Fire Department, joined the people of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City.

I certainly thank the subcommittee chair and ranking member, but I do want to focus on the gentleman from Oklahoma [Mr. LUCAS] and his district, because I want it to be mentioned, although there are some technical nuances that have brought this particular legislation to the floor, I will step aside from that as I am not a member of the committee.

□ 1730

I rise to state that this monument is a recognition of the heroism of Oklahomans and Oklahoma City residents. They are American heroes. I think this should be the point of this monument and this park, as we on the floor of the House are acknowledging that the death of the 168 and those that were maimed and injured was in fact in support of the freedom of this Nation. They died because this nation is a free Nation, and we should never forget the sacrifice that was made by them. I wanted to acknowledge and commend this effort and this acknowledgment of this sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, let me also acknowledge that I did not arrive on the floor in time to support the naming of the former U.S. Federal Building in New York for Ronald H. Brown, and I do want to enthusiastically support that particular legislation for the great American, Mr. Brown.

In conclusion, sometimes the naming of buildings are taken lightly. These monuments are sometimes taken lightly. I hope the American people understand that in many instances we rise to commemorate great Americans, great heroes, and great members of our Nation that sacrificed their lives so we might live in freedom.

I rise in tribute to the citizens of Oklahoma and in tribute to Ron H. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 29 which would redesignate a U.S. Federal building in New York, in the name of Ronald H. Brown. Ronald H. ''Ron'' Brown, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the 1992 Presidential election and Secretary of Commerce in the first Clinton administration, was a man who served his country and its people above and beyond the call of duty. His performance in every area of his public life maintained and sustained a standard of excellence surpassed by few.

In particular, Mr. Brown was a gift to the African-American community. As the first African-American Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Brown remains a symbol of what we can all achieve when we strive to be the very best. While growing up in Harlem as a boy, often at his family's business, the famed Hotel Theresa, young Ron regularly interacted with the cutting edge leaders in the African-American community. From these experiences he learned the subtle nuances of leadership and sought to apply them in both his professional and political careers.

As a trained and practicing attorney, Mr. Brown regularly distinguished himself as more than simply competent, but exceptional. It was this drive and natural ability that propelled Ron to the Chair of the Democratic National Committee, and through his brilliant tactical leadership helped to put our current President in office. President Clinton, in return, rewarded the brilliant mind which had helped to make the White House a reality for him, by appointing Ron Brown to be the Secretary of Commerce. For 3½ years, Ron Brown pushed a new and exciting international commercial agenda to benefit parties both home and abroad until his tragic airplane accident in April 1996 near Bosnia. Secretary Brown lost his life in the service of his country, and for that, he stands as a hero for millions of Americans.

Athough the loss to his family and loved ones can never be replaced, the least we can do, as a body, as a nation, is to show our eternal gratitude. So by the rededication of this Federal building, we remember and honor his life, his loss, and his legacy; on these grounds, I implore the whole House to vote in favor of H.R. 29.

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman LUCAS for introducing the Oklahoma City National Memorial Act of 1997. I applaud Congressman LUCAS's efforts in realizing the importance of this legislation to all the people of Oklahoma.

April 19, 1995 was a terrible day for the State of Oklahoma. The whole world witnessed what minutes before seemed like an unthinkable act of terrorism. We, as a state and a country, pulled together as one to help all of those in need. Everyone was awed by the outpouring of love and generosity during this time of tragedy in our State.

A national memorial for the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing will help continue the healing process in Oklahoma. This will serve as a central place where all people, who were either victimized or lost a family member or friend, can go to remember not only the day of the tragedy but also the love and support offered by the people of this great Nation.

We must not forget the horrific actions that occurred on the morning of April 19th, 1995. This memorial will allow us to reflect on that day and all those who were affected by this tragedy. It will serve as a memorial of hope, showing future generations of Americans how we as country came together during a time of unimaginable tragedy.

Thank you again Congressman LUCAS for introducing this bill. All of Oklahoma thanks you for your efforts in the passage of this legislation.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 871, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule 1 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 1420) to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 4, line 11, after ''a'' insert ''wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other''.

Page 11, line 19, strike out ''and''.

Page 11, strike out lines 22 and 23 and insert ''fish and wildlife agencies during the course of acquiring and managing refuges; and

''(N) monitor the status and trend of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge.''.

