

economy might be picking up momentum, increasing private sector borrowing, the government's increased demand for debt runs the risk of creating more friction and consequently spurring somewhat higher rates than otherwise would be the case, Mr. YOUNGDahl said. That is one thing to be concerned about.

I think it is something that we are all concerned about, not only the business community. But what you have is for the home owner who has got a home mortgage, if he has got a \$100,000 mortgage on his home and his interest rate goes up 200 points, that is \$2,000 a year. Car loans, business loans, personal loans, I think this thing could be very, very serious, and we only hope that it will turn around quickly.

We know how to turn it around. We have got to plan and we are willing and ready to sit down with the administration leaders, the leaders of President Bush's administration and the leader of the Congress, lay out a plan, get us back into balance. It can be done. We did it in 1997 and certainly we can do it again.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) and the others who came to speak here tonight.

WATER SHORTAGE IN COLORADO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to talk about a number of different subjects, but primarily the subject is going to center around natural resources and water, especially water as it pertains to the West.

As many of you know, my district is the third Congressional district in the State of Colorado. The State of Colorado is the highest place, when you take the average elevation, it is the highest place on the North American continent. And as a result of that elevation and the mountainous terrain and the arid region that Colorado is kind of the apex of, there are a lot of different issues that deal with the West that you do not find in the East.

But before I do this, I want to talk a little about this weekend. I read tonight, maybe you will read it here in the next couple of days in the paper, but I read where a celebrity here in the United States, a celebrity who has been the beneficiary of the great things that this country offers, a celebrity who, to the best of my knowledge, has never had to pick up a weapon to defend their country, a celebrity who has made the comments that are about to be established from his yacht, his 130-foot or 150-foot yacht.

And as I understand these comments, and, again, this is being credited to him or it is in this interview, as I understand these comments from this celebrity, this celebrity is criticizing the

Fox News station for being too patriotic, for being too patriotic. This celebrity has come out and said that the station had too much red, white and blue on their station, on their news network at September 11.

Can you envision that? Did you ever think that anyone in this country, that our forefathers would ever think that a celebrity who is the beneficiary of all the fruits that this country has provided to him, would have the audacity to say that our country is too patriotic?

I want to compare these short-sighted remarks, those selfish remarks, to what I experienced this weekend out in Colorado, and all of you have, I am sure, experienced the same things when you get out with the people that you represent.

I was in Pueblo, Colorado. I started out the day by going to a group of a number of probably about 200 young people, I would guess anywhere from 13 years old to 19 years old. These kids, they were trying to tell them to stay off of drugs. It was amazing. Drugs, alcohol, and drive with your seatbelts on. It was a great assembly that was put together. But I was surprised and, frankly, I was very encouraged and felt very positive by talking to these kids, how many of these young people wanted as a career to go in and serve our country in the military, how strongly these kids felt about the United States of America. And from this assembly I went on to a couple of town meetings.

Do you think in any of these town meetings I heard from constituents any indication at all that we should be less patriotic or our news networks are too patriotic? In fact, what you generally hear is just the opposite. How come they never tell the side of the greatest country in the history of the world? How come they always make us look like the bad guys? That is the kind of things you might hear.

Then that afternoon I have to go and I listen and I have an opportunity to participate in awarding the Korean medal for a former veteran. This veteran had received five bronze stars and this veteran had his entire family, 70, maybe 80 people at their function where we have presented the medal. And I tell you something, you talk about pride in this country and you talk about feeling good about the future of this country, the gentleman to whom I presented the medal served in the Korean War. He was in his 70s, maybe in his early 80s, so he had three generations, he had great-grandchildren there. And the red, white and blue around that yard, I wish I could have grabbed that celebrity and brought him to this yard, back yard in Pueblo, Colorado, and shown him what people in America feel about patriotism.

The United States of America has nothing to apologize about. What this celebrity ought to be doing is talking about what America has done for the rest of the world. There is no country

in the history of the world, no country in the history of the world that has given away more in charity to the rest of the world, that has educated more people for the world, that offers better health care than anywhere else in the world, that has provided more tractors and more agricultural resources so that people can grow food and be more efficient on the growth of food than any other country in the world. There is no other country in the world that has offered more freedoms than the United States of America. None, zero, zip. No other country in the history of the world that has offered the freedoms that the United States of America has.

