

freshman was seated at the far end of the dais from the chairman, heard this and said "nobody is going to tell me how to vote; nobody is going to tell me what to do" in a voice loud enough for everyone in the room to hear. And nobody did ever tell him how to vote and get away with it. Joe Resnick was a man of conscience. His campaign literature reflected this—"I am my own man. I represent no special interest. I speak and vote only in accordance with my conscience and judgment to benefit the people I represent. The political bosses don't control me." And they didn't. Speaker Foley went on to tell me that Joe Resnick never did hit it off with that committee chairman and never got help from him. But Joe Resnick had his own circle of friends in powerful places, most notably his friendship with President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Joe was an energetic public servant as well, working hard to bring Federal programs to the people who needed them—from food relief to helping to keep Castle Point veterans hospital from closing. He even brought President Lyndon Baines Johnson to Ellenville, for the dedication of Ellenville Hospital, on a day which is still remembered today. Although Joe Resnick was a prosperous man at the time of his untimely death in 1968, he and his brothers, with whom he founded the famed Channel Master Corporation, have never for a moment forgotten their humble origins as children of immigrant parents from Russia. His story, and the story of his large, extended family, is the story of America itself—hardworking, dedicated, and big hearted in all the right places and at all the right times.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow would have been Joe Resnick's birthday and I want to respectfully invite my colleagues to join me in offering our prayers and best wishes to Joe Resnick's family on that day.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 12, 1996*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my present vote on H.R. 3396, the Defense of Marriage Act, respects the rights of all of my constituents. Those constituents who are members of the vast, believing and proud religious community along with those constituents who simply seek human dignity. This vote fulfills my commitment on behalf of my constituents to be accessible, accountable and responsible.

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#### PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 12, 1996*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, Gaylord Nelson, a former U.S. Senator and the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, recently wrote an eloquent Independence Day July Fourth guest column for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in support of our Nation's natural treasures. As Senator Nelson points out, our National Parks,

National Forests and National Wilderness Areas are among our Nation's greatest blessings. We Americans must treasure these special places just as we treasure peace, freedom, and democracy.

America's public lands constitute a historic, natural legacy that belongs to all Americans. We simply hold these lands in trust for future generations, and must manage them for the benefit of all. Our children and grandchildren deserve to enjoy the beauty and majesty of their rightful natural inheritance in the years to come.

Today, there are some in Congress who see the control of our Nation's crown jewels as the province of solely parochial special interests who desire to define the use of our parks and wilderness areas to suit their personal convenience and preferences, and even for commercial purposes. Within my home State of Minnesota, some individuals are advocating extending authority to a management council—a new expensive cumbersome bureaucracy of local parochial special interests—for control of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness [BWCAW] and Voyageurs National Park. These proponents also want to enshrine extensive snowmobile use on the pristine Kabetogama Peninsula of Voyageurs National Park and to increase motorized vehicle use within a BWCAW, a national wilderness. Such proposals benefit only a select few at the expense of the 250 million Americans who share common ownership of these national treasures in Minnesota.

I hope all my colleagues will take a few minutes to read Senator Nelson's insightful July Fourth essay on what it means to be an American and in defense of our National Parks and public lands. We have an obligation to protect these American crown jewels, not only our national legacy, but that of future generations.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 4, 1996]

#### WE SHOULD RENEW OUR PLEDGE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL TREASURES

(By Gaylord Nelson)

As you watch the fireworks on the Fourth of July, what is it that makes you glad to be an American? The freedom to say whatever you please? The economic opportunities? Peace? On this Independence Day, all of those are worth celebrating.

But one of our greatest blessings is usually taken for granted. Every child born in this country instantly becomes a large landowner. He or she holds title to 623 million acres—nearly a million square miles. This acreage includes some of the planet's most spectacular places: the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and, closer to home, Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. No other country endows its citizens so richly.

Most of us know about the national parks. But they account for just 12 percent of the lands that all of us own jointly. Three other systems of lands make up the other 88 percent and are less well known. There are 155 national forests (including the Chippewa and Superior), 508 national wildlife refuges and 267 million acres of western heritage lands, including ancient Pacific Northwest forests, the California Desert and red rock canyonlands in Utah.

These places offer world-class recreation opportunities and receive 1.4 billion recreation visits a year. They contain 4,000 developed campgrounds and 160,000 miles of hiking and equestrian trails. About half the game fish habitat in the United States lies on the

national lands, and 43 percent of all big-game hunters use these lands for their activities.

Our lands provide far more than fun and games, though. They are like an enormous university, teaching youngsters on field trips and all other visitors about the natural world and about our history. The forests filter rainwater, which then flows to our cities and towns. In the West, 96 percent of the population depends on water from the national lands. Trees on these lands also help clean the air and stabilize the climate.

You can even think of these million square miles as a gigantic natural laboratory, where scientists study and researchers discover medicines that treat diseases and make us healthier. Without these places, many of our fish, plants and animals would have no chance of surviving.

These lands even play a vital economic role. Those 1.4 billion annual visitors create a lot of business for stores and companies located near these lands. Late last year, when gridlock in Congress led to the temporary shutdown of our national parks, businesses lost a total of \$14 million a day. Other businesses, which have nothing to do with tourism, are attracted to such areas because of their beauty and peacefulness and thus create jobs in those communities. In addition, the trees, minerals, and other commodities on these lands are tuned into paper and other products.

Ownership of all this land, including 3.48 million acres in Minnesota, carries a duty. "The nation behaves well," President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

Unfortunately, various special interests are eager to exploit these lands for maximum short-term financial gain, at the expense of the lands' many other values. Congress is now considering bills that would promote development of many of these places or give them to the states. One example is legislation to increase motorized activities and development of Boundary waters and Voyageurs. Passage of these proposals would harm the interests of all citizens, present and future.

On this most American of holidays, we should commit ourselves to honoring the vision of those who protected our best places. In our national lands, we have inherited the very essence of "America the Beautiful," and we must make sure our grandchildren do, too.

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#### DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 11, 1996*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3755) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to oppose the funding measure before us. While Chairman PORTER and the other members of the subcommittee have worked to