

States House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Coos Bay, Oregon, dated December 31, 1970 and published as House Document 151, 91st Congress, 2nd Session and other pertinent reports, with a view to determine whether any modifications of the existing navigation project are advisable at the present time, with particular reference to providing increased project dimensions and an additional turning basin to accommodate existing and prospective traffic.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2752—VANCOUVER LAKE, CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Columbia and Lower Willamette Rivers below Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, published as House Document 452, 87th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of erosion control, ecosystem restoration, and related purposes in the vicinity of Vancouver Lake, Clark County, Washington.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2753—TEN MILE RIVER, CONNECTICUT AND NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Housatonic River, Connecticut Federal Navigation Channel submitted as House Document 449, 70th Congress, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether any modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of shoreline protection, flood control, ecosystem restoration, streambank erosion protection, and other related purposes in the vicinity of Ten Mile River, Dutchess County, New York and Litchfield County, Connecticut.

RESOLUTION—DOCKET 2754—LONG BEACH, BACK BAY SHORE, NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Atlantic Coast of Long Island from Jones Inlet to East Rockaway Inlet, Long Beach Island, New York, dated April 5, 1996, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications to the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of storm damage reduction, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and related purposes on areas of Long Beach Island, New York, affected by tidal inundation from Reynolds Channel, Hempstead Bay, and other connected waterways.

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FEDERAL BUDGET NEEDS TO MEET CONSTITUTIONAL MUSTER

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

claim the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Utah who just spoke previously, a fellow member of the Congressional Constitutional Caucus, who had indicated that we come to this floor on a regular basis to address what the Founding Fathers intended with the American public and the other Members of this body, their intention for the framework of the Constitution and the framework of the government of the various levels.

James Madison stated in Federalist Papers No. 45 that the role of the Federal Government is limited and defined, whereas that of the States and the people, their powers are broad and numerous.

To remind this body, the caucus' function primarily is to focus upon the 10th amendment to the Constitution, which in essence says that all powers not specifically delegated to the Federal Government are retained by the States and the people respectively.

When you read that and when you think about that, it is really pretty simple what the founders were trying to do there. And when the Constitution was ratified in 1787, they probably thought it was pretty simple, too. They thought they had probably in place a plan that would be existing for future generations would understand that the role of the Federal Government would be limited, that the sovereignty of the States and of the people would be respected. They probably thought to themselves that there is probably no way that they could have written it even more clearly than they did; that future Congresses should follow suit, should be ones to limit what the Federal Government does, and to retain to the people and the States what their responsibilities are.

Unfortunately, if you simply look out any of the windows of this building on this growing city that we have before us in Washington, D.C., you see representative of what is a growing Federal Government in all facets of our life. I am sure that our founding fathers would be disappointed in the largesse of the government, the excessive spending, the number of line items that is now in the budget. As a matter of fact, the budget is something that we were just debating and discussing on the floor of this House for a number of hours. I serve on the Budget Committee and have the opportunity to discuss it there as well.

What would our Founding Fathers think if they were to see our spending levels today? Would they ask the question that I think we all should be asking: Is it inconsistent the size and

scope that the government has grown to today? Is it inconsistent in the nature of the spending that the government has grown to today?

If the Founding Fathers were with us today, I think they would give us a resounding no to what we are doing. They would say that it is inconsistent, that we have grown too large.

But we are all leaving here now and going back to our districts. Many Members will be going back and using this time to get involved with the media. We are actually in a 24/7 media cycle in this country now with the advent of all the communications that we have, whether it is in press and press releases or whether it is going on the radio or TV or e-mail. Many Members use this as an opportunity simply to go back to their district and to brag about all the money that the Federal Government is spending, all the new areas that they are enveloping as far as their responsibilities, just as the one that the gentleman from Utah was just talking about as far as the delineation of wetlands and how it impacts upon the people back at home.

Maybe this is exactly what our Founding Fathers feared, that we have grown so far apart from where the money comes from and where it is spent. Their goal was that the money should be spent closest to the people. That way, the people would have the greatest voice in how it was going to be spent. Unfortunately, we have just the opposite today. The inverse is true instead.

Let me just give you a couple examples that come to mind. Think about your local board of education and the schooling. Parents know who their teachers are, parents know who the principals are, parents know who the board of education is in their town that run their schools. But do parents know who the bureaucrats are down here in Washington, D.C. that now control education dollars that go back to those schools? People back at home know about the pothole in their front streets, people back at home know the name of their local mayor who may be responsible for making sure that street is paved. But do people know who the bureaucrats are in the U.S. Department of Transportation who are responsible for the transportation dollars that may or may not get back to their town to fix their potholes, but may instead go to someplace as the infamous bridge to nowhere?