□ 2145

There is no other country in the history of the world that has stood up and put its young men and women, paying the ultimate sacrifice, at risk in other continents, to save those continents as we did in World War I, as we did in World War II, as we did to try in an attempt, a failed attempt, an attempt to stop communism from moving on to Vietnam, as we did in other places, as we are doing today.

The United States of America is a great country. It is a strong country; but it is a strong country that demands upon every generation, including our generation, and probably especially on those of us who were elected to serve the people, to represent the people, to pass on to the next generation that sense of patriotism, that sense of obligation, to make sure that the greatness of this country continues to the generation that follows them, that responsibility to be good Americans, to care about your family, to care about the defense of your country.

Bill Bennett wrote a book and says why do we fight. My colleagues will want to read that book. In fact, I think if I knew this celebrity would get the book I would buy a copy and send it to him. I was a little saddened by one of the people in our country, one of the people, this celebrity, the fruits he enjoys today would have been available to him probably anywhere else in the world, but in the country which gave it to him, he decides that maybe one of the news networks is too patriotic. Very short-sighted comment and a comment that I hope that individual at some point, at least in his own mind, retracts and begins to appreciate the sacrifice that a lot of people, generation after generation after generation in this country's history, the sacrifice that they have given so that people like him and other Americans can enjoy the fruits of our country.

What is most exciting to me is all of the things that go right. My colleagues do not hear some of these celebrities talking about what is going right in this country. It seems to many a lot of time what comes out of Hollywood is criticism of the President. We hear the movie actors that say, well, we are going to leave the country if George W. Bush becomes our President, and by

the way, none of them did leave the country. They changed their mind because they realized what they had here, and some of these people ought to take a little time and talk about what is going right in our country.

When we look at what is going right as compared to what is going wrong, there is so much more that is right than wrong. Look at the young people and juniors and seniors and applicants to our academies, our military academies. These are some of the most qualified young people in the history of this country. Their capabilities, the tools that they have to learn, their focus is immense and I think is much greater than the previous generations.

What we read in the media is they focus on the drug problems of this generation. They focus on the sex problems of this young generation; but what is beginning to happen, that young generation is showing that they do have the capabilities to carry on the responsibilities, to continue to make this country great. We are beginning to see a movement toward family. We are beginning to see more religious involvement with these young people. We are beginning to see absolutely much, much more learning in their preschool years as they come up.

So there are a lot of things that are going right, and that is what made me feel good about the weekend. I spent the weekend seeing things that were going right, only to read this quote or these quotes that have been attributed to this celebrity, and I think that my colleagues may have seen it in today's papers or certainly will be in tomorrow's papers about what this person has said. I hope any of my colleagues that have admired this person somewhat discount that admiration when they take a look at the comments that this particular person made.

That is enough for that. Let me move on to the subject that I really want to talk about this evening and that is water. As I mentioned earlier at the opening of my remarks, the western United States geographically, obviously, is different than the eastern half of the United States. There are a lot of things that differentiate the West from the East, and one of them is water.

I want to show my colleagues a map. This map here will depict a number of things which we will go over here in just a minute. Let me tell my colleagues about the first thing the map is going to depict. That is the ownership of public lands versus public lands in the East. Remember that upon settlement of the United States, the population, when our country just got started, as we all know, the population was along the east coast and that as our country began to grow, in order to get people out into the land, we had to give them some kind of incentive.

Back in those days, one could not just get a deed that says you own the land. They actually needed to possess the land; and as I said before, that is where the saying that possession is

nine-tenths of the law comes from. So for our country to grow, we needed one incentive to get people to move off the comfort of the east coast into the new land that this country wanted to expand into, and we wanted to get possession of that property so that another country could not come and take that land from us so we could protect the land.

In order to do that, the government made a very conscious decision, and that is, to give land away through what is called land grants. They had first made land grants actually in an attempt to bribe British soldiers to defect from the British troops to help us in the Revolutionary War, saying to these soldiers we are starting a new country and if you come with us we will give you land in our new country. That is how the Homestead Act in this country, actually what we would call the land grants, first came from.

