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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by again thanking the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) for all their work on this legislation. Also I would like to recognize the work that for the last four years my legislative director, Catherine Cruz Wojtasik, has been doing on this legislation.

This bill proves that crime fighting is a bipartisan issue. Today's Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act is the same anti-money laundering legislation that passed the House last week. Technical changes were made by the Senate that will broaden the definition of money laundering. These changes are endorsed by the Treasury Department, the Justice Department, the FBI and the local district attorneys in New York City.

In the expanded definition we allow Federal, state and local law enforcement officials to keep up with the changing trends in money laundering. It will provide police officers and prosecutors with the tools that they need to effectively combat large and sophisticated crime syndicates.

The Money Laundering and Financial Crimes Strategy Act is an important step in helping communities fight drug traffickers that launder money in their neighborhood. I urge all Members to support this bill.

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say in conclusion that Catherine Cruz Wojtasik did work very hard on this bill. I think it shows that the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) has assembled a good staff, and I would like to commend Ms. Cruz Wojtasik on her work on the bill.

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Mr. Speaker, I apologize for that oversight.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1756.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BUDGET AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTS COMMONSENSE CONSERVATIVE VALUES

(Mr. TALENT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the recently concluded budget agreement. In fact, the more I look at that budget agreement, the more I like it.

It begins to implement the Dollars to the Classroom principle, whereby we defund Federal bureaucracies and empower parents and teachers. It provides that with the Census, we are going to count people. We are not going to guess how many people are in the United States. It says we are going to stop child porn on the Internet.

We are going to reinvigorate the war on drugs. We are going to spend $9.5 billion on the national defense, money that is vital to America's greatness. We are going to have the first ever IMF reforms, and all this on top of a balanced budget with a surplus, tax relief, and welfare reform.

It is an implementation of commonsense conservative values, Mr. Speaker. It looks like we are going to have support from the other side of the aisle. I hope we come back here as soon as possible and pass it.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, 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 Iowa (Mr. LEACH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEACH 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 California (Mr. RIGGS) is recognized fo 5 minutes.

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

CONGRATULATING JOHN HUME, A WINNER OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to take this time to note that the Nobel Prize for peace today was given to two Irish heroes named David Trimble and John Hume. I do not know Mr. Trimble, who is the leader of the Protestant groups in Northern Ireland seeking peace, but I do know John Hume. I have known him for a good many years, and I think that his selection today was an absolutely perfect choice.

John Hume is a person who, as a very young man, began to peacefully protest the fact that there was a systematic policy to deny employment to Catholic males in Northern Ireland. He began to lead peaceful marches out of the Catholic neighborhoods to try to peacefully protest that fact, in the spirit of Martin Luther King.

The Protestant forces reacted violently. He was beaten a number of times. At one point he laid down in front of a tank with his wife standing just a few feet away. She thought he was a dead man. Fortunately, the tank stopped.

He also experienced violence at the hands of Catholic forces in Northern Ireland, because he was insisting that whatever actions taken by Catholic forces be peaceful, so his reward was that they tried to assassinate him many times. His home was firebombed at least once, I believe twice, once with his family in it.

He even had the experience of being at a country roadside, at a stop sign, when a car plowed into him from behind at a high rate of speed. The car exploded. He walked out of the car without a scratch, and a week later collapsed from post-trauma stress reaction, with his heart in fibrillation, and almost died.

Today he has been one of, if not the leading voice in all of Ireland for peace, and he has been instrumental in bringing the IRA together in peace talks with their Protestant counterparts. I think it is safe to say that there would be no peace process in Ireland, were it not for John Hume.

I simply want to take this time to note on this side of the Atlantic that a true hero of our age has been nominated or has been named the recipient of the Nobel Prize for peace today, along with Mr. Trimble, who also has been heroic in trying to lead the Protestant forces in Northern Ireland to a peaceful resolution of their differences.

In all of the years of public life, I have never met a person as inspiring as John Hume. I have never met a person who has been willing to undergo more physical violence to his own person than John Hume, except perhaps for our colleague in this Chamber, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHN LEWIS).

