

few years and then come back to college later." But I think that is ignoring two realities. One is that increasingly the cost of higher education is such that it is not that easy to take time off, and make up the money, and then go back to school; and, secondly, that we are in a world where we are competing with other countries, and, if we have to set up the higher education system where many of our students have to defer going to college for a number of years before they can go because they have to work on the private sphere in order to pay for it, well, we are losing people, a lot of people, who would otherwise receive a higher education and be a productive member of the work force in the career that they have chosen and perhaps that they will be best at.

I also think it ignores the fact that in the last 29 or 30 years many of us were able to take advantage, including myself, of these student loan programs and grants programs, and now we are seeing those of future generations will not be able to take advantage of them. I think it is a mistake on our part to cut back on funding for higher education. You have to think about educating our students and educating our fellow Americans. If we do not provide that commitment that has been traditionally provided for the last generation or two to pay and provide Federal help for higher education the way we have, then it really says a lot about the value of education in our society. It says we do not value it very much.

So, even though both measures, both the budget and the rescission bill passed today; I did vote against both of them in part because of the impact on Medicare and Medicaid on senior citizens, but also in a major part because of the effect on higher education, and the student loans, and the student grants that so many of our students increasingly depend upon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MYRICK). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. NORWOOD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. NORWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE REINCARNATION OF TV MARTI

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

Mr. SKAGGS. Madam Speaker, I am certainly not a fan of the Republican budget resolution. But there was one item in it that made a whole lot of sense—the idea of terminating TV Marti. It is long past time we stopped spending \$12 million a year to beam to Cuba in the middle of the night TV programs that nobody sees.

I was pleased when Chairman KASICH took on the powerful Cuban-American

lobby and proposed eliminating their pet project. And on this point, it sure looked like the committee intended to go along with that proposal.

At the markup on May 10th, the Budget Committee had before it both budget figures and a document with policy assumptions on how to meet those budget goals. The policy document listed a decision to "terminate broadcasting to Cuba" as one of the cuts needed to achieve the budget-cutting goals for the international assistance portion of the budget.

The draft committee report circulated on May 12, after the committee passed the budget resolution, stated:

Overseas broadcasting played an important role during the cold war, but has become an expensive anachronism with the advent of global satellite television broadcasting. Likewise, the technology used by Voice of America and WorldNet limits their potential audiences and makes those systems inefficient and expensive. TV Marti has achieved little success broadcasting to Cuba.

Any reasonable person would interpret all this to mean that the Committee supported termination. Many observers of the budget process reached this conclusion. The Federal Page of the Washington Post on May 11 listed "Terminate Voice of America and Radio Marti broadcasts to Cuba" as one of the items in its "'House Republicans' Blueprint to Balance the Budget." (p.A21) The Miami Herald in a May 14 page one story called "Cuban exiles losing clout in D.C." reported, "To help balance the U.S. budget by 2002, the House budget committee called for eliminating funding for (Radio and TV Marti) next fiscal year." (p.1.)

Then a most amazing thing happened. The final version of the committee report that was filed on May 15 reversed the Committee's apparent policy decision to terminate TV Marti. The sentence "TV Marti has achieved little success broadcasting to Cuba" was deleted. All the rest of the paragraph declaring overseas broadcasting "an expensive anachronism" remained intact. But where first appeared the admission that TV Marti was a flop, there now magically appeared the wholly contradictory statement that "Funding, however, is available for Radio and TV Marti."

This is an interesting situation. The report now recommends getting rid of all USIA broadcasting programs—VOA, Radio Liberty, Radio Free Europe—but makes a specific exception for TV and Radio Marti.

What happened over the weekend that resulted in this complete reversal? Who pressured Chairman KASICH to turn around on this and rewrite the report language? And what else in this budget has been changed after the committee vote? This is yet another demonstration of how difficult it is to kill a program, even when the program does not work.

I want to give credit to Chairman KASICH for his effort to go beyond generalities, to details, in his budget resolution. This experience with TV Marti

gives new meaning to that old saw, that the devil is in the details. It also, I am afraid, undermines the credibility of the entire exercise.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1995

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to introduce today, along with a number of our colleagues, the National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act of 1995.

This legislation, which is the product of many months of careful deliberation, would be the first comprehensive refuge reform bill since the enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966. While that landmark statute, which was authored by the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, JOHN DINGELL, nearly 30 years ago has served our Nation well, it is time that we update that law and, by so doing, improve the management of our Nation's wildlife refuge system.

At present, the system is comprised of 504 refuges, which are located in all 50 States and the 5 U.S. Territories, totaling about 91.7 million acres. These units range in size from the smallest, the 1-acre Mille Lacs National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, to the largest, the 19.3-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. In the last decade, 81 refuges and approximately 3.6 million acres have been added to the system.

While millions of Americans engage in various recreational activities each year on public lands within the system, there have been several recent developments that have caused great concern.

For instance, in October of 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service settled a lawsuit filed by the National Audubon Society by agreeing to undertake a comprehensive system-wide "compatibility" study, to expeditiously terminate certain secondary uses, and to redirect their funds away from recreational and wildlife-dependent activities.

In addition, the Clinton administration has recommended that refuge funding be sharply reduced by deferring maintenance projects and upkeep of public use facilities, including trails, observation towers, and information kiosks. This recommendation is worrisome because without proper maintenance, the service may prohibit certain uses on our refuge lands.

While it is appropriate to periodically review the compatibility of certain activities, there is no statutory list of purposes for the national wildlife refuge system and no statutory definition of what constitutes a compatible use of a refuge. Without this guidance, individual wildlife managers have broad discretion to prevent or disallow recreational activities which do not materially affect the purposes of the refuge or the refuge system.

In fact, earlier this week my committee held a hearing on a bill to transfer the management of the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge to the State of Oklahoma. The overriding reason for H.R. 1112 was a decision by the local refuge manager to prohibit boating, camping, fishing, and picnicking in portions of the