Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation, I am going to let the gentleman go if he will just let me know, is this it?

Mr. PAYNE. This is definitely it.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

THE COLOR LINE REVISITED: IS RACISM DEAD?

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for removing the objection, and we certainly do apologize for the misunderstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak this evening on this year's theme for Black History Month, ''The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?''

While we all wish that we could proclaim the end of racism, we know that we are not there yet. We continue to hear disturbing stories about racial profiling in my State of New Jersey, where it has been admitted by the New Jersey State Police that they were not only doing it, but trained in how to perfect it by disguising numbers and falsifying reports.

We hear the question is racism dead, but we hear about the unequal opportunities in our school system, where the dropout rate continues to soar, where the great author Jonathan Kozol wrote a book, ''Savage Inequalities; Children in America's Schools,'' where he highlighted how race and economics have a great deal to do. In the mis-education of people, we ask, Is racism dead?

We take a look at the whole question of home ownership and employment, where we find that only 45 percent of African Americans own homes in the United States, where 75 percent of other Americans, white Americans, have been able to achieve that level. We find that it is difficult in many instances to get the finances to do that.

We have the question of health care, where African Americans' life expectancy continues to drop about a month or so each year, where the white population's life expectancy increases about 2 months per year, therefore making a disparity in a widening gap in life expectancy in our great Nation.

However, we in the Congressional Black Caucus have worked hard to overcome these obstacles. Despite setbacks along the way, we are making sound progress. We continue working on innovative initiatives at all fronts as we meet weekly to promote our agenda, and we have seen much success and progress as we continue to move forward.

Black History Month offers us an opportunity to honor many African American heroes who have been largely left out of the history books.

When I was growing up, I loved history; and I learned about the midnight ride of Paul Revere who came and warned the colonists that the Redcoats were coming. However, I never was taught about the first man who gave his life for our Nation's independence, who was an African American, Crispus Attucks, who was killed during the Boston Massacre incident the night of March 5, 1770. Today, there is a monument to Crispus Attucks in Boston inscribed with the words of John Adams: ''On that night the foundation of American independence was laid.''

As a student I was taught about Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders and the crucial battle at San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. However, I did not discover in school, but later, about the story of the Buffalo Soldiers, who had a very low desertion rate, who had a low alcoholism rate, which were prevalent in the cavalries at that time; and the fact it was the Buffalo Soldiers who prevented the annihilation of Teddy Roosevelt at the battle of San Juan Hill. That was kept out of the history that I learned. The Indians gave the Buffalo Soldiers that name because the buffalo to them were a symbol of courage.

Finally when we were taught about Admiral Peary and told of his skill and courage in reaching the North Pole, I was so proud of that great explorer. However, it was only in recent years that we did learn that much of the credit should have gone to Matthew Henson, an African American who was on the expedition. Admiral Peary became sick, became snow blind, his feet were injured, and he had to slow down and stop. But Matt Henson went forward, provided a camp, and waited for Admiral Peary to come there. At that spot, it was the North Pole, and it was Matt Henson that got there first. However, when Admiral Peary returned home, he was given awards by the White House and the Congress. Mr. Henson was not invited to participate.

So as I conclude, I think we should resolve to teach our children the lessons of history every day, so that they may take pride in their rich heritage. We are all proud to be Americans today, more than ever before; and we are especially proud of our African Americans who have contributed to the growth and development of this great Nation.

THE ISSUE OF WATER

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 as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wanted to talk about a subject that is near and dear to my heart, obviously a subject that is important to all of us, no matter where you reside or what district you represent in the United States, and that is the issue of water.

Now, water generally is a pretty boring subject, as long as it continues to run out of the tap, or when you turn on the bath water it is there, or when you want to go fishing and the lake is at the right level. But water is a very critical issue for us to keep an eye on.

The United States is very unique in that the geographical layout of this country is such that water is dramatically different and the issues dealing with water are dramatically different in the western portion of the United States than they are in the eastern portion of the United States.

For example, half of the land mass of the United States, half of the land mass, which I will point out a little later on, only has 14 percent of the water. If one draws a line down, say, between Kansas and the State of Missouri, from north to south, that eastern portion has 70-some percent, maybe 72 percent of the water in that smaller portion of the Nation. So we have got a Nation that is large, but the water is not equally divided.

Likewise, the State that I represent, the State of Colorado, is the only State in the Union where it has no inflowing water. No water comes into Colorado for use within the borders of Colorado.

