

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 gentleman 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
Let's 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

Whereas the National Academy of Sciences has been studying predator control in Alaska for five years, and the National Park Service has labeled these beavers as very evasive and wily "tree predators"; and

Whereas the federal government is, over objections, reintroducing gray wolves, grizzly bear, and lynx into several western states in order to enhance the biological diversity in those states; and

Whereas the National Park Service is closing Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve to fishing for crabs because the crabs are an essential element of the ecosystem of the park and the long established and sustainable crab fishery is inconsistent with the preservation of natural crab populations; and

Whereas the policy of the National Park Service in Alaska and several other states is to remove the people rather than the animals when there is a conflict between people and wildlife; and

Whereas federal law provides for extensive penalties for harassment of endangered species;

Be it Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the National Park Service cease its efforts to remove the beaver from the Potomac Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., and assist the reestablishment of a healthy beaver population in the nation's capital; and be it

Further Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the Fish and Wildlife Services to exercise its federal authority and cite, with criminal violations, members and contractors of the National Park Service who harass the Potomac Tidal Basin beavers; and be it

Further Resolved That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests the National Park Service to investigate the habitat requirements for beaver in Washington, D.C., and the adaptations that beaver have made to cope with the unique urban environment of Washington, D.C., establish protected beaver habitat areas in Washington, D.C., and use good science in its actions regarding beaver in Washington, D.C.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to the Honorable Bruce Babbitt, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, to Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, to Jamie Rappaport Clark, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior; to all members of the U.S. Congress; to the Honorable John Kitzhaber, Governor, State of Oregon; to Paul G. Risser, Ph.D., President, Oregon State University; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

SENDING GROUND TROOPS TO KOSOVO WOULD COMPOUND A HUGE FOREIGN POLICY ERROR

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, several times over the last few days I have heard reports on national networks saying that Members of Congress were getting "antsy" about not committing ground troops to Kosovo. The implication is that all of the Members of Congress want ground troops in there immediately.

I believe it was a terrible mistake to start bombing in the first place, and it certainly would be compounding a huge error to place many thousands of ground troops in there now.

As many columnists have pointed out, the NATO bombings have made this situation much worse than it ever would have been if we had simply stayed out. The very liberal Washington Post columnist, Richard Cohen, wrote, "I believe, though, that the NATO bombings have escalated and accelerated the process. For some Kosovars, NATO has made things worse."

Pat M. Holt, a foreign affairs expert writing in the Christian Science Monitor, wrote, "The first few days of bombing have led to more atrocities and to more refugees. It will be increasing the instability which the bombing was supposed to prevent."

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Philip Gourevitch, writing in the April 12 New Yorker Magazine, said: "Yet so far the air war against Yugoslavia has accomplished exactly what the American-led alliance flew into combat to prevent: Our bombs unified the Serbs in Yugoslavia, as never before, behind the defiance of Milosevic; they spurred to a frenzy the 'cleansing' of Kosovo's ethnic Albanians by Milosevic's forces; they increased the likelihood of the conflict's spilling over into Yugoslavia's south-Balkan neighbors; and they hardened the hearts of much of the non-Western world against us—not least in Russia, where passionate anti-Americanism is increasing the prospects for the right-wing nationalists or the Communist Party to win control of the Kremlin and its nuclear arsenal in coming elections."

Many conservative analysts have been very critical. Thomas Sowell wrote: "Already our military actions are being justified by the argument that we are in there now and cannot pull out without a devastating loss of credibility and influence in NATO and around the world. In other words, we cannot get out because we have gotten in. That kind of argument will be heard more and more if we get in deeper."

"Is the Vietnam War so long ago that no one remembers? We eventually pulled out of Vietnam," Mr. Sowell wrote, "under humiliating conditions with a tarnished reputation around the world and with internal divisiveness and bitterness that took years to heal. Bad as this was, we could have pulled out earlier with no worse consequences and with thousands more Americans coming back alive."

Mr. Sowell asks, "Why are we in the Balkans in the first place? There seems to be no clear-cut answer."

William Hyland, a former editor of Foreign Affairs Magazine, writing in the Washington Post said, "The President has put the country in a virtually impossible position. We cannot escalate without grave risks. If the President and NATO truly want to halt eth-

nic cleansing, then the alliance will have to put in a large ground force or, at a minimum, mount a credible threat to do so. A conventional war in the mountains of Albania and Kosovo will quickly degenerate into a quagmire. On the other hand, the United States and NATO cannot retreat without suffering a national and international humiliation. * * * The only alternative is to revive international diplomacy."

Mr. Hyland is correct, but unfortunately I am afraid that ground troops in Kosovo would be much worse than a quagmire. Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleberger was quoted on a national network last week as saying that the Bush administration had closely analyzed the situation in the Balkans in the early 1990s and had decided it was a "swamp" into which we should not go.

NATO was established as a purely defensive organization, not an aggressor force. With the decreased threat from the former Soviet Union, was NATO simply searching for a mission? Were some national officials simply trying to prove that they are world statesmen or trying to leave a legacy?

The U.S. has done 68 percent of the bombing thus far. This whole episode, counting reconstruction and resettlement costs after we bring Milosevic down, will cost us many billions.

If there have to be ground troops, let the Europeans take the lead. Do not commit U.S. ground troops. Let the Europeans do something. The U.S. has done too much already. Humanitarian aid, yes; bombs and ground troops, no.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PARTICIPATE IN REENACTMENT OF SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS MARCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. NORTHUP). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, with me on the House floor I have a number of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat, who experienced a marvelous journey to Selma, Alabama, a few weeks ago to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the great march led by Dr. King and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) to end racism and bigotry across this country.

We had nearly 20 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle that traveled to Selma and Birmingham and Montgomery. What I would like to do is ask all of my colleagues who are here to take various stations and we could have a conversation on the floor without the formal proceeding of yielding to other Members.

Madam Speaker, I guess I should first recognize my good friend and brother, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), elected the same year as I, who helped lead us on that march, as we did