

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF FOUR ALCOHOL RELATED DEATHS

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to send my condolences to the family and friends of four women who died tragically in an alcohol-related accident on July 3, 1995. All four of them resided in my congressional district.

Evelyn Dotson, Henrietta Lathon, Jeanne Ruth Sanford, and Gwendolyn King had been paying a visit to an elderly woman who was housebound with a bad heart. Before heading home, they decided to spend the evening in Atlantic City. On their way back to the eighth district their van was struck head on by a sports car driving in the wrong direction on the Garden State Parkway. The four women died in the accident. A 24-year-old man was charged with drunk driving in the incident. Miraculously, the driver of the van, Matthew Buie, and his wife, Jonnie Ruth, were saved when they were pulled from the burning van by a passing motorist.

Mr. Speaker, these four women were extremely active members in the Paterson, NJ community. They donated their time and effort to help others in a selfless manner. They prayed for the sick, fed the hungry, and comforted the lonely. They exhibited the qualities we should all strive to emulate.

Furthermore, each of the women spent a great deal of time at the St. Augustine Presbyterian Church. This congregation will not easily replace the void that was created by the passing of Evelyn, Henrietta, Jeanne, and Gwendolyn. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you share the sadness that Mr. Donald Curtis, the president of the church's board of trustees, feels in the passing of these magnanimous individuals.

It is sad that it takes tragic times such as these to bring people together and to realize the importance of charitable qualities. Fortunately, the passion for life and the commitment to the church that these women shared will live on in the memories of their family and friends.

MICHIGAN NEEDS THE NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL SERVICE [NBS]

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to Speaker GINGRICH and the congressional Republican efforts to eliminate the National Biological Service [NBS] in the Interior Appropriations bill. Eliminating the NBS is yet another attempt

to roll back the progress we have made in improving our water quality.

The current Interior Appropriations bill will result in shutting down four biological science facilities—including the one in Ann Arbor, MI. The Ann Arbor facility has been instrumental in contributing information and knowledge about zebra mussels and water quality issues in Lake St. Clair.

This ill-conceived bill also transfers the responsibility of researching living resources to the U.S. Geological Survey—an agency which has never in its entire existence studied a living resource let alone a foreign species like the zebra mussel.

For those of us who live along the lake wondering each and every day if the water is safe, scientific research is the only way we can control foreign organisms and find solutions to what is happening in Lake St. Clair. With this legislation, Congress is saying to the people in the 10th District of Michigan, and to everyone along the Great Lakes, that they don't care about one of the most important economic and recreational resources we have—our water.

It is time to stop turning back the clock. We don't want our lakes to become ecologically dead or our rivers to become so polluted that they catch on fire again. What we want is to move forward, to find solutions and provide answers. That's what the National Biological Service does and that's why we should be funding its research—not abolishing it.

Perhaps my feelings about the elimination of the NBS are best stated by a recent Detroit Free Press editorial, which I would now like to submit for the RECORD.

[From the Detroit Free Press, Monday, July 10, 1995]

RISKY REFORM—CUTTING THE NBS WOULD HARM GREAT LAKES AND MORE

If Congress carries out its threat to kill or castrate the National Biological Service, the Great Lakes will be enormous losers. Most people in Michigan may never have heard of the NBS, but while the name may be new and unfamiliar, the federal research activities it comprises have been around for a while, and are much too valuable to lose.

It is the unhappy fate of the NBS that it was put together in 1993 by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, who is widely regarded by the Wise Use Gang as a traitor to his class—a rancher who doesn't believe that beef cattle are God's second highest creation, or that the federal government should butt out of everything west of the 100th meridian. The mere fact that Mr. Babbitt's fingerprints are on the NBS has made it a prime target of the anti-science, anti-environment, anti-government crowd.

The NBS houses many research activities formerly conducted under the letterhead of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It includes 16 regional science centers, including the Great Lakes Science Center in Ann Arbor, which is high on the hit list if NBS funding is eliminated or curtailed.