This worked pretty effectively. What they would do is they would send families west. They would give them, say, 160 acres; and 160 acres in most of the eastern United States was enough acreage for a family to survive upon, and let me point out here. My colleagues will note that on this map, most of the map east of, say, Denver, Colorado, here in this point, we come right down here, most of the white part of this map is land that is privately owned. That is because in almost all of these locations here where the white is and almost all of those locations, one can support a family off 160 acres. The land is very fertile.

In fact, to give my colleagues an idea of the water, and we will go over this point again, but 73 percent of the water precipitation, surface water, stream water in this country is in this part of the country. So this is a very, very, very fertile land. Once we get west of Denver, Colorado, into this land with all the color that is where we get into the public lands, and that land is very, very dry, very arid, very dependent upon dams.

What happened is the settlers began to come west. This idea of putting people out on the land was working pretty effectively, but then all of the sudden when they got to Denver and they hit the Rocky Mountains, word got back to Washington, they are not settling up there. They are going around it. They could not feed a family off 160 acres. They had to go out to the Imperial Valley in California to find that kind of fertile land.

Washington knew that they needed to do something, something to claim that land for the country. What did we do? How do we figure out how to get people to occupy those lands so that the government knows our citizens are on it? So what they decided to do in that mountain country where 160 acres could not support a family is one of the ideas, well, let us go ahead and give them an equivalent amount of land, maybe let us give them like \$3,000 acres maybe, that is the equivalent of what

needs to match 160 acres in the fertile grounds of eastern Colorado or Nebraska or some of these other States.

At the time, they had given a lot of land to railroads, and they were under a lot of political pressure not to give that land away. So they decided instead, in this west, in this arid part, they would allow the people to go ahead and use it. They would give them incentives to use it, but they would retain the title to the government and keep those as public lands, but they always had the concept that these public lands would envision multiple use, many uses.

When I grew up and we went into a national forest or public lands, there was always a sign that hung there, for example, "Welcome to the White River National Forest, Land of Many Uses." That is the concept upon which the West was really settled as far as land ownership goes.

The reason I am telling my colleagues this or the reason why we are reviewing the public lands and private lands issue is because it has a lot to do with the water issues that we face out in the West that again differentiates us from the East. Remember my statistics and let me draw on this map for just a moment.

If we drew a line approximately like this, 73 percent, 73 percent of the water, surface water in the country is in this portion of the United States. That is where 73 percent of it is. We have got about 13 percent of the water in the Pacific Northwest. We have got 13 percent of the water there, and then the rest of it, the rest here for that many States, that is 14 percent of the water. Look at those numbers again. Seventy-three percent of the water on this part of the country, 13 percent up here in this section, and 14 percent for all of these States down there.

This is arid country. This is country where out here a lot of times the dispute is in the East on how to get rid of the excess water. Hey, do not drain it on my property. How are we going to drain it? Put it here; put it there. In the West, our primary issues are how do we conserve the water, how do we store the water, how do we use the water. And of course, in the West, as in many lands in the east, agricultural plays a very important part.

Remember when we talked about water, there are a number of different things to keep in mind. First of all, 97 percent of the water in the world, 97 percent of it is salt water, and under today's technology, we really do not have an economical way to convert that to desalinate that water from ocean water to clear drinking water. So right off the bat we are dealing with 3 percent of the world's water. Three percent of the world's water, about 78 percent of that 3 percent, about 78 percent of that 3 percent, is tied up in the polar icecaps. So the actual amount of water that we have to deal with is really very, very small.

In fact, if we wanted to use a percentage number, I will write it on the chart

here, but how much of the world's water rivers contains, it looks like this, .001 percent. That is what small amount of water is contained in the rivers in the world, and the rivers are our life blood. In fact, in the Colorado State capital, in their rotunda written on there, they have something to the effect that I think it was Hornsberry that wrote, that says in this land life is written in water, and many people have said water runs almost as thick as blood out there in this dry region.

Let me talk about real quickly how water is used. One of the things that amazed me as I got into water, remember, water is a very boring subject. Most people do not care much about water until they turn on the faucet and there is no water coming out of the faucet and they flush the toilet and no water comes into the bowl or they go out to recreate or fish and the stream's dried up. There are a lot of different uses of water.

I started studying water about 20 years ago; and to this day, to this day, the most amazing thing about water to me is the quantity of water that is necessary to do things in our everyday life, and I am going to go over a few of those things with my colleagues right now.