Page 15, line 8, after ''use'' insert '', except that, in the case of any use authorized for a period longer than 10 years (such as an electric utility right-of-way), the reevaluation required by this clause shall examine compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization, not examine the authorization itself''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, on June 3 the House passed H.R. 1420 by a vote of 407 to 1. They approved the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act. This measure is the result of 3 years of hard work by the Committee on Resources, the minority and majority. The gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] and myself and the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] and other people were involved.

We conducted seven hearings and three markups on ways to improve our National Wildlife Refuge System. It is the culmination of successful negotiations between members of the committee, the administration, hunting and conservation and environmental groups.

The other body has now overwhelmingly approved the amended version of H.R. 1420. The three differences in the legislation include an expanded definition of the term ''compatible use'' to

mean ''a wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a refuge''; a requirement that the Secretary monitor the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants in each refuge; and a clarification requiring existing rights-of-way within refuges.

I have carefully reviewed these changes and find them acceptable. By approving this measure today, we will conclude the legislative process and send the bill to the President of the United States. By so doing, I am convinced we have enacted an organic act for our 509 wildlife refuge units that will serve our Nation well in the 21st century.

In the final analysis, this is a fine piece of conservation legislation that is true to the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, and it reaffirms the National Wildlife System Act of 1966.

Before closing, again I would like to mention the people that have participated in this extraordinary effort: My good friend, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, who was one of the fathers of the Wildlife Refuge Act; the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. JIM SAXTON, the chairman of the subcommittee; the gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. JOHN TANNER; and the gentleman from California, Mr. DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

I would like to recognize and express my appreciation to Secretary Bruce Babbitt; Majority Leader TRENT LOTT; the ranking minority member, the gentleman from California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, who cosponsored this bill; the leadership of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee; and all the conservation and environmental and hunting organizations supporting this effort.

Together we have been successful in crafting a bill that will effectively conserve and manage our fish and wildlife for the future, while allowing millions of Americans to enjoy wildlife-dependent recreation within our refuge system.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill, and I urge an ''aye'' vote on H.R. 1420.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendments to H.R. 1420 made by the other body. This is in fact a bona fide compromise which resulted from concessions on both sides. When the House last considered this bill, it was 407 to 1. Maybe we can find that one person and they can vote for it this time.

I want to thank my chairman of the committee, the members, and so many people who helped on this measure: Secretary Babbitt, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG], and the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], who really did in fact search for common ground on this bill.

This bill continues building on the original version of the refuge system put together by the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL], a true National Wildlife Refuge System that was envisioned at that time, and ensures that wildlife refuges, the only public lands dedicated to wildlife conservation, are properly managed and protected, while encouraging greater public appreciation for wildlife and the use of the refuge system.

Whether or not Members like to shoot birds with a Browning or a Nikon, this bill will enhance their appreciation of the refuge system. I urge passage of the legislation.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1420, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act for the first time establishes a conservation mission for America's 509 refuge units.

Equally important, the measure establishes hunting, fishing, and environmental education, as legitimate and appropriate priority general public uses of the 92 million-plus acres of land and water that make up our refuge system. It also affirms the refuge system not only as a home to all wildlife, but also as a haven to endangered wildlife and fish.

Indeed, each of the six National Wildlife Refuges in Tennessee are either entirely or in part in my congressional district and you can fish and hunt on each of them.

Through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, the Dingell-Johnson-Wallop-Breaux Sportfish Restoration Program, the purchase of Federal duck stamps, and many other conservation and restoration programs, hunters and anglers are the unquestioned leaders when it comes to wildlife and fisheries restoration and conservation.

America's hunters and anglers have contributed well over $6 billion to wildlife and fisheries restoration over the past 60 years. And last year alone, they spent nearly $60 billion pursuing the twin traditions of hunting and fishing. And with this legislation, hunters and anglers are again leading the conservation movement.

In the best tradition of President Theodore Roosevelt, an avid hunter, this bill recognizes that fact. So I want to applaud Chairman YOUNG, Representative DINGELL, Chairman SAXTON, Representative MILLER, Secretary Babbitt, and those at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are all to be commended for their leadership on this measure.

The bipartisan process that led to this consensus agreement should be a model for problem solving.