Colorado is a very unique State, and I intend to spend some time this evening talking about the relationship of Colorado to the Nation's water, specifically the Colorado River. The Colorado River, of course, is called the Mother of Rivers.

Colorado is interesting in that Colorado is the highest State in elevation of all 50 States in the country. In fact, there are about 67 mountains in the United States, including Alaska, that are over 14,000 feet, and of those 67 mountains, 56 of them, I think, 56 of the 67, you find in the State of Colorado. Mountains over 13,000 feet, there is like 700 mountains in the United States that are over 13,000 feet; and of those 700, 600 of them are located in the State of Colorado.

That is critical. The reason the elevation is critical because, obviously, at the higher elevations is where you have your massive accumulations of snow and moisture during the winter months. That, of course, is very determinative as to what kind of spring runoff and what kind of water you are going to have for a good portion of the Nation as far as surface water is concerned for your months where you do not have heavy moisture.

Colorado really is a very dry State. In fact, that part of the west of the United States is a very arid portion of the Nation. It gets very little moisture. I will give some statistics as we go on into this conversation we are having this evening.

But when one takes a look at Colorado, it is very arid during most months of the year, which makes it even more dependent on those winter months and that snow accumulation and its relationship to the months that we have very little rain.

By the way, I never really knew what rain was until I came to the East. In the West our droplets are very cold and very little droplets of rain. You come to the East, man, it seems like it rains forever. But out there in Colorado we are very dependent in the months where we have very low rainfall, which are most months of the year. We then have to rely on the water that we have either been able to store or accumulate because of the snow that has come down on those mountains.

What is interesting in history is one of the first dams ever discovered goes back in the Mesa Verde National Park around 1,000 A.D., and there they found an ancient irrigation system. It did not take man very long to figure out that water does not always necessarily flow on where you need it and when you need it. So when you need it, that is when man first began to develop some way to store it, because, obviously, the stream did not stay at the same level all year-round and where you needed it. It led man for the first time to take water and move it from its natural course, to divert it to where the man or animals or agriculture needed it.

Every person in America diverts their water. Every person in America diverts water for their use. That is how you get water diverted from its source into, for example, your house, or onto your farm field, or into your communities, or into the buildings that you visit. So there are a lot of interesting things about water.

But you can start off by looking at the water supply throughout the world. When you notice the water supply in the world, something is very interesting: 97 percent, 97 percent of the water supply in the world, is salt water. And until we are able to come up with desalinization at an economic price, and I am sure the future generations will be able to do that, but for our generation in existence today it is not economically viable to take that salt water and convert it to clear water with any kind of quantity. So 97 percent of the water in this world really right now is pretty much off limits.

Then you take a look what the balance is, and the balance of the 3 percent. You have got 3 percent left of water that is clear water. Most of that 3 percent, most of it, almost all of it, in fact, again 90 percent of that 3 percent, is water that is not salt water, but it is tied up in the iceberg, frozen solid, so we do not have access to that as well. So really the amount of water that is available for consumption that does not have high levels of salinity is very limited when you look at the picture as a whole.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, it is pretty interesting, because a lot of people, including myself, I was stunned when I first saw this poster to my left, and I would like to point out some of it to you, because I think it is pretty interesting.

It is amazing, it is stunning, to see how much water is necessary, how much water the average person uses in their daily consumption. I do not mean just glasses of water or the bottles of water that one may drink during an average day. I am talking about the quantity of water that is necessary for your food, for example, or for your everyday living needs.

I think this chart is one of the best demonstrations that I have seen of what water usage is, so you have a pretty accurate picture of just how dependent you are on water. Water usage. Americans are fortunate. We can turn on the faucet and get all the clean and fresh water we need. Many of us take water for granted.

Have you ever wondered how much water you use each day? Look at this chart. Direct uses of water. Drinking and cooking, 2 gallons. Now, this is per person. Per person. Two gallons of water to drink it and cook with it. Flushing the toilet, 5 to 7 gallons per flush. Now, that has come down just a little with the new toilets we have, but basically that number will probably be accurate going from about 3 to 6 gallons per flush. Washing machine, if you do one load, 20 gallons of water just to do a load of wash. Your dishwasher, 25 gallons per load. Taking a shower, 7 to 9 gallons per minute.

