

morning, we are very grateful for your having joined us here, some for a semester, some of you for a year, but for your time and your dedication in helping to serve the House of Representatives.

I think, if nothing else, you have written many eloquent words about what you have seen and what you have not seen and what you have experienced here. But, if nothing else, I hope that it instilled within you this idea the United States had of self-government still does work, that you put together people who are not experts, not trained to be parliamentarians, put us all together and give us the information and still, in a very cumbersome process, we can come up with the right answers and with solutions.

Man can govern himself.

Through all the years that I have stayed involved in politics, first in the State legislative system and then here in Congress, I still come back to that one belief: The system of self-government does work. People can govern themselves.

And that is the positive element that I hope you take with you back home as you return from this experience here in Washington, D.C.

So the pages who are here, the pages who are still part of the program and not here this evening, we are thankful for you. We are grateful for you. We hope you have had a wonderful experience, and we hope you take back some kind of thrill of the idea of participating in government with you as you go back to your homes and continue on with your education.

Mr. KILDEE. If I might add, that among all of your accomplishments here, one thing the pages have done, you and your predecessors have really seen at least one unit of the House that is totally nonpartisan. We work together so closely because of our concern for you that we always arrive by consensus at the decisions we make in the Page Board. Our concern for you is that great.

I consider ROB BISHOP one of my very special friends. We don't always vote alike on other things, but we always reach agreement when it comes to the pages to help us realize that we should come together on those things that are extremely important, and there are probably some other things we can probably do that on, too.

Thank you very much. God bless all of you.

FALL 2008 SESSION PAGES

REPUBLICAN PAGES (24)

Corinne Austin-R
John Brinkerhoff-R
Sara Bromley-R
Riley Brosnan-R
Paige Burke-R
Eaghan Davis-R
Ella Davis-R
Evan Elsmo-R
Adidoreydi Gutierrez-R
Caroline Hill-R
Rebecca Jacobson-R
Audrey Knickel-R
Elizabeth Matenkoski-R

Denee McKoy-R
Caroline Miller-R
Parker Mortensen-R
Andy Nguyen-R
Nathan Pike-R
Emily Raines-R
Trace Robbins-R
Rory Roccio-R
Jessica Starr-R
Nebyat Teklu-R
Sean West-R

DEMOCRAT PAGES (36)

Jonathan Bigelow-D
Priscilla Brock-D
Rachel Chavez-D
Campbell Curry-Ledbetter-D
Joseph Dellasanta-D
Julie Ebling-D
Michelle Flores-Carranza-D
Trevor Foley-D
Rachel Fybel-D
Daniel Grages-D
Haley Hannon-D
Erin Hawkins-D
Jasmine Jennings-D
Leah Jones-D
Sara Katz-D
Evan Kolb-D
Monica Laskos-D
Alexander Leiro-D
Alexander Lichtenstein-D
Anjelica Magee-D
Sophia Mai-D
Nicole Mammoser-D
Edson Martinez-D
Margaret Mikus-D
Mary Miller-D
Eric Polanco-D
Tre'Shawndra Postell-D
Anna Pritchard-D
Manasa Reddy-D
Sacha Samotin-D
Samantha Schiber-D
Joseph Tanner, Jr.-D
Raven Tarrance-D
Nicholas Wisti-D
Cameron Younger-D
Anam Zahra-D

SPRING 09 PAGE CLASS (68 PAGES)

DEMOCRATIC PAGES

1. Kate M. Lonergan
2. Rena L. Wang
3. Jose Echevarria-Acosta
4. Ashley M. Sharpe
5. Ashlee E. Dubra
6. David G. Greenblatt
7. Benjamin D. Talkington
8. Joseph T. Oslund
9. Marissa E. Williams
10. Stephen E. Seely
11. Allison Ko
12. Sally Phang
13. Margaret A. McDermut
14. Caleb C. Overgaard
15. Tucker A. Travis
16. Olivia H. Rutter
17. Megan E. Jeffries
18. Hayden M. Hislop
19. Bernadette V. Silva
20. Sarah C. Kovar
21. Cameron W. Smalls
22. Logan C. Davis
23. Crystal Williams
24. Matthew J. Furlow
25. Haley P. Whiteside
26. Haian H. Nguyen
27. Sabrina E. Anderson
28. Blagica Madzarova
29. Campbell Curry-Ledbetter
30. Samantha Schiber
31. Sacha Samotin
32. Michelle Flores-Carranza
33. Manasa Reddy
34. Jasmine Jennings
35. Raven Tarrance
36. Anam Zahra