This is an excellent vote for conservation, hunting, and fishing, as we approach the 100th anniversary of our National Wildlife Refuge System. Earlier this year our bill received 407 votes in the House, the Senate passed it earlier this month by unanimous consent, and the President has said he will sign the legislation.

I would urge everyone's support of this bill so that we can send it to President Clinton for his signature.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1420, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.

This bill passed the House on June 3, 1997 on a recorded vote of 407 to 1. The National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act provides an organic act for the Refuge System similar to those which exist for other public lands. Its principle focus is to establish clearly the conservation mission of the System, provide a mechanism for unit-specific refuge planning, and give refuge managers clear direction and procedures for making determinations regarding wildlife conservation and public uses of the System and individual refuges.

The other body passed this bill, amended, on October 9, 1997. The House concurs to the amendments.

I urge all Members to vote in support of this bill, which greatly benefits the Refuge System.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, when President Theodore Roosevelt established the first wildlife refuge in Florida 94 years ago, he could hardly have imagined a national system of 500 refuges covering 93 million acres.

Today, we have another opportunity to make a genuine contribution to this remarkable legacy of wildlife conservation and management. It is in that spirit that I rise today in support of H.R. 1420, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. The Chairman and Ranking Member have worked together to craft a bill that ensures the future biological integrity of our refuges.

Legacies are not historic relics: like the species that inhabit our refuges, they survive only if they prosper and evolve. This bill will help protect species large and small, beautiful and not-so-beautiful, endangered and common alike, and specifically recognizes the benefits that refuges bring to people who live and work near them.

The bill explicitly encourages the Interior Department to work with local communities, states and private and non-profit groups. It is precisely such a partnership that has characterized our progress toward one of the newest additions to the refuge system, in Mashpee on Cape Cod, home to over 180 migratory fish and bird species.

Like so many others across the country, the Mashpee Refuge has value even beyond its statutory objectives—in this case, in safeguarding the quality and quantity of the area's fragile water resources. This imperative has become particularly acute with recent findings that pollution emanating from a nearby military reservation is seriously contaminating groundwater and jeopardizing future drinking water supplies.

For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to enact H.R. 1420—and then to pay for it by passing a 1998 Interior appropriations bill that includes the $700 million for land acquisition provided for in the budget agreement.

This bill draws on historic, bipartisan support for the basic mission of the refuge system, and makes adjustments that keep this refuge system alive and vibrant. I urge my colleagues to again join me in helping the House send this legislation to the President.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 1420.

The question was taken.

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum

is not present and I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation just considered.

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

There was no objection.

HOOD BAY LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1948) to provide for the exchange of lands within Admiralty Island National Monument, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1948

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Hood Bay Land Exchange Act of 1997''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established the Admiralty Island National Monument which is managed by the Secretary of Agriculture, by and through the Forest Service.

(2) The Forest Service has established a policy of encouraging the acquisition of private land inholdings within Admiralty Island National Monument on a willing buyer/willing seller basis. Congress has supported this policy, for example by passage of the Greens Creek Land Exchange Act of 1996 which provided for a land exchange of certain public and private lands in Admiralty Island National Monument.

(3) Lands owned by Alaska Pulp Corporation, consisting of 54 acres, more or less, located in Hood Bay on Admiralty Island within the boundaries of the Kootznoowoo Wilderness are available for transfer to Federal ownership on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. The acquisition of these lands would provide Federal ownership of this valuable land in a critical area of Admiralty Island National Monument.

(4) The United States is the owner of certain reversionary interests to 143.87 acres, more or less, located adjacent to Silver Bay near Sitka, Alaska, which interests were reserved in patent No. 1213671 issued to the Alaska Pulp Corporation on October 18, 1960. The transfer of the reversionary interests of the United States in such lands adjacent to Silver Bay to the Alaska Pulp Corporation would facilitate future use and development of that land.

(5) The future acquisition by the United States of the Chaik Bay property on Admiralty Island to be incorporated into the Kootznoowoo Wilderness would be in the public interest.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) The term ''ANILCA'' means the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.).

(2) The term ''Company'' means the Alaska Pulp Corporation, an Alaska corporation, its successors, and assigns.

(3) The term ''Company Property'' means the property depicted on United States Survey Plat 1058 approved March 20, 1917, consisting of approximately 54 acres of land.