Maybe this is exactly what our Founding Fathers were thinking of when they were looking at a government so far away across a broad ocean in England, and realizing that that English government was no longer connected to our government here, and so that is why they put the limits on it that they did.

We could go down with other examples, with the growing deficit that we have today, with the subpar service that we have in such agencies as FEMA, and ad infinitum as far as this

goes, as far as the overgrowth and the problems that they have.

I just simply ask that our Members do this, and I think that the American public should be asking that their Members do as well: Is what we do the best for the schools? Best for medicine? Best for care best? For bridges? Best for all other services? Is it in line with what our constitutional framework says and what our Founding Fathers intended?

□ 2045

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

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IT IS TIME TO BEGIN SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I have recently introduced H. Res. 690, which would require this body to begin setting priorities. That is something the Federal Government, and Congress in particular, do not do a very good job at. In fact, we are really lousy at it, but it seems to me if we are able to set priorities on new spending, then we ought to be able to practice what H. Res. 690 would do which is require the House that anytime we create a new program of any size or scope, that we would have to, as part of that enacting legislation, eliminate an existing program of the same size or spending.

We have tough choices to make, but we just do not make those choices very well. You can look at the CBO's Web site. They publish a 50-year study of what they think this Federal Government will look like in the year 2050.

I have a grandson that will be about 53 years old at that point in time. The government that he will inherit, left unchecked, left unchanged, will be one that consumes 50 percent of the gross domestic product in this country, and there has never been a free market,

free enterprise system anywhere where the central government could take half and the rest of us passed on the other half. We prosper by having growth in the standard of the living, opportunities and others kinds of things.

So I believe that the growth in this Federal Government is the single biggest threat that we face as a country to our particular way of life.

That sounds strange in a country at war, but the Taliban and al Qaeda and the thugs that threaten this country can get a few of us, but they cannot fundamentally change the way we live. They can hurt some of us and they try, and we work real hard to not let that happen, but this growth in this Federal Government I believe can in fact have a fundamental negative impact on the way our children and grandchildren will live.

I said I am a grandfather. I've got six wonderful grandkids and one additional one on the way which will be born in November, if everything goes well. Which grandfather or grandmother among us would gather up their grandchildren, take them down to the nearest bank, and say, Mr. Banker, I want to borrow every single dollar in your bank, I want these six grandkids in my case, I want my six grandchildren to sign that note. I am going to take the money and spend it, but you are going to need to look to them to collect it. Well, there is not a grandparent worth their salt that would do that on an individual basis, but somehow collectively as a group we think that is okay because that is exactly what we are doing as we continue to spend money that our children will have to probably not pay back but will at least have to pay the debt service on and that impacts their way of life in a negative way.

Every politician worth their salt will step before this microphone and say we need to cut Federal spending. It rolls off your tongue very easily. Both sides of the aisle say this on various occasions, but we rarely practice what we preach.

I would like to point out tonight one program that I think would go away and no one would even notice that it is gone. We have in this country appropriated for 2006 money to provide an America's Job Bank. This is an Internet-based listing of job openings nationwide. It is maintained by good folks at the Department of Labor. Since this was established, the Internet of course has grown exponentially and has created such private enterprise-based sites as monster.com and careerbuilder.com which provide thousands and thousands and thousands of listings every day; and, in fact, this America's Job Bank is a duplication.

Now the duplication only costs us \$15 million, and that is a standard politician phrase, "only \$15 million." Well, \$15 million is a lot of money for District 11 and is a program that I would include in those that ought to go away.

As I mentioned, I have introduced H. Res. 690. We are working with the

Rules Committee to try to implement this rule for the 110th Congress, and I would encourage my colleagues to support it. The reason I am doing it is I have got six grandchildren and one more on the way, and I cannot think of a better reason why we should not begin to do a better job in setting priorities for spending at in this Congress.

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

(Mr. SHIMKUS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF GEORGIANA COLES

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the unused time of the gentleman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Georgiana Coles, a resident in my district who will be honored on April 20 for her work not only as a successful business leader but also as a dedicated land preservationist. She will be honored by the Heritage Conservancy, a nonprofit land and historic preservation society, for her significant contributions to preserving vast swaths of pristine open space in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

My district, Mr. Speaker, is renowned for its landscape as well as its history. It is rumored that Oscar Hammerstein composed the lyrics to "Oh What A Beautiful Morning" for his musical "Oklahoma" while looking over the bucolic acreage of his farm in Bucks County. However, today, continued development threatens to uproot those same pastures and fields that inspired Hammerstein's lyrics.

Georgiana Coles and her family own a highly successful nursery in my district that covers over 800 beautiful acres. Over time, the Coles family has expanded their operations, not simply to expand their business, but to protect prime land from development. By purchasing 180 acres of the Bradshaw Farm in Solebury Township, as well as