It just seems to me that we should today take note of the fact that the Nobel committee made a superb choice. I congratulate John Hume, I congratulate his wife, Pat, who has been with him every inch of the way in helping him through a lifetime of work for peace.

If I were asked to name a single person in the Western World who epitomizes what Christian values are supposed to be, I would say that John Hume is that person. I was thrilled to see that he was one of the two winners of that Nobel Prize today.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) is recognized for five minutes.

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act of 1998. This legislation will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding nearly 250,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The bill is a revised version of one I introduced last year and similar measures I proposed in the 103rd and 104th Congresses. It also reflects previous proposals by former Senator Bill Armstrong and others.

Over the last several years, I've worked with the National Park Service and others to refine the boundaries of the areas proposed for wilderness designation. I've also consulted closely with many interested parties in Colorado, including local officials and both the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the St. Vrain & Left Hand Ditch Water Conservancy District. These consultations have provided the basis for many of the new bill's provisions, particularly regarding the status of existing water facilities.

I had hoped that the consultations would result in a consensus that would make it possible to enact a Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness bill this year. Regrettably, complete consensus has not yet been achieved, and there's no longer sufficient time for action to be completed during this session. But I think it's important to introduce this bill today in order to provide a benchmark of the progress already made and to lay the foundation for what I hope will be a successful effort by others to complete the job in the new Congress that convenes next year.

Covering 94 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammeled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of Rocky Mountain National Park are included in this wilderness designation.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain National Park a true gem in our national parks system also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

As I mentioned, this new bill includes more precise wilderness boundaries and acreage numbers, greatly simplified water rights language, and provisions to confirm the continued operation of important water delivery systems located in, under, and near the park—including the Grand River Ditch, Long Draw Reservoir, Copeland Reservoir, and the portals of the Adams Tunnel, a key component of the Colorado-Big Thompson water project.

The wilderness boundaries are carefully located to also assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services.

This bill is based on National Park Service recommendations, prepared 24 years ago and presented to Congress by President Nixon. It seems to me that, in that time, we have sufficiently studied, considered, and refined those recommendations so that Congress can proceed with this legislation. I believe that this bill constitutes a fair and complete proposal, sufficiently providing for the legitimate needs of the public at large and all interested groups, and deserves to be enacted in this form.

It took more than a decade before we in the Colorado delegation were finally able, in 1993, to designate additional wilderness in our state's national forests. Soon, the potentially more complex question of wilderness designations of lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management must be addressed. Meanwhile, the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in this bill.

We all know that water rights are often a primary point of contention in the congressional debate over designating wilderness areas. The question of water rights for Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness is entirely different from many considered before, and is far simpler.

To begin with, it has long been recognized under the law of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself.

Division One of the Colorado Water Court, which has jurisdiction over the portion of the park that is east of the continental divide, has already decided how extensive the water rights are in its portion of the park. In December, 1993, the court ruled that the park has reserved rights to all water within the park that was unappropriated at the time the park was created. As a result of this decision, in the eastern half of the park there literally is no more water for either the park or anybody else to claim. This is not, so favor as I have been able to find out, a controversial decision, because there is a widespread consensus that there should be no new water projects developed within Rocky Mountain National Park. And, since the park sits astride the continental divide, there's no higher land around from which streams flow in the park, so there is no possibility of any upstream diversions.

As for the western side of the park, the water court has not yet ruled on the extent of the park's existing water rights there, although it has affirmed that the park does have rights. With all other rights to water arising in the park and flowing west already claimed, as a practical matter under Colorado water law, this designation will not restrict any new water claims.

And it's important to emphasize that any wilderness water rights amount only to guarantees that water will continue to flow through and out of the park as it always has. This preserves the natural environment of the park, but it doesn't affect downstream water use. Once water leaves the park, it will continue to be available for diversion and use under Colorado law.