Now, look at this: growing food. That is what is really fascinating. In order to produce one loaf of bread, in other words, prepare the farm field, grow the wheat, et cetera, process the wheat, bake the bread, et cetera, one loaf of bread requires, by the time that loaf of bread is ready for consumption, 150 gallons of water.

□ 1900

Mr. Speaker, 150 gallons of water to prepare one loaf of bread. One egg. One egg. That is not a dozen eggs; one egg requires 120 gallons of water. These are numbers that we have never even imagined. But take a look at it. One quart of milk, 223 gallons of water to produce 1 quart of milk. A pound of oranges, it takes 47 gallons of water. A pound of potatoes takes 23 gallons. It takes more than 1,000 gallons of water to produce three meals a day for one person. For one person to have three meals a day, it takes over 1,000 gallons of water to produce that food product. So clearly we can see that the amount of water that is consumed in our society is primarily consumed for our agricultural needs.

What happens to 50 glasses of water? This chart I think demonstrates what I have just said. If we lined up 50 glasses of water and we begin to move those glasses as to where their consumption was, we would take our first 44 glasses of that 50, scoot that aside, that is just what is necessary for our agricultural requirements in this country. Three glasses are used by industry for production. In other words, even the wheat production, we take the wheat off the farm, we move it into a production facility, say, for example, to bake the bread. Those requirements are about three glasses; three of those glasses would go for those requirements. Two glasses are used by the cities, and one-half of a glass is used out in the country. I think it is a pretty interesting chart. It lets us realize just exactly how important water, how important water is.

Let me move on just a little from there. I think this is a pretty clear map right here to show some of the differences, pretty dramatic differences of the layout of the United States. Remember that when they settled the country in the early days, that most of our population lived on the East Coast. The population in the United States is not evenly spread now. In fact, I heard a statistic the other day that if we took all of the population and put it together like in one large city, it only takes a very, very small fraction of the amount of land that currently exists in the United States. Obviously, our population is not put together like that, it is spread out through the country. But in the early days of the founding of the United States, the population was primarily focused on the East Coast.

As our government began to acquire additional land, to expand this ever-growing Nation, to create the United States of America, as they acquired this land, they had to figure out how to really get control of the land. Now today, in this country, when we buy a piece of property, we do not actually have to be on the property. We can have a piece of paper, a little thing called a deed; and that deed filed at the courthouse protects our rights on that land. But that is not how it was back then. In fact, a piece of paper really was not worth a whole lot. The only way back then, or the primary way back then for one to protect the rights that one had on that land was to possess the land. That is where the old saying came from, that possessions is nine-tenths of the law. That is exactly where that came from.

So in the early days of the founding of this country, as we began to acquire this land, our leaders back on the East Coast said, how do we encourage people, how do we get people to leave the comfort of the East Coast and move to the West? West being maybe only as far as western Virginia, or not very far west at all. How do we get people to move out there? How do we settle this country.

Well, the answer was, look, everybody in America, the American dream, even in its early stages of this country, the American dream was, one, individual rights and, two, the opportunity to own a piece of property. In other words, the land would not be owned by the government. People got to own a piece of property that they could build a home on, that they could farm on; and back then, in excess of 98 percent of our population lived on farms and agriculture and put their hands in the soil. So owning a piece of land back then was just as important as it is today. We all dream of owning our own homes.

So our leaders decided to take advantage of that and say, look, the incentive that we should give to these people is if they will go out and help us settle the West, help us settle this new country, we will give them land, the land grants or the homestead acts. Remember that it was not new. It had already been tested. In fact, our government used it during the Revolutionary War to try and bribe British soldiers to defect and come over to our side; and if they did, we would give them a land grant or we would give them a homestead. That land could be their land that they would individually own.

Well, this worked pretty well. The government began offering, and we can see by this chart entitled ''Government, Lands'' the government began to see the populations become westward and moving to the west. Do we know what happened? We discovered that on 160 acres out in Kansas or Missouri or even in eastern Colorado or up in Nebraska where some of the most fertile land in the country is, all of these people out in Virginia, a family could be supported off of 160 acres, that the soil was so fertile that that was an adequate amount of land to give.

But then word got back to Washington to our leaders. Hey, we are having a problem, because as the population begins to hit those high elevations in Colorado, when the population runs into the mountains, the Rocky Mountains, the Continental Divide, they are not staying there, because they are discovering that with 160 acres, one can not even feed a cow with 160 acres. They cannot possibly support a family off only 160 acres.