Closing up shop in Ann Arbor would break the chain of nearly 100 years of science and fishery data compiled there, and cripple efforts to protect the lakes. Working with other state and federal agencies, the center has helped identify DDT as a problem in ea-

gles, mercury as a threat in Lake Erie wall-eye, PCBs as a bioaccumulating toxin in a wide range of species. It helped to solve the alewife problem (remember the stinking mounds of trash fish that once piled up on some Great Lakes beaches?) and to develop methods to control the voracious lamprey.

Across the country, the agencies that make up the NBS have performed similar services for science, commerce, recreation, water quality, protection of species and habitat. The famed wildlife center at Patuxent, Md., brought back the whooping crane from the edge of extinction. Rachel Carson worked at Patuxent, and relied on data from there and Ann Arbor to write "Silent Spring." This is the scientific tradition and research base whose existence and continuity are now at risk.

The NBS, despite the propaganda of its detractors, doesn't regulate a flea; it merely provides information on which others may act. Sometimes that information is inconvenient, as when it shows how reckless logging practices are destroying the Pacific salmon fishery. What the country should do about logs vs. salmon is a legitimate policy question; at least we ought to know what's happening out there before we answer it.

The people with knives out for the NBS want to conduct the debate without the science. In the Great Lakes, that sort of know-nothingism could be fatal to the fishery, to water quality, to health, recreation and tourism. Michigan's members of Congress may differ on environmental issues, but they ought to share a genuine interest in preserving Great Lakes science and research—and the mission of the NBS nationally, for the same reasons.

It's one thing to argue over policies and decisions, another to trash the bioscientific base on which they should be made. The environment can survive a few wrongheaded policy decisions. It's doubtful any of us can survive the kind of willful ignorance the NBS' detractors seek to impose.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AQUACULTURE EMPLOYMENT INVESTMENT ACT

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 1995

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Aquaculture Employment Investment Act. This bill is based upon legislation I sponsored last Congress with my colleague from Massachusetts, Representative STUDDS.

Aquaculture represents a promising economic development opportunity for the State of Rhode Island. At the turn of the century, Rhode Island shellfishermen harvested so much shellfish from Narragansett Bay that this harvest would be worth almost \$1 billion at today's prices.

The bill I am introducing today attempts to foster economic growth and create jobs by encouraging aquaculture development in our

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

lakes and coastal areas. The Aquaculture Employment Act amends the Coastal Zone Management Act [CZMA] to authorize grants to States to formulate, administer, and implement strategic plans for marine aquaculture. This provision would enable States like Rhode Island that have no comprehensive plan for aquaculture development to get started in the process of creating jobs and economic development through aquaculture.

The legislation also creates a grant program modeled after a shellfish seeding program operating in Nantucket. Under this program, funds would be made available to States to expand ongoing projects relating to aquaculture, such as the State quahog transplant operations. By transplanting clams from high bacteria areas of Narragansett Bay to clean areas of the Bay, the clams are given the opportunity to clean themselves and eventually be ready for harvest.

This is not to say that development of a marine aquaculture industry will be easy. Difficult issues such as private use of public resources, conflicts with other coastal user groups, and the development of streamlined regulatory and permitting requirements will have to be addressed.

Other nations around the world have already recognized the potential of aquaculture and the important role that government can play in developing this industry. The governments of Japan, Norway, and Chile are supporting aquaculture development programs, and giving their citizens the opportunity to reap the accompanying economic rewards. In fact, these countries are exporting their aquaculture harvests of fish and shellfish to America.

This bill calls for a modest commitment of Federal resources, but it does not take a large Federal investment to join marine aquaculture and economic development. I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of its passage.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1977) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 1977, the Interior appropriations bill. My amendment reduces funding for two unnecessary aircraft and some vehicles to be used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These savings are then made available to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for two purposes.

In 1906, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Allotment Act to allocate lands to Native Alaskans. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 repealed the 1906 Allotment Act and an allottee must have filed an application with the Department of the Interior by De-

ember 18, 1971. It has been over 23 years since eligible allottees filed their applications and there still remains a need to resolve the on-going case load of Alaska Native allotment disputes at the Department of Interior. In February of 1994, the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, the Alaska Legal Services, and the Alaska Federation of Natives met to discuss solutions to resolve these disputes, propose to close the last of Native allotment cases and an attempt to finalize land dispute problems in this area. This amendment intends that half of these funds—\$442,000—be used for the Alaska Native allotment attorney fee program at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This will provide funds for representatives for Native allottees with cases with pending at various stages of review within the Department of Interior and before the Interior Board of Land Appeals. The need for outside counsel in these cases is required because of the attorneys within the Department of Interior recognize a conflict of interest between the Native allottees and their institutional clients.

