

Interior Appropriations budget has zeroed out funding to the State of California for its share of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve Settlement. By right, the State should receive \$36 million this year. This is the money that California gives to retired teachers whose pensions have been most seriously eroded by inflation.

Here is the brief history of the issue: In 1996, Congress authorized the sale of Elk Hills Naval Reserve. However, a portion of the property consisted of more than 1300 acres of school lands owned by the state of California. Until the California's land claims were resolved, the sale could not go forward. Ultimately the Federal Government reached an agreement with California in which the state released its claim in exchange for installment payments over a seven-year period.

The settlement allowed the federal government to sell the reserve for \$3.65 billion. California kept its part of the bargain. Now the Federal government must meet its obligations. Last year the first installment of the \$36 million was paid. But six years of installments remain.

Actually, the money needed to compensate the state had been waiting in escrow.

The House has properly allocated \$36 million in the House Interior Appropriations Bill.

I am hopeful that the Senate will also recognize the importance of keeping the Federal government's end of the bargain. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the House appropriation of \$36 million be upheld in Conference.

THE WILDERNESS ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Specifically, I would like to speak about the invaluable contribution of New Mexico Senator Clinton P. Anderson in steering the wilderness legislation through Congress and securing final passage. I also will describe how the Gila Wilderness in New Mexico came to be created, the first such designation in the world, forty years prior to enactment of the Wilderness Act. Finally, in my remarks today, I will mention a related bill that I recently introduced, S. 864, the "Earth Day" Act.

On September 3, 1964, President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law creating the national wilderness preservation system. In order to assure that some lands will be protected in their natural condition, Congress declared a policy of securing for present and future generations of Americans "the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." Certain provisions of the Wilderness Act are unique among the U.S. Code because they read more like poetry than the fodder of legislators and lawyers. For example, the Act defines wilderness as "an area where the earth and its community of life are

untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Why celebrate the anniversary of the Wilderness Act? Since its enactment, the national wilderness preservation system has grown from 9 million acres to 104 million acres—I believe these figures reflect the popularity of and support for wilderness. There are many compelling reasons for preserving wilderness. Wilderness areas protect watersheds and soils, serve as wildlife and plant habitat, and give humans the opportunity to experience solitude in nature. I think Clinton Anderson best described the meaning of wilderness in this eloquent statement:

Conservation is to a democratic government by free men as the roots of a tree are to its leaves. We must be willing wisely to nurture and use our resources if we are going to keep visible the inner strengths of democracy.

For as we have and hold dear our practices of conservation, we say to the other peoples of the world that ours is not an exploitative society—solely materialistic in outlook. We take a positive position—conservation means that we have faith that our way of life will go on and we are surely building for those who we know will follow . . .

There is a spiritual value to conservation and wilderness typifies this. Wilderness is a demonstration by our people that we can put aside a portion of this which we have as a tribute to the Maker and say—this we will leave as we found it.

Wilderness is an anchor to windward. Knowing it is there, we can also know that we are still a rich nation, tending to our resources as we should—not a people in despair scratching every last nook and cranny of our land for a board of lumber, a barrel of oil, or a tank of water.

Senator Anderson's words are particularly meaningful because of his role as the tenacious and determined leader in Congress who secured passage of the Wilderness Act as many years ago. In fact, former Forest Service Chief Richard McArdle stated that, "Without Clinton Anderson there would have been no Wilderness Law."

In his first substantive act as the new Chairman of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, on January 5, 1961, Clinton Anderson introduced a bill to establish and maintain a national wilderness system. Although similar wilderness bills had been introduced in previous Congresses, it was Senator Anderson's bill that was first reported by the Committee and, later that year, the first to pass the Senate. The vote on his bill was decisive, 78 to 8. Senator Frank Church wrote to Senator Anderson that:

The fact that you were chief sponsor of the bill was in large measure responsible for the big endorsement it received on final passage.