Take a look. Water usage, here is a fun chart. Direct uses of water daily, this is what the average person uses in a day drinking and cooking, 2 gallons. Flushing the toilet, 5 to 7 gallons per flush, although we have newer toilets, more advanced toilets that can now do it with 3 gallons. Washing machine, 20 gallons per load. Dishwasher, 25 per loads. Just to take a shower, 7 to 9 gallons per minute.

Remember that using water is not like using gasoline. Water is a renewable resource. On gasoline, once it is used, it is gone; but with water they have often said one person's waste is another person's water, and there is a lot to be said there. Water recirculates. It has got an entire lifecycle of its own so that when we use water for these daily needs, it does not mean that we have wasted the water, but we still have to conserve that water. We have got to be careful that we do not go to excess.

Take a look at what it requires to grow food, and I will give some acreage, some interesting statistics on acreage; but if we look over here to my left, look at this. Growing food for a loaf of bread, it takes 150 gallons of water from the time someone starts to prepare the field to grow the wheat, they grow the wheat and the other ingredients to mill the flour and things like that. By the time that loaf of bread is produced, they have used 150 gallons of water. An egg, one egg, not a dozen eggs, one egg, 120 gallons of water.

□ 2200 A

quart of milk, 223 gallons of water. To have one quart of milk. One pound of oranges, 47 gallons. One pound of potatoes, 23 gallons.

On average, and my colleagues probably did not know this, it takes more than 1,000 gallons of water to produce three meals a day for one person. More than 1,000 gallons of water a day to give us three balanced meals per day. Pretty interesting.

What happens to 50 glasses of water? Forty-four glasses are used for agriculture, three glasses are used by industry, two glasses are used by cities, and a half a glass is used in the countryside. So, obviously, of those 50 glasses, if we had 50 glasses of water that represented the usage in our country, 44 of those glasses of water go to agriculture.

Why so much water for agriculture? Again, some pretty interesting statistics. To grow an acre of corn we can expect off that acre that we will have 4,000 gallons of water a day evaporate off that acre. It takes 135,000 gallons to grow one ton of alfalfa. A hundred thirty-five thousand gallons. As I said, it takes 1,400 gallons of water to produce the meal of a quarter pound hamburger, an order of fries, and a soft drink. So if my colleagues go down to the local McDonald's restaurant and buy a hamburger, a soft drink and fries, 1,400 gallons of water were necessary for the complete process to get that food to the table.

Forty-eight thousand gallons are needed to produce the typical American Thanksgiving dinner for eight people. Imagine that. When we go to Thanksgiving dinner, eight people sit down to have dinner, 48,000 gallons of water were utilized to bring all of the tidings of Thanksgiving to that table. It is immense the use of water that we have.

That is why water is such a critical subject for us. It is boring, but if I had my way about it, I would make it a mandatory course in every classroom in every school in America. I would make it required so that all Americans have a better understanding of just how critical that resource is and has become.

It takes 39,000 gallons of water to produce a domestic automobile, 1,800 gallons of water just to produce the cotton in a pair of jeans, and 400 gallons of water just to produce enough cotton for one shirt. So the shirt I am wearing right here, which is 100 percent cotton, took 400 gallons of water to get that shirt to where I can wear it. It is amazing. It is incredible.

What is happening now, this year, of course, is that we have a drought. And as I mentioned earlier, the drought has hit different parts of the country very hard. Here in the east last weekend we had some good rains. I think we got up to 2 inches in this particular area. But in the west we face a drought conditions that, in many cases, we have not seen in 100 years. And the reason we say 100 years is that that is the first time records were kept. So I wanted to visit just a little about what that impact is and why it is so critical for those of us that live in the arid States

to store our water, to have that capability.

Remember, in a State like Colorado, and my district is the high mountains of Colorado, in an average year we have all the water we could possibly use for about a 60-to-90-day-period of time. When is that period of time? That period of time, on a typical year, is what is called the spring runoff, when the snow melts off those high peaks and we have that runoff. Sometimes, in fact, it floods, and we have terrible floods. But the dams have helped us control those floods.

When that 60-to-90 day period of time is over, what do we do for water then? Again, the dams come back in. In the west, we need to have those dams because we cannot count on water continuously year-round. Unfortunately, these water resources have not been evenly allocated across this great country of ours, so the dams play more and more of an important role, for not only human consumption, but for electrical generation.