The remaining funds are to added to the Bureau's Wildlife and Parks program as additional funds for monitoring and enhancement of the salmon returns within the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim regions in Alaska. The Athabaskan, Yup'ik and Inupiaq Natives of western and interior Alaska live a subsistence way of life from harvests of different fish and mammals. Although these resources supply most of their food needs, they also need cash to purchase essentials such as gas, and nonperishable foodstuffs and harvesting equipment such as boats, outboard motors, nets, and rifles. Commercial fishing provides that small but necessary income since other jobs are scarce and seasonal in rural Alaska. Fishing income averages \$4,000 from about 7 weeks of fishing and the per capita income in the villages of these regions is about 60 percent of the U.S. national average. Beginning in 1990, chum salmon stocks in these regions declined significantly and spawning escapements were inadequate. For the upcoming fishing seasons, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is predicting below average return of salmon to these regions. This program fund is intended for salmon monitoring, enhancement and restoration and research projects in these regions.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2043, THE
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 17, 1995

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 2043, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act, fiscal year 1996. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on Science has devised a visionary, yet prudent alternative to the two very different approaches we have seen thus far this budget year.

The first approach was contained in the President's Budget Request for NASA. It said, "don't worry, trust us, we'll cut NASA's budget by \$5 billion over the next 5 years." At the

time, the President didn't say how the budget would be cut by \$5 billion, but he said it could be cut without closing NASA field centers or cancelling programs.

To some of my colleagues, that promise sounded incredible—so much so that the Appropriations Subcommittee that pays NASA's bills, the Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies, took the exact opposite approach: it proposed closing NASA field centers and cancelling major science programs.

The role of the Science Committee is to provide guidance to the Nation's civil space program. We are operating under the fiscal imperatives that weigh upon all Members of the House. Our job is to propose a new direction for NASA that meets both the needs of the nation's space program and the budget of the nation's taxpayer. H.R. 2043 does just that.

THE PATH OF THE FUTURE

Our bill lays the groundwork for a direct path to the future by focussing NASA's energies on basic research and development. The International Space Station, which is fully authorized to completion in H.R. 1601, should be seen as the foundation on which this bill rests. H.R. 2043, builds on the commitment made to human space exploration by fully funding the Space Shuttle program and takes the first steps toward privatizing the Shuttle while maintaining safe and productive operations.

But that's not enough. H.R. 2043 also fully funds the Reusable Launch Vehicle initiative aimed at low-cost, simple, reliable space transportation systems whose operational vehicles will be entirely developed by the private sector. This basic research is fundamental to industry's being able to privately finance and profitably operate the next generation of space vehicles. With this program, Mr. Speaker, we will begin a new era in space, led not by large engineering bureaucracies, but by skillful space entrepreneurs.

We are fully funding the President's proposal to fund two reusable X-type vehicles, the X-33 and the X-34. The X-33 is intended to be the development "footprint" for a single-stage-to-orbit fully reusable launch vehicle; the actual step of capitalizing and developing this system will be the private sector's responsibility. The program is designed to make that next step technologically feasible. The X-34 is already changing the way NASA does business because it reverses the contracting relationship; reverse contracting means that industry can decide how NASA will contribute its expertise to the program, and not the other way around.

PIONEERING BASIC SCIENCE

We are committed in H.R. 2043 to complete development of the highest priority basic science missions in NASA. These programs, Gravity Probe-B, Cassini, the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility [AXAF], the Mars Surveyor, the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy [SOFIA], represent the core science mission that NASA should be focusing on as it returns to its original mission as the Nation's leader in basic scientific, air and space research. Originally NASA had proposed terminating Gravity Probe-B, if possible, to make room for two new programs in infrared astronomy, SOFIA and the Space Infrared Telescope Facility [SIRTF]. Our bill makes the difficult choice to fund Gravity Probe-B and SOFIA, but not SIRTF.