

and compensate for that oil drilling through additional environmental resources in the States where the drilling is done. This was a delicately crafted compromise. Alaska, California, and Louisiana are States that are going to be most directly affected by the oil drilling. I may not represent one of those States, but I represent a State right now where we desperately need more oil and gas so we can keep our energy prices down for home heating oil in the winter and for also the fact that in our district we make pickups, we make RVs, we make boats, we make lots of things that we sell to the rest of America that use gas. It is only fair if we drill for additional gas in these States and work out an agreement that funds for other environmentally-sensitive projects in those States are spent in those States.

Thirdly, CARA is one of the only ways that States like Indiana can get any Federal funds for wildlife and conservation efforts. We do not have national parks like in the West. In my district, Pokagon and Chain O'Lakes State Parks have received funds from this reservoir that in the past previously had been funded by this Congress but as of late has received minimal funding, Dallas Lake County Park in LaGrange County, and city parks in Decatur and Columbia City. CARA is one of the only ways that funds get equitably distributed around the country rather than just go to the appropriators' favorite projects or people where they already have big national parks.

The proposed Interior bill has many important projects in it, but it has the purpose and the practical impact of gutting CARA, a bill that three-quarters of us supported. So those who favor CARA, which is most of this body, would be wise to vote against this bill for environmental reasons; but as I pointed out last Thursday on this floor, those who have moral concerns should also vote against this bill.

First off, while they have not directly funded these programs, NEA in the last few years, National Endowment for the Arts, has funded in-your-face theater programs like, for example, the Woolly Mammoth Theatre. The Woolly Mammoth Theatre in its description of its purposes says it produces plays that are questioning of mainstream American values, such as "My Queer Body," where a man describes what it is like on stage to have sex with another man, then climbs naked into the lap of a spectator and attempts to arouse himself sexually in full view of the audience. They received a grant this year, by the way, Woolly Mammoth, yet another grant.

Or how about blaspheming Jesus Christ? We did not fund "Corpus Christi," but we fund the Manhattan Theatre prior to this being done. We funded it with two grants this year, where Jesus Christ is portrayed as having a homosexual relationship with the apostle Peter and all the apostles. We complain about Hollywood, then what are we doing funding these theaters?

Thirdly, there is "The Pope and the Witch," written by an Italian Communist against the Catholic Church there where the Pope, and it is performed by the Theatre for the New City which once again received a grant this year in spite of doing this offensive play where the Pope goes to the Vatican Square, there are 100,000 children, he decides it is a plot by the condo manufacturers to embarrass the Catholic Church. Fortunately, a little nun, or actually not a nun, it is a witch disguised as a nun, comes up and injects heroin into the Pope's veins. The Pope then gets addicted to drugs, to heroin. Then he sees the enlightenment, to enlighten the world by going around preaching free condom distribution, free heroin needles for drug addicts and free legalization of drugs throughout the world.

Is this what we want to do with taxpayer dollars, to fund theaters that perform this? By the way, there is another interesting little play in this book called "The First Miracle of the Boy Jesus," a mockery of Christ from the very beginning.

I think it is time that this Congress stop pointing the finger everywhere else, and instead we have to clean up the funding that we are doing here. We asked for a simple compromise with the Senate and with the President that says no obscenity or blasphemy will be funded; that there will be a small reduction in the direct NEA funding and we would put the additional funds, up to \$9 million, \$7 million and if we take \$2 million additional out of NEA, \$9 million into a special fund for rural areas where we have not had this.

I understand they can get around that, but it is like a Good Housekeeping seal. If the National Endowment for the Arts says a theater that does "The Pope and the Witch" is deserving of government funding, it is a Good Housekeeping seal from the Federal Government. It is time we stop that, stop criticizing Hollywood and clean up our own house first.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow in the House Committee on International Relations a very important debate will take place. The members of that committee will determine if this House of Representatives is able to vote on a resolution that would finally pay tribute to the victims of one of history's worst crimes against humanity, the Armenian Genocide of 1915 through 1923.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that the United States still does not officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Bowing to strong pressure from Turkey, the U.S. State Department has for more than 15 years shied away from referring to the tragic events of 1915 to 1923 by using the word "genocide." President Clinton and his recent predecessors have annually issued proclamations on the anniversary of the Genocide, expressing sorrow for the massacres and solidarity with the victims and survivors, but always stopping short of using the word "genocide," thus minimizing and not accurately conveying what really happened beginning 83 years ago.

In an effort to address this shameful lapse in our own Nation's record as a champion of human rights, a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress has been working to enact legislation affirming the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. I want to applaud the work of the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our Democratic whip, for their strong leadership in creating this legislation.

Many countries, as well as States and provinces and local governments, have adopted resolutions or taken other steps to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. From Europe to Australia, to many States in the United States, elected governments are going on record on the side of the truth. Regrettably, the Republic of Turkey and their various agents of influence in this country and in other countries have fought tooth and nail to block these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is nothing short of a crime against memory and human decency that the Republic of Turkey denies that the genocide ever took place and has even mounted an aggressive effort to try and present an alternative and false version of history, using its extensive financial and lobbying resources in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of sympathy and moral support for Armenia in the Congress, in this administration, among State legislators around the country, and among the American people in general. But we should not kid ourselves. We are up against very strong forces, in the State Department and the Pentagon, those who believe we must continue to appease Turkey, and among U.S. and international business interests whose concerns with exploiting the oil resources off Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea far outweigh their concerns for the people of Armenia.

