

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues today in remembering the tragedy endured by the Armenian people in the years 1915–23.

Extensive massacres of Armenians took place during that period in eastern Anatolian plains in an atmosphere akin to a horrible civil war. Those events have indelibly and permanently marked the consciousness of many Americans, including Americans of Armenian descent, who are commemorating April 24, 1996, as a national day of remembrance of man's inhumanity to man and a special day of remembrance for the Armenian victims of strife in the early years of this century.

April 24 marks the 81st anniversary of the calamity. It is appropriate on this occasion to direct our attention and prayers to the memory of the vast number of victims who died in these tragic events.

It is the interest of all of us and in the interest of mankind that this type of tragedy not occur again. The leading organizations of the Armenian-American community have been seeking to work within our political system for a statement concerning these critical events in their heritage.

This year in the House of Representatives that vehicle is House Concurrent Resolution 47, honoring the memory of the victims of the massacres of Armenians, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. No one can deny these events and the centrality of these events in modern Armenian history. I am proud to be associated today with my colleagues on this important day of remembrance.

I would also like to salute the Republic of Armenia, which continues to move forward in its democratic and economic reforms. This country of 3.3 million people is already developing important ties with the United States. Americans have an interest in the economic development of Armenia, its progress toward a free market economy, and its development of democratic institutions. We want to work with Armenia and its neighbors to insure peace, stability, and progress in their search for greater freedom and security. There is no better way to honor the misdeeds of the past than rededicating ourselves to a better future.

Today in Europe, we have a chance to advance the cause of peace and stability more vigorously and on a wider scale than ever before. I salute all governments, private organizations, and individuals, including the Armenians, who are working toward this end. I hope that their efforts will make the world a safer place, where innocent people no longer suffer the unspeakable crimes of war and terror.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 1675) to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to improve the management of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purpose:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1675, a bill to amend the National Wildlife Refuge System should be called the Republican Bill To Kill the National Wildlife Refuge System. Throughout my 20-plus years in Congress, I have actively supported legislation which would provide increased protection for America's dwindling natural resources and endangered wildlife, thus ensuring their preservation for the benefit of future generations. I have been mindful of the concerns about the continuing reports of neglect and mistreatment on National Wildlife Refuge lands. However, the bill before us today, instead of helping a delicate system, it would hurt the National Wildlife Refuge System.

This bill to amend the National Wildlife Refuge Act, would in fact significantly alter the management of national wildlife refuges in this country. This bill would weaken the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service to manage competing public uses of the system; dilute consideration of the public interest from refuge management decisions; open refuges to new or expanded "recreational" activities, including commercial trapping; severely limit the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund to create new refuges; would create an unneeded exemption process to facilitate military use of refuge lands; and, would strip refuges of reserved water rights. There are currently existing protections and innovative supports for the valuable and precious refuge system. President Clinton's Executive order of March 15, 1996 assures that hunting and fishing will continue to be priority uses of the refuge system. This bill, H.R. 1675 is unnecessary to advance the interests of hunting and fishing and would do serious environmental damage to an "unrenewable" system of lands this nation relies on for conservation of precious fish and wildlife, which we must protect and preserve for our children and grandchildren.

There are good laws currently on the books that need to be funded and supported. Providing recreational activities compatible with wildlife conservation is already an extremely high priority for the National Wildlife Refuge System. As of fiscal year 1995, over 95 percent of the 92 million acres in the Refuge System were open to hunting. Most recently, President Clinton further amplified this emphasis by last

month issuing Executive Order 12996 which directs the Secretary of the Interior to "provide expanded opportunities" for priority public uses including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation.

Major environmental protection groups oppose this bill. The Washington Post this morning said in an editorial that the wildlife refuge system should be left alone. There is a report that the President would veto this bill as currently written. Again, the Gingrich Republicans in the Congress have exercised the option of wasting time to forward their conservative agenda in a meaningless exercise instead of negotiating and compromising for responsible governing.