These legal and practical realities are reflected in the new bill by inclusion of a finding that the park already has reserved rights to substantial amounts of water, so that there is no need for any additional reservation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill effects any such reservation. The bill also includes language to confirm that its enactment will not adversely affect any existing water facilities.

Why should we designate wilderness in a national park? Isn't park protection the same as wilderness, or at least as good?

The wilderness designation will give an important additional level of protection to most of the park. Our national park system was created, in part, to recognize and preserve prime examples of outstanding landscape. At Rocky Mountain National Park in particular, good Park Service management over the past 83 years has kept most of the park in a natural condition. And all the lands that are covered by this bill are currently being managed, in essence, to protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other manmade features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains.

This kind of protection is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As surrounding land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape.

Further, Rocky Mountain National Park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as does our first national park.

On the other hand, Congress' decision to designate these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness will make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

This bill will protect some of our nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. And it will affirm our commitment in Colorado to preserving the very features that make our State such a remarkable place to live.

I am attaching a fact sheet giving more details about the bill.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS ACT OF 1998

WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES

The bill will designate the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness, which will include 94% of the park. The bill is based on the recommendations of President Nixon, with some revisions in boundaries to reflect acquisitions and other changes since that recommendation was submitted. The National Park Service has been managing lands recommended for wilderness in accordance with that recommendation, so the bill's enactment won't significantly change the management of the park.

The bill designates about 249,562 acres of new wilderness. In addition, about 1,125 acres would be designated as potential wilderness, to be managed as wilderness, when nonconforming uses end.

There are currently about 2,917 acres of wilderness (in the Indian Peaks area), that were included in the park in 1980 by Public Law 96–560; prior to that, they were part of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and were designated as wilderness in 1978 by Public Law 95–450.

The wilderness designated by the new bill is in four separate sections:

Mummy Range Unit, the northernmost section of wilderness, approximately 84,006 acres north of Fall River Road and east of

the Grand River ditch, includes large areas of alpine, sub-alpine-forest, wet-meadow, and montane-forest ecosystems. Dominant features are the Mummy Range and Specimen Mountain. This portion extends to park's north boundary, adjoining existing Comanche Peak Wilderness on the Roosevelt National Forest.

Trail Ridge Unit, a relatively small section of the wilderness, lies between Fall River Road and Trail Ridge Road, and includes approximately 6,310 acres. This section includes forested mountainside of lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce and sub-alpine fir, and the park's trademark expanse of alpine tundra and sub-alpine forest.

Never Summer Unit, another fairly small section west of the Grand River Ditch, which comprises approximately 9,824 acres, is generally above timberline, featuring steep slopes and peaks of the Never Summer Mountains, including 12 peaks reaching 12,000 feet in elevation. This area adjoins the existing Neota Wilderness on the Roosevelt National Forest and Never Summer Wilderness on the Routt National Forest.

Enos Mills Unit, the largest portion of the wilderness—approximately 149,408 acres—is south of Trail Ridge Road and generally bounded on the east, south, and west by the park boundary. This area contains examples of every ecosystem present in the park. The park's dramatic stretch of the Continental Divide, featuring Longs Peak (elevation 14,251 feet) and other peaks over 13,000 feet, dominate.

Former reservoir sites at Blue Bird, Sand Beach, and Pear lakes, previously breached and reclaimed, are included in wilderness as is a portion of the Indian Peaks Wilderness transferred to the park in 1980, when the boundary between the park and the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest was adjusted.

The bill also includes language to provide that if non-federal inholdings within the wilderness boundaries are acquired by the United States, they will become part of the wilderness and managed accordingly and that specified federal lands within the park will be managed as wilderness when current incompatible uses cease.

AREAS EXCLUDED FROM WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

The following areas are not included in the bill's wilderness designation:

Trail Ridge and other roads used for motorized travel; water storage and conveyance structures; buildings; and other developed areas are not included in wilderness.

Parcels of privately owned land or land subject to life estate agreements in the park.

Water diversion structures (see below).

