in danger of further separation from each other, their way of life, and the homestead that they were so diligently trying to create.

Gene pool testing will undoubtedly determine that Bucky the beaver is an evolutionarily significant unit. This distinct population segment of the Rodentia family must be saved. If the Canadian gray wolf and the grizzly bear are good for reintroduction in Idaho, then we ought to leave the poor little beaver alone in their native habitat in Washington, D.C.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say that this issue has spread all across the Nation, and even up into Alaska, where today a resolution was introduced in the Alaskan legislature by the majority leader of the Senate, Robin Taylor. I will enter that into the record, as well as a poem about Bucky the beaver, whose lyrics were written by Senator Robin Taylor, and they are very, very good.

I would like to make one last plea that we do all we can to save Bucky the beaver.

The poem and resolution referred to are as follows:

BUCKY BEAVER

[Lyrics By Senator Robin Taylor, Alaska State Senate, To be sung to the tune of Davy Crockett]

Bucky Bucky Beaver
 Lets fight to keep him free.
 A Potomac flood left him a facin'
 Life alone in the Tidal Basin.
 He survived right well with the squirrels and
 the bees
 And chewed up a couple of Cherry Trees.
 Bucky Bucky Beaver
 Let's fight to keep him free.
 The Park police now steal his food
 Try to trap him and treat him rude,
 He's a unique species and proud of that
 A livin' on some critical habitat.
 Bucky Bucky Beaver
 Let's fight to keep him free.
 Critters like Bucky sometimes don't fit
 The parky plans of the hypocrits.
 But he needs our help so one and all
 Give Al Gore a personal call . . . tell him
 Bucky Bucky Beaver . . . let's fight to keep
 him free.

CS FOR SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20(RES), IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE—FIRST SESSION

(By the Senate Resources Committee)

Sponsor(s): Senator Taylor

A RESOLUTION

Relating to the removal of beaver from Washington, D.C.

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Alaska:

Whereas the National Park Service is attempting to trap and remove at least two beavers from the vicinity of the Potomac Tidal Basin near the national Mall in Washington, D.C., because the beavers have downed four cherry trees and five white cedar trees; and

Whereas the natural wild and free roaming beaver were trapped to extinction in Washington, D.C., and the Potomac Tidal Basin beaver are only retaking habitat that the species has occupied forever and in which man is the trespasser; and

Whereas the return of beaver to Washington, D.C., will enhance the biological diversity of the nation's capital and the integrity of its residents, as cherry tree eating beavers cannot tell a lie; and

Whereas the unrestrained development of government buildings, highways, and urban sprawl in Washington, D.C. has destroyed beaver habitat, and immediate steps should be taken to halt all major construction projects; and

Whereas human activity in or around the Potomac Tidal Basin will undoubtedly have adverse effects on the new beaver colony; and

Whereas Washington, D.C., and the nation as a whole would benefit from greater efforts on the part of the National Park Service to assist and protect wildlife by excluding people from areas where wildlife is attempting to reestablish a foothold on its natural range in the nation's capital; and

Whereas federal law requires that the Potomac Tidal Basin is now, because of the beavers' pioneering effort, a critical habitat area; and

Whereas critical habitat areas are uniquely rare, and, without immediate enforcement of federal laws, this unique subspecies of Potomac Tidal Basin beaver will again become extinct; and

Whereas we have no information or good science about the habitat of the "Potomac Tidal Basin beaver," and a task force of scientists should immediately be impaneled and all human activity in the tidal basin area halted until a thorough and complete analysis has been completed; and