Unfortunately, the House was not yet ready to seriously consider a wilderness bill and the 87th Congress adjourned without enactment of the Wilderness Act.

In 1963, Senator Anderson introduced the Wilderness bill once again. Successfully steering the bill through Committee consideration, the full Senate overwhelmingly passed the bill

three months into the term of the 88th Congress. He then crafted the legislative trade that ultimately resulted in House passage of the wilderness bill—key House members wanted legislation creating the Public Land Law Review Commission. Both pieces of legislation were signed in 1964.

Upon signing the Wilderness Act into law, President Johnson gave Senator Anderson special commendation by stating that he had been "in the forefront of conservation legislation since he first came to the House in 1941."

In recalling the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act, it is fitting to observe that this year is also the 75th anniversary of Federal wilderness protection.

On June 3, 1924, the Forest Service designated 755,000 acres of national forest land in New Mexico as the Gila Wilderness. This unprecedented act took place forty years prior to passage of the Wilderness Act and was the first such designation in the world. It all began through the foresight and leadership of a young Forest Service manager in New Mexico named Aldo Leopold. He had worked for the Forest Service in the Southwest in a variety of different positions, including as a Ranger on the Gila National Forest.

Leopold felt that preservation had been neglected on the national forests. He foresaw the importance of preserving the biological diversity and natural systems giving way to development.

Leopold once wrote that "a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community."

He argued against the proposed expansion of a road system into the back country of the Gila National Forest and proposed instead that a large area be left roadless and preserved for wilderness recreation.

Today the Gila Wilderness is inhabited by bear, deer, elk, beaver, bobcat, mountain lion, antelope, and wild turkey. It is a favorite destination for hikers, backpackers, and anglers who enjoy its 19 miles of fishing streams.

The Gila Wilderness contains the cliff dwellings of the ancient Mogollon civilization as well as the campsites and battlegrounds of the Apache and the U.S. Cavalry. In fact, John Murray wrote in his book, "The Gila Wilderness: A Hiking Guide," that "no other wilderness area in the Southwest so much embodies and reflects this national history and natural philosophy as does the Gila." He went on to note that "many of the important events in the development of the region, from the first expedition of Coronado in 1541 to the more recent raids of Geronimo, occurred either directly in the Gila Wilderness Area or in the immediate vicinity."

Leopold would go on to become one of America's greatest naturalists. His accomplishments include publication of "A Sand County Almanac," one of the most influential books ever written

about the relationship of people to their lands and waters.

Our nation continues to need opportunities to reflect on the importance of preserving our national world. The celebration of Earth Day each year on April 22nd is an effective way to remind us of the significance of the environment and of accomplishments such as the Wilderness Act. S. 864, the "Earth Day Act", is a bill that I introduced last April along with Senator CHAFEE. It has since gained nine additional bipartisan cosponsors. The purpose of S. 864 is to officially and permanently designate April 22nd as Earth Day.

The first Earth Day was 29 years ago, in 1970, and was first conceived of by our former colleague, Senator Gaylord Nelson. That first Earth Day involved some 20 million Americans. Since then, Earth Day has focused the attention of the country and the world on the importance of preserving and maintaining our environment. I believe the nation owes a great debt of gratitude to Senator Nelson for his leadership in creating Earth Day, and that we should recognize the importance it has assumed in our nation's life.

It is my sincere hope the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold hearings on S. 864, and that the Senate will pass the bill by the end of this year. It is my goal to have the President sign S. 864 into law by the time Earth Day 2000 arrives. I invite all of my colleagues to cosponsor this bill.

GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank Senator GORTON and Senator BYRD for all their hard work on the Appropriations Interior Subcommittee for bringing this bill to the floor.

In 1994, I authored the Desert Protection Act, which created two new national parks, Joshua Tree and Death Valley along with the Mojave National Preserve and 100 wilderness areas; thereby promising to protect more than 6 million acres of desert property. However, these parks and wilderness areas still contain hundreds of thousands of acres of private inholdings.