Take a look at this chart. This reflects the primary use of dams. I think this is pretty interesting. The primary purpose or benefit of dams in the United States. And by the way, there is about 70,000 to 80,000 dams in the United States. Now, when we think of dams we think of Hoover Dam, Glen Canyon Dam, or smaller dams, like the Shoshoni Dam in the Glenwood Canyon, or different ones like that. But the first dams, for example, that we know of in the United States were actually the Anasazi Indians down in the southwestern part of Colorado, the Four Corners area. And there is evidence there that when they came and they learned how to dam up the water, because the water was again in such an arid area, it is thought that one of two things drove the Anasazi Indians into extinction, or at least out of that area.

One of them was the lack of water or, two, dealing with the enemy. They had enemies out there, and somehow the enemies were able to get into the cliff dwellings. But we think primarily it was water.

Look at the primary purpose or benefit of U.S. dams. Recreation, 32 percent; irrigation, 10 percent; public water supply, 19 percent; flood control, 14 percent; hydroelectricity, 2 percent; and stock and farm ponds, 17 percent.

Now, you will see some national organizations that oppose dams. They oppose a dam no matter how justified it is. No matter how well planned it is, no matter what kind of protections have been placed for the environment and to the benefit of the environment, no matter what is done, there are large well-financed organizations that oppose dams regardless of the merits. But they do not understand, or maybe they do understand and it is a way of restricting the life-style that we have in the west, but it is so critical to look closely and get an idea of what happens to us out in Colorado, for example, after that 90 days or so when the spring

runoff trickles down to small streams and our mighty Colorado is reduced dramatically in size, and what we have to do for water to get through the rest of the year.

And it is not just drinking water. Take a look at now the dependency we have on hydroelectricity. That is the cleanest way to produce power of any power that we know, outside of nuclear. And even cleaner than the nuclear, because with nuclear we still have a waste material, as many of my colleagues know with our debate on Yucca Mountain in Nevada and so on. Water is truly the cleanest way to generate our electricity. The difficulty is we do not have enough rivers or enough dams to produce hydroelectricity in such a way that it could become our primary generation of electricity in this country. But where we can utilize it we should utilize it.

And a natural benefit of a dam, when you back up water, you also provide recreation opportunities. In the western United States, the greatest recreational facility, I think, from a water perspective, is Lake Powell. The Colorado River, which is about 1,500 miles long, has several major dams on it, and one of those lakes that has been backed up as a result of Glen Canyon is Lake Powell. Lake Powell actually has more shoreline than the entire Pacific West Coast. Recreation is critical. For those who talk about family recreation and the importance for us to bring families back together, recreation on a lake like Lake Powell is an important factor out there in the west.

Flood control. We have had some horrendous floods. Again, unfortunately, the laws of nature do not allow the river, like the Colorado, to run at a steady flow 12 months of the year. Sometimes it runs with horrendous bursts. In fact, if any of my colleagues ever have an opportunity and are near Gunnison or Montrose, Colorado, take the time to go see the Black Canyon National Park. It is a beautiful, beautiful national park. And when you get to the visitor's center at the Black Canyon National Park you will see rocks the size of this table over here to my right, the size of this table and probably twice as high. That is a sample of the rocks that are thrown through that river. That is how powerful that river is going through that canyon. That rumbling down of those rocks sounds like a tornado going on down there in the spring runoff.

We have to be able to control floods. And take a look, while on the way to the Black Canyon National Park and, hopefully, you will go through a beautiful town called Grand Junction, Colorado. Grand Junction used to be desert. Desert still remains on the other side of it. But take a look at what irrigation did for that community. Grand Junction, Colorado, is probably the clearest example in the country of what happens when you have water and what happens when you do not have water.

The dividing point there is the interstate highway. As you go down the interstate in Grand Junction, when you look to the north, or if you are headed westbound, when you look to the right it is arid desert land. It is beautiful in its own way, but there are no people living out there. There is not much wildlife out there. In fact, there is not much life. There are no trees or plants out there. It is dry dirt. On the left-hand side, which is the south side, left hand as you are going west, the south side is the result of irrigation. There are orchards; wine orchards, apple orchards, and lots of wildlife.