I intend to continue to work to ensure that America's beautiful public lands and wildlife are enjoyed and treasured for years to come. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1675.

IN TRIBUTE TO SGT. CHARLES NICOLLS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 29, 1996

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 4, 1996, the Cabrillo College Police Officers Association will host a retirement party for Sgt. Charles "Chuck" Nicolls in recognition of his 27 years of service to the students, faculty, and fellow employees of Cabrillo College, located in Aptos, CA.

Mr. Nicolls has served the people of California as a firefighter and police officer for 27 years. He was employed by the city of Modesto as a firefighter and fire company engineer from August 1964 to February 1969.

He then served as a police officer, motorcycle officer, and undercover narcotics officer from February 1969 to April 1985, often under perilous conditions. Sergeant Nicolls then served the Cabrillo Community College from September 1989 to March 1996, as a police officer, training manager, administrative sergeant, and the "Chief of Barb B-Q's" for all special events. Sergeant Nicolls established a training site at Cabrillo College for the California Motorcycle Safety Training Program. Sergeant Nicolls stayed on-duty for 26 hours after the Loma Prieto earthquake.

On February 15, 1995 Sergeant Nicolls was awarded American Police Hall of Fame Distinguished Medal of Honor and citations for his contributions to the community. Throughout his whole career, Sergeant Nicolls has consistently demonstrated a sense of honor and duty, rare in today's world.

• 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.

TRUTH IN BUDGETING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 842) to provide off-budget treatment for the Highway Trust Fund, the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund:

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 842 and urge my colleagues to reject this legislation. While I understand and support the need for significant investments in our Nation's transportation infrastructure, I do not think that Congress should be unfairly protecting transportation spending from the current fiscal realities we face. The plain fact is that, if we pass this bill and take the transportation trust funds off-budget, we will be forced to cut remaining domestic discretionary on-budget programs deeply to make up the difference.

Sure, highways, airports, bridges, and roads are critical to the long-term economic strength of the Nation. But are they more important

than say, education, health care, or the environment?

The present unified Federal budgeting system includes all Federal spending, revenues, and borrowing within its totals, exempting only Social Security and the Postal Service from its calculations. This system, although not flawless, provides us with the clearest picture currently available regarding the impact of the Federal budget on the economy, and allows us to objectively prioritize and weigh Federal spending needs.

Even Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has been vocal in his opposition to moving the transportation trust funds off-budget. He has said such an action "would lead to fragmentation in the budgeting process" and would "weaken the ability of Congress to prioritize and control spending effectively."

If we take transportation trust funds off-budget, who next in Washington will be seeking similar relief? What interest groups will be flooding the hall of Congress seeking similar preferential treatment for their targeted trust fund dollars? One-third of total on-budget Federal spending is in trust fund programs, 160 programs across the board. Should these other programs also be taken off-budget, we would have total chaos in our Federal budgeting process and a completely disjointed view of the government's financial state.

The Office of Management and Budget has also weighed in on this issue, emphasizing that H.R. 842 would result in not only \$20 billion in additional transportation spending over the next 5 years, but also offsetting cuts in other programs above and beyond this amount due to the lowering of discretionary spending caps by law to reflect the off-budget status of the transportation trust funds. This is inequitable and surely no way to tackle the tough budgeting choices we in this esteemed body were sent to Washington to make.

Finally let me say that the argument used by proponents of this bill that the Federal Government is somehow misusing highway tax dollars to hide the true size of the deficit and fool the American public is unfounded. In fact, since it was created 40 years ago, the highway trust fund has given more money back to the States than has been paid into the fund through tax revenues. In addition, since 1980, the Federal Government has actually spent about \$14 billion more on highway trust fund initiatives than it has collected in taxes.

Again, Mr. Chairman, we need to make tough choices in Congress regarding our spending and investment policies. H.R. 842 exempts transportation from these tough choices. As the old saying goes, you can't have your cake and eat it too. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.