(4) The term ''Federal Property'' means the reversionary interest of the United States described in paragraphs (6) and (7) of the patent dated October 18, 1960, granted by the Bureau of Land Management to Alaska Lumber & Pulp Co., which was recorded at Book 15, Pages 271–273, Sitka Recording District on November 9, 1960. The term ''Federal Property'' does not include the interests described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of the said patent.

(5) The term ''Monument'' means the Admiralty Island National Monument, which was established by section 503 of ANILCA and which is managed by the Secretary of Agriculture as a unit of the National Forest System.

(6) The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(7) The term ''Sitka'' means the city and borough of Sitka, Alaska, a home-rule borough formed in accordance with the laws of the State of Alaska.

(8) The term ''Sitka Property'' means the property depicted on the maps entitled ''Sitka Property'', dated August 29, 1997, consisting of approximately 49 acres of land.

SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE, TRANSFER, RELINQUISHMENT.

(a) EXCHANGE OF COMPANY AND FEDERAL PROPERTY.—After the Company conveys to the United States, by general warranty deed, all right, title, and interest of the Company in and to the Company Property, the Secretary shall within 60 days of acceptance of delivery of said deed, unconditionally and without limitation except as provided herein, relinquish to the Company all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal Property and shall evidence that relinquishment by conveying to the Company a quitclaim deed to the Federal Property.

(b) RELINQUISHMENT OF PROPERTY TO SITKA.—Upon relinquishment of the Federal Property to the Company under subsection (a), the Company shall transfer all right, title, and interest of the Company in the Sitka Property to Sitka.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF MAPS.—The maps referred to in section 3(3) depicting the Company Property and in section 3(4) depicting Federal Property shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Forest Supervisor, Chatham Area, Tongass National Forest, in Sitka Alaska. The maps referred to in section 3(8) depicting the Sitka Property shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Manager of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, until the conveyance described in subsection (b), at which time the map shall be recorded along with the deed.

SEC. 5. PROCESSING OF AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO LAND EXCHANGE.

(a) SURVEYS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Interior may conduct and approve all cadastral surveys that are necessary for completion of the exchange. The cost of any surveys shall be borne by the Company.

(b) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGE.—The values of the Federal Property and the Company Property are deemed to be of equal value.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary is directed to implement and administer the rights and obligations of the United States under this Act.

(d) CLEANUP OBLIGATIONS.—Nothing in this Act shall impact or alter the Company's rights, duties, and obligations regarding investigation, remediation, cleanup, and restoration under its September 10, 1995, Commitment Agreement with the State of Alaska or other applicable law. The Company shall use its property consistent with all restrictive covenants, including those restrictive covenants recorded on September 4, 1997.

(e) TITLE STANDARDS.—Title to the Company Property to be conveyed to the United States shall be acceptable to the Secretary consistent with the title review standard of the Attorney General of the United States.

SEC. 6. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MANAGEMENT OF COMPANY PROPERTY.—Upon acquisition of the Company Property by the United States pursuant to this Act, said property shall be managed as a part of the Admiralty Island National Monument and the Kootznoowoo Wilderness.

(b) AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Kootznoowoo Wilderness, the Secretary, acting through the Forest Service, is authorized to enter into negotiations with the owners of private property in Chaik Bay on Admiralty Island, with the objective of acquiring such property. The Secretary is authorized to enter into an option to purchase or an exchange agreement with the owners of such property to be effected either through existing administrative mechanisms provided by law and regulation, or by subsequent ratification by Act of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG] and the gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER] will each control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. YOUNG].

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1948 is the result of several months of work on a land exchange proposal to help the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, to develop new economic opportunities.

Sitka is located in southeast Alaska, and is not accessible by road. Its major source of year-round jobs for several decades was a pulp mill which shut down in 1993.

The land for the pulp mill site was originally granted to the Alaska Pulp Corporation in 1960. However, the Federal Government retained a reversionary interest in it. This means that the United States may take ownership of the site if there is no timber processing on it for 5 consecutive years.

With the mill closure, the property cannot be used for anything other than timber processing, even though it is one of the best available locations for new economic development in Sitka.

The closure has several severe effects on the local economy. Year-round jobs were lost, the tax rolls took a hit, and people moved out of the city, to name a few.

Sitka has taken a number of steps to revitalize the community. An important component of this effort is to