37. Alex Leiro
38. Sophia Mai
39. Erin Hawkins
40. Alex Lichtenstein
41. Nicole Mammoser
42. Anjelica Magee
43. Monica Laskos
44. Priscilla Brock

REPUBLICAN PAGES

45. Alexander C. Gaillard
46. Melissa M. Young
47. Samantha L. Heaslip
48. Audrey C. Scagnelli
49. Levi S. Craghead
50. Dillon L. Shoemaker
51. Taylor A. Imperiale
52. Hannah M. Dudley
53. Courtney A. Doolittle
54. Anna E. Wherry
55. Nicholas R. Humann
56. Anthony R. Siviglia
57. Cody D. Willming
58. Alex R. Bruner
59. Jessica L. Schneider
60. Ella Davis
61. John Brinkerhoff
62. Sean West
63. Emily Raines
64. Rory Roccio
65. Andy Nguyen
66. Audrey Knickel
67. Trace Robbins
68. Nebyat Teklu
Italics indicate returning Pages

□ 2100

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

DROUGHT IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to discuss what continues to be pernicious drought conditions that affect the people of the San Joaquin Valley, those in my district and my colleague's district.

I hope that most of the Members, if not all of you, recognize that we are now in three continuous dry year conditions in the San Joaquin Valley that is not only affecting the richest agricultural region in the United States, in California, but the entire State as well. A drought caused by Mother Nature, expanded and impacted by numerous judicial decisions and legislative changes, has very, very much devastated the economy of the valley I represent.

Water is the lifeblood of the agricultural communities in my district, supplying over a \$20 billion industry in the

San Joaquin Valley that provides half the Nation's fruits and vegetables, Number two in citrus production, Number one in production of wines, the list goes on and on, 300 commodities that are grown and produced; Number one dairy-producing State in the Nation.

Sadly, if this drought continues, we will find not only the San Joaquin Valley but the entire State of California, that is already economically depressed, further set back.

Today, unfortunately, the National Marine Fisheries Service finalized a biological opinion asking for modifications in the Central Valley Project and the State Water Projects that would divert even more water away from the agricultural communities and the San Joaquin Valley. This biological opinion, I think, on top of the additional reallocations of water, could relocate a very, very significant amount of water and make a very fragile system even more difficult to operate.

We have a sad situation where communities have 41 percent, 38 percent, 34 percent unemployment. While we have a deep recession facing all parts of our country, when you have those kinds of unemployment numbers, they are depression-like circumstances that we're facing.

We have food lines. I have been with my constituents in those food lines, some of the hardest working people you'll ever meet that, sadly, today, are asking for food. These people would normally be working if the water was there. If you had water, you'd have jobs, you'd have food. They would be working to put food on America's dinner table, but they're not today because of this man-made and Mother Nature-combined drought.

There are numerous factors that come together to issue this biological opinion, but I don't believe that the biological assessment supports the biological opinion because it only deals with one of the contributing factors that are cause for the decline in fisheries in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta. What the biological opinion ignores is the presence of invasive species, striped bass that were actually planted there, non-native in the 1920s, tertiary treatment from sewage facilities in Sacramento and Stockton which caused ammonia to leak into the Sacramento San Joaquin River systems. It would cost \$2 billion for Sacramento City to fix this ammonia problem, but they don't want to deal with that.

We have over 1,600 pumps in the delta that divert water that are unscreened. And we have non-point source pollution from the surrounding urban areas because they've quadrupled in population.

In sum, this administration must understand that, while we've lost over 30,000 jobs this year, if this drought, God forbid, extends a fourth or a fifth year, there will even be greater impact. Without water there is no work and there is no food, and that impacts not just California but the entire Nation.