Obviously, that is where the people live. It is because we had the ability to store water and to release that water year-round so that side of the highway can stay green. Year-round, that portion of land can support wildlife, human habitation and, frankly, I think increase and improve the areas of the environment that we think are important, gold medal fishing, for example, and a lot of other things.

Water is such a critical resource for us. Again, I urge my colleagues here in the east, during times when we have decisions to make about the west, please understand we are not trying to make a battle or make a geographical difference with the country. We do want Members to come to the realization, or at least understand that our needs in the west are dramatically different when it comes to some of these natural resources, whether we are talking about private lands or public lands, or whether we are taking about lots of water, like here in the east, where 73 percent of the Nation's surface water exists. Out there, in the center of the west, we have 14 percent.

So when we talk about our water storage facilities, listen to us, support us. There is a move out there to take down Lake Powell. Many of in this room have never been to Lake Powell. If you want to do your family a favor, if you want to have a great trip, one of those kind of vacations that your family will remember for many, many, many years into the future, go to Lake Powell. Take a look at that dam there, how much electricity that generates, and take a look at the flood control. As a Congressman, they will give you a tour. They give general tours, but tell them you really want to know about this project.

I urge my colleagues from the east to take a trip and go out there, and have one of your days set aside simply to learn about the project. So that when the radical fanatics come to these Chambers and try to get you to sign on to a resolution to tear down the dam at Lake Powell, you will have a very clear and immediate understanding of the ramifications that that has to the western half of your country, the kind of ramifications it has not only for hydroelectricity but for flood control, for water storage, for recreation, for farms. Remember that when you hear somebody approach you and say we need to take down dams.

One of my biggest problems with the Clinton administration was the Clinton administration was always trying to show that they were the environmental administration, so they made some pretty brash statements and they made some pretty illogical decisions, like the Grand Escalante Staircase, without any input from State officials; with proclamations that we need to start taking down dams, not building dams. It was almost as if that administration had an anti-human bias built into their policy. Well, fortunately, that has been moderated and a common sense approach will allow people in the east to understand the special circumstances of those of us who live in the west.

Let me mention something else. I want to show the drought conditions that we are currently experiencing. This is a color-coded map. Here are the codes: Abnormal dry, which means just an off year; drought moderate is the light brown; the dark brown is drought severe, and the red is drought extreme.

If you look to the left of the poster, here is the State of Colorado. This actually is the Colorado River right here, going down like this. The Colorado River runs about 1,500 miles. Only a small part of it is in Colorado. The Colorado provides 75 percent of the water that goes into it. Maybe 200 miles of the Colorado River is in Colorado, of the 1,500 miles total. It goes down through Utah, Arizona, and actually ends up in Mexico.

But my point here is to look at the drought conditions that we face. Now, we face some of these similar conditions on the East Coast, but out here in the west, where we start out with very arid conditions, look how much of it is in a moderate drought. All the light brown. But look what is in severe extreme drought. Look how much of that portion down here.

□ 2215

Look at what this is. This is a tough situation this year. Do you know how we are going to get through it? Do you know how we got through the semi-dryness last year? Because generations before us had the foresight to build major storage projects so when we ran out of water or did not have enough snow in the high peaks, we would have enough water to give us a crutch to get through to the next snow season. That is exactly why we will survive the drought in Colorado, even though it is severe, a drought that we have not seen since 1977 is the last time I recall. It appears that this one is going to be much more severe.

But we will be able to, we will be crippled, but we will be able to get through it because we have water storage. We have the capability to draw down on reservoirs. It is like your bank account. You always want to have a surplus in your bank account so if you have an emergency you can draw down on your savings. That is what these storage projects allow us.

But what has happened in the last few years through a huge public relations effort, they have been very successful in giving a negative connotation to the world dams and water storage projects. We in the West find ourselves constantly trying to explain, look, it is not a nasty word. It is a word that is necessitated by our lifestyles out in the West. It is necessitated by our needs for the environment. It is necessitated for our electricity. It is necessitated for flood control. These water storage projects are very, very important for us.

Now, what else happens when we face drought conditions? Fire. This year looks to be, if the conditions stay the same as they have up through this last week, this year could be the worst fire year since we kept records in this country. I want to say through the hard efforts of people like Gale Norton at the Department of the Interior, and Ann Veneman over at the Department of Agriculture, the head of the parks, these teams have come together and we have created a National Fire Council.

Last year through a lot of efforts, both Republican and Democrat, we put together the resources necessary to upgrade our firefighting capabilities in this country. We hired an additional 5,000 firemen. We picked up thousands of pieces of new equipment. In the last several months, we have disbursed those equipment and resources throughout the country so when we have a fire, as we had in Bailey up in Park County, Colorado, last weekend, we were within a very short period of time able to devote substantial resources to fighting that fire.

We have made dramatic improvements. Not only do we have a dry year, but we have had years and years and years of policies on the public lands, remember earlier my comments when we talked about the public lands, we have had years and years of policies of not allowing those forests to be cleaned. In essence, ignoring some of those forests. We now have lots of wastes on the floor of the forest. I call it gunpowder. What you see on my left, that will not be an uncommon sight in the mountains. We are going to see some of our biggest fires in Florida and in the East.

I think this year we have the team together. We never know what we are going to face, but based on past history, we think that with a little luck and a little blessing and the good Lord, we are going to be able to fight these fires successfully, but it is going to be a challenge.

Again, the importance of water storage. When we get out to some of these fires, one of the most important things to have is access to water. What does every fire truck in the West carry with them? They carry tarps. Why? A simple reason. As soon as they get to the scene of a fire, they create a dam. Think about it. Out in the rural areas, and I used to be a volunteer fireman, one of the first things that we learned

was how to use a tarp. Firefighters put it in the stream and very quickly build up a dam so we have a water reservoir that we could pull the water out of to fight the fire. Again, another use of dams, another use of water storage that a lot of us do not think about in our day-to-day lives.

Let me show Members the inferno. These are the kinds of things that we are going to face this summer. That is a blow up, meaning the wind and heat. All of the conditions are perfect for what is called a blow up. That kind of inferno, unfortunately, will occur. To a large extent we cannot help it. We cannot have more rain. That is up to the good Lord. We cannot control where lightning strikes; that is up to the good Lord.

But in the management of our forests and in the management of our firefighting resources and in the allocation of our land management resources, a lot of these fires can be impacted or alleviated with proper land management. Again in the East, you deal with it differently because you do not have the public lands. In the West, we have lots of public pressure, a lot of times from people in the East who have never experienced life in the West, who are not acquainted with what it is like to be completely surrounded by public lands.

In my district, I have about 120 communities. These are small towns with the exception of two which are fairly large. All but one of them are completely surrounded. In other words, 119 are completely surrounded by public lands. And the rules and regulations that we deal with with public lands restrict the amount of freedom. In a lot of cases, it is very justified. But as in most cases where the government gets involved, you will find on some occasions they go overboard. Sometimes they go overboard, for example, by not allowing people to clean up the forests. This is a contributing cause to this kind of inferno.

Let me talk just a few more minutes about the importance of water in the West, about the importance of water storage in the West. I have made several key points to Members, and I want to summarize them. Keep in mind that 97 percent of the water in the world is in the oceans. It is salt water. We do not have an economic way to convert that water to drinking water that is affordable on any kind of mass scale. Of the remaining 3 percent, clear water, nonsalt water, 78 percent of that water is tied up in the polar ice caps. So we have a very small amount of water that is either not tied up in the ice caps or not salt water for our usage. Conservation is a critical element for us.

As our country continues to grow in population, obviously we need to practice more and more conservation. But remember that conservation and water is much trickier than, say, conservation of fuel or electricity. I will give Members an idea. When somebody comes in and says we want you to line

your irrigation ditches, in other words put in concrete, and we can prevent seepage so you lose less water. The difficulty is that your seepage in your ditch may very well be providing the water for the spring 3 or 4 miles away.

Mr. Speaker, our generation does not have the capability to radar underneath the ground very effectively. We can pick up things above the ground, but what future generations will have the capability to do is they will have the capability to look underneath the ground, and at some point they will be able to figure out the logistics of those millions of miles of water streams underneath the Earth's surface. Then water management will make a lot more sense. Then conservation will be able to be done with much more precise science; but today, conservation is important.

