I am confident that every Senator will incorporate this manual in his or her important office documents. As I have suggested earlier, it will probably end up occupying a significant spot in the office of every Senator. I think it is not likely to eliminate the need to call the Ethics Committee for advice, although it may make those phone calls less frequent.

The committee staff worked long and hard on this manual, and they deserve the appreciation of the Senate and the American people. In particular, Victor Baird, Linda Chapman, Elizabeth Ryan, Adam Bramwell, Marie Mullis, and Annette Gillis toiled long hours over the last several months to bring this project to fruition. They have turned out, in my view, a very fine product.

As I indicated earlier, one copy of this manual will be made available to each Senator. In fact, this afternoon, one copy will be delivered to each office. I am not going to ask that it be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as it is quite thick, but I ask unanimous consent that the manual be printed as a Senate document.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Then there will be sufficient copies available to committees and subcommittees as well as the general public.

So, Mr. President, I hope that this ethics manual will be useful to Members of the Senate and to others who will need to become at least generally familiar with the rules of the Senate.

Again, I thank the staff of the Ethics Committee for an outstanding piece of work. It was really quite a difficult project. I thank them on behalf of all Members of the Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with the time between now and 2:30 p.m. open for statements limited to 5 minutes each; I further ask that the time between 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the time between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. be under the control of the Republican leader or his designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I was shocked and saddened today to learn of the President's threat to eliminate or veto the parks bill that included a number of projects.

I was particularly disheartened over the decision to kill four Colorado environmental projects—surprised because, on a number of these, the administration has specifically reviewed them and signed off on them; that is, we had taken the trouble and the time to walk them through, to seek their advice, to incorporate their suggestions, and to work with them for something that could meet the President's guidelines.

Thus, after doing that—and having secured, at least in many of those projects, the administration's input and approval—we are now faced with a political hit list with regard to Colorado projects. I think it is particularly surprising when you look at where that hit list focuses. It focuses primarily in States where the President has had a difficult time in winning good reelect numbers—Alaska, Colorado, and Virginia are the heaviest hit on that hit list.

Mr. President, the projects in Colorado are bipartisan projects. They are ones that are of enormous benefit to the environment and the State. I hope that the President will reconsider.

This is raw politics to punish those who will not go along with the President's bid for reelection. And it is vindictive politics. It is beneath the Office of the President to engage in this kind of vindictive hit list based not on a rational review of the issues or reasonable discussions of the problems, but simply sending a cold power play to punish those States where the President's ratings are not high enough.

I called the White House this morning because I was concerned about these projects and about one project in particular which, I think, particularly saddens me, and asked why these projects were being eliminated. They were not able to give me an answer. The woman who was kind enough to chat with me did speculate with regard to one of them, and speculated that maybe they were concerned about it being a heritage area. And, of course, the major one involved the Cache La Poudre River bill which is not a heritage area. We specifically changed that aspect because Members of the House and others had concerns about heritage areas.

Mr. President, I want to talk for a moment about a project that we worked for more than 20 years on which is included in that Cache La Poudre area bill. The Cache La Poudre River is a river that was named by the French, obviously, in the pioneer days. It is a river that has provided the flow of communications, water, transportation, and a lifeline throughout eastern Colorado. It starts in the high mountains in northern Colorado, in those high mountain regions, and it flows down toward the plains. It is now Colorado's only wild and scenic river. I offered that as a Member the House of Representatives.

Peter Dominick did a study perhaps three decades ago on wild and scenic rivers in the State. And it was a great pleasure for me to see the passage of that wild and scenic designation. While Peter Dominick has long passed away, his sons came to that signing ceremony. It was, I think, a token of something very important because it is an effort to preserve part of our national heritage.

The La Poudre bill the President now wants to veto is one that takes that area of the river as it passes through Fort Collins and extends out on the plains. The suggestion is very simple. Let us see if there is some way to set aside the floodplain of the river as it passes through the city of Fort Collins and Greeley and by the city of Windsor on its way. It is an area of rapid growth. It is in the middle of a great urban area stretching from Denver, or perhaps even Colorado Springs, all the way up to Cheyenne, WY.

What a wonderful thing to have set aside open space of a floodplain area for riding and bike paths and hiking paths and recreation facilities in the heart and the middle of a great metropolitan area.

Mr. President, as you well know, many in our part of the world are not so sure they want the heritage broke, and it is controversial. But the saddest thing of all would be to see it grow and for us not to prepare for it, plan for it, and set aside the open space that will keep some of the quality of life that has attracted so many to that part of the world.

That is really what this bill is all about. It does it without a cost to the U.S. Treasury.

It does it by saying if there is surplus land in the State that is federally owned, this bill allows the exchange of surplus land in other parts of Colorado for part of the flood plain of the Cache La Poudre. It will not have a net impact on the Treasury, but what it will do is gradually see land that is held by the Federal Government in areas where it is not needed exchanged for land in the flood plain of the Cache La Poudre River. It promises, I believe, over a lengthy period of time to give us a substantial amount of open space that will be preserved throughout the Republic to the lasting benefit of the community.

Frankly, I think it is a question that needs to be addressed in the Western United States itself. The West is blessed with a large amount of public