millions of Americans, including this Congressman.

Cesar Chavez will be remembered for his tireless commitment to improve the plight of farmworkers, children, and the poor throughout the United States, and for the inspiration his heroic efforts gave to so many Americans. We in Congress must make certain that the movement Cesar Chavez began and the timeless lessons of justice and fairness he taught be preserved and honored in our national conscience. To make sure these fundamental principles are never forgotten, I urge my colleagues to support legislation to declare March 31 a Federal holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez. In his words and in the words of the United Farm Workers, ''Si, se puede,'' yes, it can be done.

## UTAH AND H.R. 1500

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. CANNON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I represent Utah's Third Congressional District. Most Americans know a little bit about my district. Last fall, on September 18, President Clinton stood across the State line in Arizona, on the other side of the Grand Canyon, and with a few quick words and the stroke of a pen created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The fully understand the scale of this new monument, you must understand how big the average U.S. monument is currently. The average is 30,500 acres. The new southern Utah monument at 1.7 million acres is more than 55 times larger. It is bigger than both Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

The monument is extremely rugged, and parts are truly beautiful. The issue is really not that the land should be protected. The issue is process. That is why Utahans are angry. If this had been done through an open and thoughtful process, I think Utahans could have embraced something in the area.

But that is not what happened. Instead this monument was done without discussion, without consultation and without consideration.

The first time anyone in Utah, including my Democratic predecessor, ever heard about the possibility of a monument was in the pages of the Washington Post, a mere 7 days before the actual creation of the monument.

During the week before September 18, Utah's congressional delegation and Governor were told repeatedly that nothing was imminent. Of course, something was.

On the day of the President's proclamation, I was in southern Utah in the town of Kanab, which is on the west edge of the monument. Kanab is a small pioneer town. The residents are solid people, ranchers, farmers and the people who make their living by supporting those who work on the land.

On that day they held a rally at Kanab High School. The entire town closed down and everyone gathered to express their frustration at a President who in another State on the other side of the Grand Canyon was making a decision that would greatly affect their lives. The people were hurt and, yes, justifiably angry. They asked over and over again why their government would do such a thing to them in such a manner.

I can remember standing outside the high school and watching as dozens of black balloons were released as a symbol of what had happened to southern Utah.

□ 1330

Given this history, is it any wonder that the citizens of Utah today feel bruised and battered on the public land issues? I think my colleagues can understand why I say that Utahns are suspicious of anyone from outside the State who would try to impose additional restrictions on Utah's public lands.

And that brings me to H.R. 1500, a bill that will be shortly introduced into Congress. This is a bill sponsored by one of my colleagues from New York. It would designate a staggering 5.7 million acres of BLM land in Utah as wilderness. This is an area three times the size of this enormous monument.

Utahns are still reeling from the blow by President Clinton's monument proclamation, and H.R. 1500 amounts to rubbing salt in still-open wounds. To have outsiders introduce this bill at this time is not only highly inappropriate but offensive to the dignity of the people of Utah.

Now, Utah has a lot of beautiful land. Some of it should be designated wilderness. But additional wilderness is terribly, terribly divisive as an issue in Utah. Utahns are split and deeply divided over how much of any acres of BLM land in Utah should be designated as wilderness. There is absolutely no consensus on this issue.

That is why I went and met with the sponsor of H.R. 1500, the gentleman from New York, a few days ago and asked him for a cooling-off period on this issue of wilderness in Utah. I told him if he introduced his bill it would be hurtful rather than helpful because of the anger over the monument. Any bill right now would have the effect of pitting Utah's political leaders, environmentalists, rural residents, and public land users against each other. It would dramatically and directly hurt the cause of bringing Utahns together over the issue of wilderness.

I proposed a 2-year period during which no one in the Congress would propose Utah wilderness legislation. Utahns could then use the time to deal with the monument and seek consensus on the issue of wilderness.

Despite my appeal, my colleague from New York told me he is compelled to move forward. Frankly, I found this pretty offensive. My colleague from New York has a district some 2,200 miles away from mine. His district has no Federal lands, none at all. Surely he has more pressing environmental concerns in his own district.

Remember that H.R. 1500 is not about protecting public lands in Utah, it is about showing disregard for the people of Utah and the Utah congressional delegation. I ask my colleagues, as a matter of courtesy, please do not cosponsor H.R. 1500.

## TERRORISM THREATENS MIDEAST PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the suicide bombing today in a Tel Aviv cafe, which killed at least 4 Israelis and injured dozens of people, was a cowardly act. This cowardly act represents a knife in the heart of the peace process. Terror is not an arrow in the quiver of those who strive for peace.

What bothers me, Mr. Speaker, is that while Yasir Arafat condemned the bombing, he once again is speaking out of 16 sides of his mouth. What disturbs me is the Palestinian negotiators or the Palestinian authorities have been using the threat of terror for a while now, saying that if the Israelis went ahead and built the Har Homa housing that there would become suicide bombings, there would be terror, and that they could not be responsible for what might happen.

I say such rhetoric, such language is to give an indirect green light to those people who would use terror to maim and kill innocent civilians.

We will not and cannot allow terror to destroy the peace process. When Yasir Arafat releases Hamas terrorists from prison and then predicts that violence will happen in Israel as a result of the housing, he is giving a green light to terrorist attacks.

He cannot speak out of 10 or 20 or 30 sides of his mouth. He cannot oppose Hamas when it is expedient and then wink and turn the other way and say, ''Oh, I condemn this terror,'' when in essence we know that by predicting it and looking the other way, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. When Arafat signed the peace accords, he committed himself to the peace process, and committing himself to the peace process means no side deals with Hamas terrorists.

The Hamas terrorists ought to know that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel and will remain so. When Israel decides it wants to build housing or do whatever else it deems necessary in its own capital, Israel has the right to do that. Terrorism should not be used and cannot be accepted as a vehicle with which one side in a peace process makes threats and says if you do not give us what we want we are going to have terrorist attacks and we will not be able to do anything about it.