But the key of my comments to Members this evening is not only to ask, as I have done on a number of occasions from this very podium, to ask for your indulgence when we talk about land issues in the West, because of the fact that the public lands really for the most part are in the West, they are not in the East, so I ask cooperation from my colleagues from the East, try and take a few moments, really you have the responsibility to take a few moments and understand the issues that we deal with because we have public lands. We have to deal with the government every minute of our lives out there when your community is surrounded by public lands. Our communities are completely, not partially, and this is not an exaggeration, our communities are completely dependent upon the Federal lands.

When we talk about water, out in my district, the water in my district either comes across, stores or ponds or originates on public lands. It is a big, big issue for us. The concept of multiple use is critical for our life-style. All of our highways, whether it is a radio antenna, whether it is our power lines, our fishing, our farming, our environmental protection, we deal with the government in every phase of that. Many in the East do not have to deal with any phase of that, at least as it pertains to the issue of public and private lands. You own the lands. We do not in the West. It is the same thing. There is the same kind of differential that begins to emerge when we talk about building water storage facilities on public lands, when we talk about the importance of water storage in the West.

Remember my earlier statistic, 73 percent of the water in this country is east of the Mississippi. Seventy-three percent of the surface water is east of the Mississippi. The western mountain region, that western area which is huge, which is about half of the United States, not quite but almost half of the United States in land mass, we have 14 percent of the water. Fourteen percent of the water, and almost half the land mass of the United States. So water

storage is so, so critical for us out there.

Finally, keep in mind what water storage, what it does. It provides flood control. It provides hydroelectricity. It provides recreation. And probably as important as anything that I have just mentioned, probably more important than anything that I have just mentioned, it allows us to save water and build up a reservoir so when we face the kind of drought conditions that we are facing today in the West, we have the capability to draw from that reservoir, at least from a limited period of time to try and get us through until the next snow season.

Colleagues, I appreciate your time this evening. I appreciate the fact that I am allowed, and have this great privilege in this country to come to this House well and try to work with my colleagues in the East, Republican or Democrat, to tell you how important it is that you understand the geographical differences, the water differences between the eastern United States and the western United States.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this time, and look forward to Members' cooperation on these issues in the future.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. MASCARA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of important legislative business in the district.

Mr. CRANE (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CANNON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. SULLIVAN) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 2248. An act to extend the authority of the Export-Import Bank until May 31, 2002.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 1, 2002, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6486. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Infectious Salmon Anemia; Payment of Indemnity [Docket No. 01-126-1] received April 12, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6487. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Farm Loan Programs Account Servicing Policies—Reduction of Amortization Shared Appreciation Recapture Amortization Rate (RIN: 0560-AG43) received April 18, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6488. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order [No. LS-01-12] (RIN: 0581-AC06) received April 19, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6489. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fluazinam; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2002-0003; FRL-6831-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received April 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6490. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Fenhexamid; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-301228; FRL-6829-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received April 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6491. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Sodium Starch Glycolate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-2002-0018; FRL-6833-9] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received April 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6492. A letter from the Director, FDIC Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Engaged In The Business of Receiving Deposits Other Than Trust Funds (RIN: 3064-AC49) received April 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6493. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Final Flood Elevation Determinations—received April 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6494. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); Increased Rates for Flood Coverage (RIN: 3067-AD27) received April 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6495. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Program of Research on Reading Comprehension—received April 19, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6496. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medical Devices; Reclassification of Three Anesthesiology Preamendments Class III Devices into Class II [Docket No. 99N-0035] received April 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6497. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prescription Drug Marketing Act of 1987; Prescription Drug Amendments of 1992; Policies, Requirements, and Administrative Procedures; Delay of Effective Date [Docket No. 92N-0297] (RIN: 0905-AC81) received April 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6498. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medical Devices; Device Tracking [Docket No. 00N-1034] received April 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6499. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Topical Antifungal Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Amendment of Final Monograph [Docket No. 99N-4063] (RIN: 0910-AA01) received April 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6500. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Cold, Cough, Allergy, Bronchodilator, and Antiasthmatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Partial Final Rule for Combination Drug Products Containing a Bronchodilator; Correction [Docket No. 76N-052G] (RIN: 0910-AA01) received April 15, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6501. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Change in Specifications for Gum or Wood Rosin Derivatives in Chewing Gum Base; Correction [Docket No. 99F-2533] received March 19, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6502. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Topical Nitrofurans; Extralabel Animal Drug Use; Order of Prohibition [Docket No. 01N-0499] received April 15, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.