So our leaders in Washington sat down and said, How do we persuade people to go ahead and settle in these areas? What is happening is they are going around to the Imperial Valley, as demonstrated here in California where we have this white spot. So they had a lot of debate back in Washington; and the conclusion really was, well, one of the ideas or one of the solutions was, let us give them a proportionate amount of land. If 160 acres is what is necessary in the State of Nebraska to support a family, let us give a family in the Rocky Mountains 3,000 acres. Maybe that is what is necessary to support a family.

Well, during this period of time from a historical basis was also the time when we had the building of the Continental Railroad, for example, and other land grants that were going out there. Washington was under a lot of pressure not to give away so much land.

So the conclusion was, look, giving away 3,000 acres to just one family is too much land to give to just one family. We cannot just give it away like that. So somebody came up with the idea of well, instead of giving the land away, why does the government not go ahead and retain title. The government will continue to be the owner in name of this land, but we will let the people move onto the land. We will let the people use the land. We will come up with a new concept called multiple use. We will let people use the land for many purposes. They can live on it. They can have roads on it. They can recreate on it, fish on it, enjoy it. Let us do that. But for formality purposes, we will just keep it in our names so we do not have the political pressure of giving away too much land. That is exactly what happened in the West.

On this map to my left we will see that all of the colors on this map indicate government-owned land. We will see in the East, it is almost, with the exceptions of the Appalachias down here, a portion of the Everglades, a little up here in the Northeast. But some of these States do not have any government land at all to speak of. Their government land is the local courthouse. But when we hit the West, look at what happens. Big blocks of land.

Now, some people today, I would call them revisionists who like to revise history, would like us to believe that the reason the government owns this land is that that was to be preserved to the extent that human use was to be eliminated, and their goal is to take multiple use and get rid of multiple use. One of their goals too is when people want you off this land, what is the best way to get you off the land? If they cannot get the Congress to go along with it, if they cannot get the population to support it, then go for the most important asset that you have on that land, and that is the water, which brings us to kind of a full circle in our discussion of water.

It is interesting, because right through here we have something called the Continental Divide, and Colorado follows my pointer here as it goes down through this way. The Continental Divide, although most of us know what that is, but it is very interesting; it is a dynamic of nature upon which side of the line we can actually see it in place. The Continental Divide, the water on one side goes towards the Atlantic, the other on the other side goes towards the Pacific. The Continental Divide is really, at those high elevations where the Continental Divide is, that is where water is amongst the purest water; and that water is very important, not just for human consumption, but actually, a lot of that water is important to allow it to flow into the streams so that it can flow down and protect our environment. There is lots of multiple uses, not just on the land, but multiple uses of the water.

Now, Colorado begins to emerge in the country as probably one of the most critical, if not the most critical State in the Union in regards to water. One, as I spoke of earlier, the high mountain ranges and the accumulation of water. Colorado provides water for what, 26, 27 States. Colorado provides water for other foreign countries. The country of Mexico, for example, actually gets water from the State of Colorado from the Colorado River, the Colorado River Compact, the compact that they made with Mexico. It is interesting how Mexico, down in this area, ends up getting water that originates, 70 percent of the water in the Colorado River Basin originates in the high Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Now, how does Mexico end up getting rights out of the Colorado River? Interesting story. Not really the basis of this speech, but interesting enough to bring into these comments this evening.

What happened was, during World War II there was a concern that the Japanese would invade Mexico. So the Mexican Government came to the United States, and we had a mutual meeting. Mexico did not want the Japanese in Mexico. The United States did not want the Japanese right next to them in Mexico, so they made an agreement. And the agreement was that if the Japanese or the Germans or the axis there, the enemies, if they crossed the border or if they attempted an invasion of Mexico, the United States would enter Mexico and defend Mexico. They would fight for Mexico. They would fight to push them back out of Mexico.

Now, of course, the Mexican Government seemed to have a little leverage, I guess we would say. They seemed to be a little smarter in the negotiations. To summarize it, it is accurate to say that the Mexicans said, all right, it would be a good idea, United States, for you could come down and defend us if we are invaded; but you know, for you to come across the borders and come into our country to protect us, it really ought to be worth something to you because you do not want the Japanese in here either, so why do you not give us a part of the Colorado River. So the Colorado River is actually designated for the country of Mexico.

Now, Colorado is the home for four major rivers; four major rivers have their head waters in the State of Colorado. We have the Platte River, we have the Arkansas River, we have the Rio Grande River, and one of the rivers that I am going to focus on today, and that is the Colorado River. The Colorado River really is called the Mother of all Rivers, the Grand River.