We must work together to address the drought crisis in California in the short term and in the mid term. These fixes include factors that could lead to improving and moving water around, to get water supplies to those who need them, to deal with pump schedules and conflicts that arise, to increase the water bank, to ensure that in the next 6 months and the next year and beyond, that we do everything possible on the State, with the Federal Government's collaboration, to ensure that we deal with not just the fisheries of California, but people who have lost their jobs and whose lives have been impacted. That's what we need to do.

We have a water system in California that was designed for 20 million people. Today we have 38 million people. By the Year 2030 it's estimated that there may be 50 million people in California. It's now time to fix the problems in the delta in a comprehensive fashion, not simply by impacting those who grow the food in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the rest of the information for the RECORD.

I rise to discuss the drought that continues in our San Joaquin Valley.

As you all should know by now, we have faced three years of drought conditions in the San Joaquin Valley, further exacerbated by numerous judicial decisions and legislative changes to benefit fisheries and water quality in other areas of California.

Unfortunately, we are still a long ways from bringing solutions to our Valley.

While we have found some short-term fixes such as water transfers and temporary projects that will bring drought relief to our distressed communities, we must not forget the fact that this drought could continue for a fourth, fifth, or sixth year.

Water is the lifeblood of communities in my District, supplying a robust \$20 billion industry in the Valley that provides over 50 percent of the nation's fresh fruits and vegetables.

If this drought continues into the years ahead, we must be prepared to ensure that those hard-working people in the San Joaquin Valley who work to put food on America's dinner table will not stand in food lines and go hungry.

This is unacceptable, and we cannot sit by and watch it happen.

Today, the National Marine Fisheries Service finalized a biological opinion asking for modifications to the Central Valley and State Water Projects that would divert even more water away from agricultural communities in the San Joaquin Valley to protect salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon populations in the Delta.

Over the past several years, more than three million acre-feet of the Central Valley's federal water supply has been reallocated as a result of similar decisions.

All the while, fisheries such as the Delta smelt are still on the decline!

If this system were working, we would not see this happening.

Today's biological opinion adds yet another 330,000 acre-feet to that total.

This decision is unwise, and will have very serious implications for Valley farmers and communities.

Agricultural communities south of the Delta, especially in my District, will bear the entire

brunt of today's biological opinion facing further reductions in water supply allocations when they already face Depression-level unemployment numbers and food insecurity.

People are standing in food lines and being turned away; unemployment has risen above 35 percent in many Valley towns.

There are numerous factors that can lead to the decline of fisheries in the Delta, but federal agencies continue to only focus on the state and federal pumps that supply agricultural communities in the Valley.

Federal policy should take all factors into account, such as: the presence of invasive species such as striped bass, tertiary treatment from sewage facilities in the Sacramento and Stockton area which cause ammonia to drain into the Delta, over 1,600 private pumps in the Delta diverting water without screens, and non-point source pollution from the surrounding urban areas, among other factors.

In sum, the administration must understand that over 30,000 farm-workers have lost their jobs due to limited water supply allocations.

How much more can we stand?

Without water, there is no work; there is no food on the table. There is no San Joaquin Valley.

We must work together not only to address the drought crisis in the short-term, but also to find long-term solutions to California's water supply needs.

In the short-term, the Administration must get more creative in finding ways to fix the Delta.

This includes looking at all factors that could lead to the decline of fisheries, not just federal and state pumps.

It also includes expediting transfer activities that will get water supplies to those who need them.

Resolving pumping schedules and conflicts before they arise.

And identifying any present or near future yields for south of the Delta water users.

Beyond this, we have a system that was designed for 20 million people, and we have 38 million now. We might have 50 million by 2030.

We must work to address California's long-range infrastructure needs.

D-DAY JUNE 6, 1944

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, June 6, 2009, will mark the 65th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy. Operation Overlord was the code name, but most folks know the massive invasion by its military term. We call it D-day.

We honor the amazing men who stormed the beaches at Normandy on that historic day. Utah, Sword, Gold, Juno and Omaha beaches were the names of the invasion sites.

June 6, 1944, was a wicked day of weather. The seas were high and the rain came in hard. The sky only broke occasionally for the Allied air cover to protect the landings.

Our boys laid claim to the beach-heads inch by bloody inch. The Rangers climbed the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc