

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, due to my attending to pressing business in my district on Friday and Monday and today's flight delays, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 244 (On Approving the Journal)—yes.

Rollcall No. 245 (On agreeing to H. Res. 451, providing for consideration of H.R. 4931—the Retirement Savings Security Act)—yes.

Rollcall No. 246 (On agreeing to the Neal of Massachusetts Substitute Amendment to H.R. 4931)—no.

Rollcall No. 247 (On motion to recommit H.R. 4931 with instructions)—no.

Rollcall No. 248 (On passage of H.R. 4931)—yes.

Rollcall No. 249 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended H.R. 3937, to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California)—yes.

Rollcall No. 250 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended H.R. 3786, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Revision Act of 2002)—yes.

Rollcall No. 251 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3971, independent investigation of Forest Service firefighter deaths that are caused by wildfire entrapment or turnover)—yes.

Rollcall No. 252 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended H.J. Res. 95, designating an official flag of the Medal of Honor and presentation of that flag to each recipient of that Medal of Honor)—yes.

Rollcall No. 253 (On Approving the Journal)—yes.

Rollcall No. 254 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill H.R. 4858, to improve access to physicians in medically underserved areas)—yes.

Rollcall No. 255 (On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill as amended H.R. 4679, the Lifetime Consequences for Sex Offenders Act of 2002).

UTILIZING FOREST MANAGEMENT
TO PREVENT FIRES**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the June 21, 2002, edition of the Wall Street Journal entitled "The Fire This Time." The editorial argues that the Clinton Administration's misguided environmental policy and forest management left our Nation's forests filled with fuel conducive to catastrophic forest fires such as we are seeing with the Hayman fire in Colorado.

The editorial stresses that proper forest management can prevent catastrophic fires, which are neither good for the environment or

our economy. The editorial also mentions that forests owned by private timber companies rarely burn, let alone at catastrophic levels. These companies employ sound forest management practices to prevent forest fires because they see their trees as an investment. This editorial makes the case that Americans should protect their investment in our public forests and protect them by allowing the Forest Service to utilize forest management principles and practice selective logging to remove the dead wood and underbrush that fuel these cataclysmic fires.

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 21, 2002]

THE FIRE THIS TIME

In December 1995, a storm hit the Six Rivers National Forest in northern California, tossing dead trees across 35,000 acres and creating dangerous fire conditions. For three years local U.S. Forest Service officials labored to clean it up, but they were blocked by environmental groups and federal policy. In 1999 the time bomb blew: A fire roared over the untreated land and 90,000 more acres.

Bear this anecdote in mind as you watch the 135,000-acre Hayman fire now roasting close to Denver. And bear it in mind the rest of this summer, in what could be the biggest marshmallow-toasting season in half a century. Because despite the Sierra Club spin, catastrophic fires like the Hayman are not inevitable, or good. They stem from bad forest management—which found a happy home in the Clinton Administration.

In a briefing to Congress last week, U.S. Forest chief Dale Bosworth finally sorted the forest from the tree-huggers. He said that if proper forest-management had been implemented 10 years ago, and if the agency weren't in the grip of "analysis paralysis" from environmental regulation and lawsuits, the Hayman fire wouldn't be raging like an inferno.

Mr. Bosworth also presented Congress with a sobering report on our national forest. Of the 192 million acres the Forest Service administers, 73 million are at risk from severe fire. Tens of millions of acres are dying from insects and diseases. Thousands of miles of roads, critical to fighting fires, are unusable. Those facts back up a General Accounting Office report, which estimates that one in three forest acres is dead or dying. So much for the green mantra of "healthy ecosystems."

How did one of America's great resources come to such a pass? Look no further than the greens who tramped into power with the last Administration. Senior officials adopted an untested philosophy known as "ecosystem management," a bourgeois bohemian plan to return forests to their "natural" state. The Clintonites cut back timber harvesting by 80% and used laws and lawsuits to put swathes of land off-limits to commercial use.

We now see the results. Millions of acres are choked with dead wood, infected trees and underbrush. Many areas have more than 400 tons of dry fuel per acre—10 times the manageable level. This is tinder that turns small fires into infernos, outrunning fire control and killing every fuzzy endangered animal in sight. In 2000 alone fires destroyed 8.4 million acres, the worst fire year since the 1950s. Some 800 structures were destroyed—many as a fire swept across Los Alamos, New Mexico—and control and recovery costs neared \$3 billion. The Forest Service's entire budget is \$4.9 billion.

That number, too, is important. Before the Clinton Administration limited timber sales, U.S. forests helped pay for their own upkeep. Selective logging cleaned up grounds and

paid for staff, forestry stations, cleanup and roads. Today, with green groups blocking timber sales at every turn, the GAO says taxpayers will have to spend \$12 billion to cart off dead wood.

It's no accident that two of the main Clinton culprits—former director of Fish & Wildlife Jamie Rappaport Clark and former Forest Service boss Michael Dombeck—have both landed at the National Wildlife Federation, which broadcasts across its Internet homepage, "Fires Are Good."

Fixing all of this won't be easy. After 30 years of environmental regulation, the Forest Service now spends 40% of its time in "planning and assessment." Even the smallest project takes years. Mr. Bosworth has identified the problems, but fixing them will require White House leadership and Congressional cooperation.

One solution would be to follow the lead of private timber companies, whose forests don't tend to suffer such catastrophic fires. Their trees are an investment; they can't afford to let them burn. Americans should feel the same way about theirs.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER T. BYRON
COLLINS, S.J.**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 25, 2002

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time friend of many of us in this House, Father T. Byron Collins, S.J. This past Friday, June 21, 2002, was the 50th anniversary of Father Collins' ordination into the priesthood. He originally entered the Jesuit Order in September 1940.

Father Collins has touched many lives during his half century of ordained priesthood. He faithfully serves parishioners at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centerville—on Maryland's Eastern Shore—every weekend. This man has enriched the lives of many Georgetown University students, giving them a greater understanding of the Catholic faith, while at the same time, appreciating these students for being the true heart and soul of Georgetown University. And as his fellows Jesuits know well, this legendary figure is also a warm and caring individual.

Over the years, Father Collins has dedicated his life to strengthening Georgetown University, the nation's oldest Catholic institution of higher learning. He came to the campus in 1954. Soon after his assignment to Georgetown, Father Collins assumed responsibilities for facilities development on the campus, undertaking important budgetary functions. As one who works tirelessly to fulfill the challenges before him, Father Collins has left his humble, yet permanent, mark on the Georgetown campus of today, tomorrow and forever.

Members of the Society of Jesus live by the creed, "To the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls." Indeed, throughout these 50 years, my friend, Father T. Byron Collins, S.J., has lived a life that has exemplified that philosophy. Those of us in this Chamber who are privileged to know him well understand how true that is. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in extending hearty congratulations to this special man as he begins the sixth decade of his priesthood.