Let me talk a little about the water climate in the State of Colorado. I would remind my colleagues that Colorado again is unique as we look at our maps, and the line would be very hard for my colleagues to see, but basically, this is the State of Colorado. This is the only area of the United States right here, the only area of the United States where there is no water that flows into the State for its use. Every other State in the Continental United States, every other State has water that flows into their State for their use. Colorado is the exception.

Keep in mind, also, my earlier comments. If we drew a line here down through Kansas and Missouri out like this, this portion of the country right here has 73 or 74 percent of the water in the country. This portion of the country right up here has about oh, I do not

know, 13 percent or so of the water is right up in this area. And then for the rest of these Western States which consist geographically of half the Nation, only 14 percent of the water in the Nation has to provide for that massive land area, which makes water storage very critical. The Colorado River, that is where, for example, we have Hoover Dam and Lake Mead. That is where we get huge hydropower facilities.

□ 1915

Water storage is absolutely critical for all of us. In the East we need it for flood control, primarily. In the West we not only need it for flood control, but we need it for year-around usage, so we are able to store the water when the water is coming down the mountain, because most of the months the water is not coming down the mountain in the kind of force we need and are able to store it.

Let me give an idea of our statewide climate. Statewide, Colorado gets 16.5 inches of water each year, although that can vary depending on population. Down in this part of Colorado near Durango, Colorado, we have a pass called Wolf Creek Pass. Twenty-some miles from Wolf Creek, it may snow 15 inches of snow a year. Go those few miles up to Wolf Creek Pass, we may get 550 inches of snow a year. So the geographic nature of the State provides for dramatic differences in the moisture and precipitation that follows.

In Colorado's high altitude, the semiarid climate, 85 percent of the State's precipitation is lost. Eighty-five percent of our water in Colorado is lost to evaporation. Why? Because Colorado as a State is known as the Sunshine State. In the State of Colorado, we have over 300 days of sunshine a year, over 300 days of sunshine a year. At that high altitude, we have to worry about evaporation. There is not much we can do about it, but most of our water that falls in the State of Colorado then is evaporated.

Keep in mind that water, water is the only renewable resource that we have. Now, we have resources that we have not captured the energy from, for example, the sun. But once the sun ray comes down, if we do not capture the energy, the energy disperses and it is gone; a gallon of oil, if we burn it up, it is gone.

But water is a renewable resource. So the key to water is one person's waste may be another person's water. What do I mean by that statement?

For example, on the Colorado River, we may have a diversion into an irrigation ditch. Somebody may say, well, to help conserve on water we ought to line that ditch with concrete so the water does not seep into the soil until it gets to the point we want it. That water seepage into that irrigation ditch may actually provide somebody else's water for a spring.

Today we do not have the technology, although at some point in the future they will have the technology, but today we do not have the technology to look underneath the surface and see all of the different fingers of water and the connections of water underneath our surface that we cannot see above the surface. So our understanding, really, is based on the best science that we have.

That is why we have to be so very careful when we talk about water, about where we put water storage or how we impact the water, what impact that has throughout the rest of that particular water system.

Let me say that when I said earlier that our snow pack is so important, to give an idea of those few months of snow that we get in Colorado, 80 percent of the water, 80 percent of the water in this Rocky Mountain area comes from snow. Only 20 percent of the water that Colorado gets comes from rain. So we are very, very dependent on that snowfall.

In a year like this in Colorado, we are having a dry year this year, and it runs in cycles. We have not been able to time the cycles, we have not figured out the cycles, but we know it runs in cycles. In Colorado, we have a very dry winter. In fact, some of our snow packs are only about 23 percent of normal.

Right now, it does not bother us because we have all the snow, and 23 percent is still a lot of snow. But wait until about June or July. All of a sudden, Colorado and the States that depend on the Colorado River will have a lot of suffering.

There are cities out there that have no water sources at all except massive diversions out of the Colorado River. One of them we know very well: Las Vegas, Nevada. Take a look at Las Vegas. At the Bellagio, that beautiful water show, that is Colorado River water. The same thing with the State of Arizona, same thing with the State of California, same thing with the State of New Mexico, same thing with Utah, and the same thing with the country of Mexico. A lot of States are very dependent on that high snow in those Colorado Rockies.