Earlier this year, the Wildlands Conservancy, a California non-profit, negotiated a one-time deal whereby nearly 500,000 acres of these inholdings, many of which are owned by the Catellus Corporation would be purchased by matching \$36 million in funds from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund with \$26 million in private donations.

Catellus, the Wildlands Conservancy, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management subsequently signed a letter of intent to sell to the Federal Government up to 437,000 acres of California desert owned by Catellus. An additional 20,000 acres of property owned by others within Joshua Tree National Park would be bought and preserved.

All told, up to 483,000 acres of private inholdings in the California Desert will

be acquired, ensuring public access to over 4 million acres of Federal national parks and wilderness areas in the California Desert.

The location of these particular inholdings are significant because this area serves as the gateway for both private landowners and for people who wish to use the public portions of the preserve. Acquiring this checkerboard of inholdings is the only to assure public access for the lands provided for in the California Desert Protection Act.

If the government does not purchase these lands the Historic Mojave Road and the East Mojave Heritage Trail are likely to be closed and it is also possible that there will be no more public access to large portions of the Mojave!

Government acquisition of these lands will protect endangered species habitat, keep the fragile Desert ecosystem intact, and improve recreation opportunities and access for millions of Americans.

This proposal enjoys overwhelming support from community activists, conservationists, private industry, elected officials, Democrats, Republicans, and everyone who recognizes what a great deal this is for the U.S. Government. In fact, even most opponents of the California Desert Protection Act support this appropriation because of the issue of public access. If these lands are not purchased by the government, 1,500 miles of roads will be closed off to hunters, recreationists and the general public.

This Interior Appropriations bill contains a line item of \$15.1 million for the phase 1 purchase of these lands. Presently, there is no allocation in the House Interior Appropriations bill to fulfill the Federal Government's end of the bargain. These purchases have been held hostage in the House as a result of an unrelated U.S. Army expansion. Although this military issue does not directly affect any of the Catellus land holdings, it is preventing the appropriation of the necessary funding to execute these land purchases.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Conference committee to ensure that the government follow through on its commitment to purchase these lands.

1999 NATIONAL MINORITY MANUFACTURER FIRM OF THE YEAR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Oklahoman, John Lopez, whose achievements have just earned him a major award—his firm, Lopez Foods, has been selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce as the 1999 National Minority Manufacturer Firm of the Year.

John spent several years honing his business skills as an independent owner-operator of four thriving McDonald's restaurants. Seven years ago, he sold his restaurants and purchased controlling interest in the company that now bears his name. John is

Chairman and CEO of Lopez Foods, an Oklahoma City meat producer that is among the select few beef and pork suppliers for McDonald's 25,000 restaurants.

John took a struggling company and turned it into a vital force in Oklahoma's economy. He has had tempting offers to relocate to other states but has remained steadfastly loyal to Oklahoma and his workers. Leveraging his understanding of McDonald's standards and management philosophy, he has continually expanded and modernized his operation, bringing it to the forefront in food safety, worker conditions, and diversity. Today, a \$160 million business with over 300 employees, Lopez Foods is ranked third among all U.S. Hispanic-owned manufacturing companies.

A long time champion of minority employment opportunities, he has strengthened his diversity program, such that minorities now make up nearly 55 percent of his workforce. John was selected by the National Hispanic Employees' Association as its 1997 Entrepreneur of the Year.

John also actively supports charitable endeavors that give back to the community, notably the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The United Way and the Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation Foundation benefit from his support as well.

Mr. President, the Commerce Department's award is a fitting tribute to a dynamic Oklahoman who continues to make a difference for our state and our nation. Congratulations to John Lopez, community leader, compassionate citizen, and founder and head of the National Minority Manufacturer Firm of the Year.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry treaties which were referred to the appropriate committees.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO UNITA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 58

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the