It is my hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Committee on International Relations tomorrow will quickly approve this resolution and finally bring it to the floor in this House in the coming weeks so that we can finally recognize this horrible crime.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GUAM'S ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

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

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express some concerns about environmental conditions on Guam as a result of problems with PCBs and as a result of some recently discovered mustard gas vials left over from the military. I am very concerned about the safety of my constituents in light of these recent discoveries of chemical weapons testing kits containing measurable amounts of mustard gas and other toxic chemicals on Guam. Given the public health dangers associated with exposure to these substances, I have requested the Department of Defense to perform a historical record survey to determine the final disposition of chemical weaponry that was brought to Guam. This survey should be comprehensive and include identifying former military dump sites as well as other potential disposal sites used by the military.

Guam has been a significant area for U.S. military activity for more than 50 years. First used as a major staging area during World War II, the military presence in Guam increased correspondingly with the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

□ 1945

Its full value as an area to forward deploy American military forces continues to be strong, even in today's post-Cold War era. At the time, Guam was home to a fully operational Naval Base, Naval Air Station, Naval Communications, Submarine Base, Air Force Strategic Air Command and Naval Weapons Depot, and today still has the largest weapons storage area in the entire Pacific.

But over these many years it has become clear that it was military activities during World War II that posed the greatest threat to the people of Guam. During World War II, Guam was used as a staging area for the invasion of the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and eventually, as contemplated, the invasion of the Japanese homeland.

Over time, several instances of mustard gas have been discovered; and a few months ago, officials from the University of Guam presented documents to military officials that a huge shipment of mustard gas was brought to Guam in 1945. But there has been no documentation of these weapons leaving the island.

In a September 5, 2000, Pacific Daily News article, a spokesman for the

Army Corps of Engineers surmised that the shipment had been likely dumped at sea. It is illogical, because the shipment was brought to Guam. How could it be taken off and dumped at sea? He went on to say that lacking evidence of a definitive area that should be searched, the Army Corps could not conduct a comprehensive search. "Otherwise, it is almost like a needle in a haystack."

However, just last week, additional chemical weapon cannisters were found with a pile of unexploded ordnance at Anderson Air Force Base, and these cannisters resemble the testing kits that had been earlier found in the central part of Guam, in Mongmong, an area that used to be a military base. With these two discoveries of toxic chemicals in less than 2 years, I believe that we have in fact found just the beginning of countless needles in the haystack.

I would have hoped that the first discovery of mustard gas would have spurred the Department of Defense to engage in this exhaustive survey, historical survey, of what chemical weapons and what general ordnance was stored on Guam left over from World War II.

In addition, this is combined with another issue concerning the environmental condition of Guam, and that is the inability to take PCBs out of Guam. Guam and other territories are outside the customs zone, and as laws regarding the disposal of PCBs, PCBs can be brought to Guam from the U.S. mainland, but they cannot be brought back into the U.S. mainland for proper disposal. I remain in strong conversation with EPA officials and have received a strong commitment to resolve this problem administratively in the upcoming months.

However, in a neighboring island to the north, Saipan, there were recently discovered PCB materials, but the EPA has already issued an administrative order releasing those PCB items to be moved back into the U.S. mainland. I think it is a situation that cries out for solution and fair and balanced treatment for all the territories.

It is important to understand that the Toxic Substances Control Act prohibits Guam from importing PCBs inside the U.S. customs zone, even though the PCBs originated inside the U.S. customs zone. The U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit's 1997 ruling of *Sierra Club v. EPA* overturned an attempt by EPA to solve this problem administratively, which would have dealt with PCBs in a more rational manner.

Parenthetically, PCBs that are on military bases are easily moved back into the U.S. This disparate treatment between military bases and the civilian community of Guam, composed of U.S. citizens, just like everywhere else, is simply intolerable and must be resolved by EPA.

In general, we have a very difficult situation with PCBs and their disposal in Guam. We have this issue with

chemical toxic weapons. I certainly call upon the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Defense to conduct an exhaustive search. We first called for this exhaustive search in July of 1999. We continue to press the issue, and certainly I hope that the Department of Defense will see fit to finally review all of the weapons which have been brought into Guam and through which two or three generations of people from Guam have been raised in the shadow of these weapons.

THE VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, in April, as a matter of fact, this Congress declared the American GI the Person of the Century. I believe it was entirely proper and fitting that we did so. But I also believe it is appropriate that those men and women whose contributions were recognized as the single-most significant force affecting the course of the 20th century have an opportunity to share their unique experience so that future generations might better understand the sacrifices made for the cause of democracy. Now, we have the technology to do so, Mr. Speaker.

That is why I, along with my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), introduced a couple of weeks ago H.R. 5212, the Veterans Oral History Project. What the bill would do is direct the Library of Congress to establish a national archives for the collection and preservation of videotaped oral histories of our veterans, as well as the copying of letters that they wrote during their time in service, diaries that they may have kept, so there is a national repository of this very important part of our Nation's history.

We also believe that time is of the essence with this oral history project, given that we have roughly 19 million veterans still with us in this country today, 6 million of whom fought during the Second World War, roughly 3,500 still exist from the First World War, but we are losing approximately 1,500 of those veterans a day. With them go their memories. That is why we feel this project and this legislation has a sense of urgency attached to it.

Abraham Lincoln during his Gettysburg Address I think underestimated his oratorical skills when he stated, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but we must never forget what they did here."

That is exactly the concept behind this oral history project. It will require the cooperation of people across the country, not only the veterans to come forward to offer their videotaped stories, but also their family members to do the videotaping, or friends or neighbors, with VFW and American Legion halls across the country participating in it.