Some of these States add to it. For example, the State of Utah, the State of New Mexico, they add a little water to the Colorado River Basin. But, basically, the State of Colorado puts 70 percent of that water into that basin. By the way, of the 70 percent of the water that comes from the State of Colorado into the Colorado River Basin, only 25 percent of it goes back to the people of the State of Colorado. The rest of it is utilized in other States.

In the State of Colorado, as similar to our chart that I was showing earlier, 85 percent of the water that we use in Colorado, 85 percent of it is used for agricultural purposes.

Let me just real quickly go over some kind of fun statistics, interesting things. Ninety percent of our naturally-occurring lakes in Colorado, and we are not a lake State, we do not have massive lakes, but the lakes that we do have in Colorado, 89 percent of them that are natural are above 9,000 feet. Imagine that, 9,000 feet. That is where 90 percent of our lakes are.

Colorado has 13 different streams that we call Clear Creek, to give an idea how pure and how good that water is. As I said, Colorado is the only State in the Continental U.S. with all major waterways originating within its boundaries.

Water flowing out of the State travels to the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans, depending on which side of the Continental Divide it originates on. On average, 10,400,000 or 10,500,000 acre feet of water leave the State every year. An acre foot is how much water it takes to form an acre I think 1 foot high over a 1-year period of time. Most of the water that leaves the State of Colorado, about 45 percent of it is in the Colorado River Basin.

And 87 percent of the water in Colorado, when we take a look at Colorado, 87 percent of the water in the State is on the western portion of the State. Eighty some percent of the population in the State of Colorado is on the eastern portion of the State, so we can see just because of the dispersement of the population in the State of Colorado, most of our population is not located where the water is; most of the population is located away from the water.

Denver, for example, has no water that originates in Denver. It is the beneficiary of all that water that runs off the mountains. Or in the case of the Continental Divide, Denver, for example, or the cities on the eastern portion of the State, have decided to go over on the other side of the divide where the water runs this direction and redirect the diversion of that water, or the direction of that water, so it flows in reverse order and comes back to the cities.

It is often said that water flows not downhill but flows towards the direction of money. That is exactly what has transpired over the years. Water has been impacted a great deal from what its original intent was.

Let me just go over a few other statistics that I think are interesting. As I said, water sometimes can be a pretty boring subject; but I find it pretty fascinating. Now, all of the Members would be pretty interested in water if they turned on the tap tonight when they went home, they went to take a shower or cook dinner, and there was no water there. Then all of a sudden Members would become real interested in it.

I think tonight the purpose of tonight's comments are to give kind of a basic education and talk really where kind of the apex of water in the United States is and how critical the State of Colorado is for the supply of that water.

The largest reservoir that we have in the State of Colorado is the Blue Mesa. The amount of water, for example, throughout the country in the public water systems, if we have a city water system, do Members know what percentage of that is actually used to cook

and drink? About 1 percent of the city water system. The rest of it is used for all of the other needs one has with water. I thought that was a pretty interesting statistic.

Kentucky bluegrass uses 18 gallons of water per square foot. I do not have the actual statistic here, but it is amazing how many thousands of gallons of water are necessary for just one oak tree, for example. We do not even envision the huge quantity of water that is necessary to support one of those big cottonwood trees or a great big oak tree.

Water and its recirculation through our society, and its recycling, and I do not mean man-made recycling, I mean recycling by nature, is really a feat, and pretty amazing, just to the extent that we know. My guess is that we have only tapped a small knowledge of how our water system in this Nation works.

At any rate, back to my points, here. The Platte River was named, which of course ''platte'' means ''flat,'' and the water that is used in the Platte River was first used, of course, by the Native Americans. One of the interesting things that the Native Americans used early on in the State of Colorado were the hot springs located in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Some may have been to Glenwood Springs. It is a community near Aspen, Colorado. Actually, it is my birth home. But there we have hot springs, and I think the water there comes in at about 180 degrees Fahrenheit. The spring I think puts between 2 million or 6 million gallons a day of water at 180 degrees that comes out of the springs. We use it. We have a huge pool there. Anybody who has been to Glenwood Springs knows exactly what I am talking about.

The Indians used to use that because they thought it was the gods that put it there for health care. We later used it, in fact the Navy used it in World War II for recuperation of its wounded sailors. They would ship them from the oceans into the middle of the country for recovery in Glenwood Springs with the hot waters.