WATER

The new bill would NOT create a new federal reserved water right. Instead, it includes a finding that the park's existing federal reserved rights, as decided by the Colorado courts, are adequate and an explicit statement that the bill does not create any new federal reserved water right.

EXISTING WATER FACILITIES

Boundaries for the wilderness designated in the bill are drawn to exclude (among other things): existing water storage and water conveyance structures, assuring continued use of Grand River Ditch and its right-of-way; the east and west portals of the Adams Tunnel of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project (CBT); CBT gauging stations; Long Draw Reservoir; and lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir.

The bill includes provisions to make clear that its enactment will not impose new restrictions on already-allowed activities for the operation, maintenance, repair, or reconstruction of the Adams Tunnel, which diverts water under Rocky Mountain National Park (including lands that would be designated as wilderness by the bill) or other CBT facilities, and that additional activities for these purposes will be allowed, should they be necessary to respond to emergencies.

A REPUBLICAN SURPLUS CONGRESS BRINGS GREAT BENEFITS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, it is the nature of politics that we never get everything we want. But when the American people support a general direction in which we want to go, small victories do become possible.

Yesterday's agreement between Congress and the White House on the remaining spending bills represent a victory for those seeking to take this country in the direction that the Republicans have been trying to go, the direction of smaller government, holding the line on spending, local control of education, tax relief, a stronger military, and more weapons for the war on drugs.

After many months of difficult negotiations, an agreement has been reached that reflects the priorities of a Republican Congress. This Congress can properly be called the surplus Congress. Just a short time ago, Congress was facing $200 billion deficits as far as the eye could see. Anyone proposing to end that was immediately labeled as an extremist by liberal Members on the other side of the aisle.

Here we are, with a Federal budget that has a surplus at hand. Now, I know that there are a number of Democrats who fervently believe that the current budget surplus is due to President Clinton's 1993 tax increase, but they are wrong.

Federal revenues are up, way up, but I would suggest to my friends on the other side to examine the budget tables and take a look at where those revenues are coming from. I am fairly confident that they have not done that, because if they had, they would discover that strong job growth and the booming stock market are primarily responsible for those increased revenues, and not the Clinton tax hike.

The funny thing is that no matter how many times this is pointed out, the liberals continue to go on thinking that it was a tax hike, Clinton's tax hike, that put us on the right track, out of budget deficits. Not to belabor the point, but it is important to know the truth about this very important issue.

To those on the other side who are still not convinced, despite the fact that the budget tables are available for the whole world to see, they only need to consider the President's own budget a mere 2 years ago. In the 1996 budget, 3 years after the Clinton tax hike, it contained $200 billion-a-year budget deficits as far as the eye could see past the end of this century, into the next century.

It was not until a Republican Congress forced the President to accept a balanced budget that the surplus actually became a reality. The deficit Congress was transformed into a surplus Congress.

The primary reason why a balanced budget benefits the average person is because it makes lower interest rates. That means it is easier to buy a house and to make monthly mortgage payments. It means those credit card debts are a little easier to pay off. It means that young people who want to go on and further their education have an easier time paying off student loans. Most important of all, lower interest rates mean business can expand more easily and create new jobs, and job creation, economic growth, means higher revenues.

Mr. Speaker, this shows that the cuts on the capital gains taxes were important in a couple of ways. Federal revenues from capital gains realizations are way up, and low taxes on capital investments mean more capital invested.

Ronald Reagan cut the taxes on capital gains. This Republican Congress did it again. The results are that capital investments have soared, and liberals on left are scratching their heads, wondering why the economy is booming. It is not rocket science and it is not magic. The Republicans were elected in 1994 to change the course after 40 years of Democrat rule; 40 years in the direction of bigger government, higher taxes, and less accountability.

As we approach the final actions of this surplus Congress, I am glad that we have held fast to Republican principles of limited growth in the Federal Government, of tax relief, stronger schools, safer streets, a better military, a balanced budget, and a $70 billion Federal surplus.

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

(Mr. TOWNS 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 Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHLERS 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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)