We have a lot of interesting things about the streams that we have in Colorado. We have about 2,000 lakes in Colorado. That seems like a lot, but our lakes are not very big. Our lakes really, in proportion, if we take a look at Minnesota or some of these States that really are States with huge lakes, we do not have much comparison there.

But within the boundaries of Colorado, within the four corners of that State, we have over 9,000 miles of streams, 9,000 miles of streams. So we know we have the highest elevation in the country in Colorado with the Rocky Mountains. We have by far the largest number of mountains over 14,000 feet; and by far the largest number of mountains over 13,000 feet are in Colorado.

Now, we know between all of these mountains, and coming down all of those mountains, we have 9,000 miles of streams that go through and circulate that water. It is pretty interesting when we take a look at the different diversions that we have.

We have 48 million people in the United States that divert their water off wells. That is below-surface water. The rest of the people in the country depend on surface water. Go back to the Colorado River Basin, here. That river kind of goes like my pointer, down through here, out like this, out into here, and then kind of like that, and out into the country of Mexico.

It is incredible to take a look, and I think I have a chart here. Hydroelectric power. Hydroelectric power from the Colorado River, again, coming back to the Colorado River, where our focus is, hydropower from the Colorado River keeps the lights burning in many parts of the West, including Phoenix, Arizona, pictured here. Phoenix also obtains water from the Colorado River via the Central Arizona Project canals.

There is Phoenix, Las Vegas, and all of those small communities, and many of the cities in California. The Colorado River, we do not really realize the importance of that water, the importance of it not only for the human population, not only for the agricultural population, not only for the energy needs, but for the environment, as well.

The more we know about water, the more deep our appreciation becomes for that miracle matter that the good Lord gave for us to use.

Let me kind of leave the charts here for a minute and wrap up my comments. I am going to do a series of speeches to my colleagues about the resources, the natural resources, we have over there. We have lots of debates on this House floor in regard to natural resource issues, in regard to the environment, in regard to energy and conservation of energy.

I am going to give a number of different speeches to my colleagues, not just focusing entirely on natural resources, but talking about the energy demands that we have in this country, the future for alternative energy that we have in this country, the necessity for conservation of energy that we have in this country; the need to protect our environment, protect it in such a way that it is balanced; the importance of multiple use on our public lands.

I intend to have a very thorough discussion here on public lands. In the East, because they do not have any government lands to speak of, many people do not know what public lands are. I do not hold that critically. I am not saying that critically. I am just saying that they do not deal with them.

In the West, for example, in my district, I have a huge congressional district. I probably have approximately 120 different communities, and 119 of those 120 communities are completely surrounded by public lands. In other words, everything we do in our communities is totally dependent upon the government's lands. For our water that comes across it, our water that is stored upon it, our water that originates on it, our power lines, our highways, our recreation areas, our agriculture, we are totally dependent on that.

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In the East, you do not have that handicap. In the West, it is in fact a handicap; and I intend to spend a few moments with you discussing that, in future moments, when we are here together on the floor. My purpose here tonight is to kind of break the ice, you might say, coming back to water, to talk a little about water.

If you ever have a moment to go to Denver, Colorado, and you go through the State Capitol there, you will find in their rotunda, every painting in that rotunda, in their murals somewhere in that painting has the subject of water, whether it is an irrigation canal, whether it is somebody fishing, whether it is animals drinking from the stream. Water is a critical, critical factor. In fact, the State of Colorado, as I said earlier, is the apex in this country. Four major rivers have their headwaters there. It is the mother of rivers. It is an interesting subject.

I appreciate the moments I have been able to spend with you this evening.

AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, America is at a critical moment. The domestic steel in its industry and the current workforce retirees and their dependents are clearly at a vital crossroad. Without strong relief under the section 201 action that this administration has called forth utilizing that section of our trade laws, the future of the industry is clearly grim. Thousands of steelworkers already have lost their jobs, and thousands more jobs are at stake. Beyond that, pension and health care benefits are in jeopardy for hundreds of thousands of retirees. Now is the time to provide relief for this beleaguered domestic industry.

The Bush administration took the vital first step by initiating the 201 investigation, and now the results are in. The investigation demonstrated what the industry and its workers have known all along, the rest of the world is not playing by the same set of rules. Meaning, the steel score sheet has long been skewed to provide foreign competitors with an unfair handicap, making it unnecessarily difficult for U.S. producers to compete. That has to stop.

Mr. Speaker, this may be hard for people to see up here, but let me assure you that the subsidies our domestic