

reviewing public comments for a third proposal in the Resurrection and Palmer Creek valleys near Hope.

Environmentalists are not satisfied with the Forest Service decision to scale back logging plans and have admitted they won't be happy until ALL logging plans are dropped.

The Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) has formed the Forest Defense Network to whip up public opposition against logging and influencing public policy. In a recent mass mailing, ACE noted the Forest Defense Network is kicking into high gear with a door-to-door campaign. Media campaigns are being developed and demonstrations are being planned among other events and programs. ACE is asking Alaskans to join its network, write letters, participate in direct actions and "help stop senseless logging."

The Campaign has generated scores of letters to the Anchorage Daily News and the Forest Service in opposition to logging. ACE has asked its members to host letter writing parties targeting not only the Anchorage Daily News, but newspapers outside Alaska, including the Los Angeles Times.

The cover of the ACE mailer featured a picture of a clearcut with the superimposed headline, "It's Time To Clearcut Our Kenai Peninsula: Do You Agree or Disagree?" The mailer was filled with emotion and left readers with the impression that a healthy and green forest was being clearcut at alarming rates by the worst polluters in the entire Pacific Northwest.

Absent from the mailer was the fact that logging is occurring in areas heavily infested by the spruce bark beetle and that the infestation is transforming Kenai Peninsula viewsheds into grave-yards of brown dead or dying trees.

Forests concede logging cannot stop the infestation, but emphasize that a combined program of harvesting and reforestation can restore forest health much faster than if no action is taken.

Forest scientist explain that new harvesting programs utilizing modern forest management initiatives to protect wildlife and fisheries is a reforestation program that will lead to a young, healthy and vigorous-growing forest. Since most of Southcentral Alaska is now a fire suppression area, they say logging would take out the dead trees, as opposed to nature's way—fire. If no logging is allowed, many timber stands on the Kenai may revert to grasslands.

With its varied patterns of land ownership, the Kenia Peninsula is a great ecological, long-term experiment in forest management. While extensive logging is occurring near Homer on State and private land, very little cutting is taking place on the much larger expanses of the Peninsula. Only a fraction of the beetle infested spruce will be cut on the Chugach while no commercial logging will occur on the Kenia National Wildlife Refuge and Kenai Fjords National Park. Foresters will be watching the different rates of regrowth, company areas actively managed for logging and reforestation with those forests left to stand as gray ghosts.

NATO ENLARGEMENT
FACILITATION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF
HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, today we have another opportunity to promote peace and se-

curity in the world. The NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act will prepare for the eventually inclusion of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. As an original cosponsor of the bill, I want to express my strong support for this measure.

The nations of East Central Europe, particularly Poland, have suffered tremendously throughout history. Indeed, they have paid a high price for their unfortunate geographic location. Caught between aggressive neighbors, the sovereignty of these nations has continuously been threatened.

Presently, NATO is in a unique position to help these emerging nations. NATO membership can provide the stability that this region needs as it strives toward democratic institutions and market economies. There is every reason to believe that the presence of NATO will lead to the same political and economic successes that Western Europe has enjoyed in the post-war era.

I am convinced that active engagement with Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic is necessary in the tumultuous years following the cold war. Western institutions such as NATO are crucial to fostering a close relationship with these developing democracies and bringing East Central Europe into the community of prosperous, peaceful nations.

RECOGNITION OF OHIO NORTHERN
UNIVERSITY IN ADA, OH

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the significant contributions made by Ohio Northern University of Ada, OH. In commending Ohio Northern University for 125 years of prominent service to higher education, I know the rankings are well deserved. As a child I grew up near Ohio northern's campus. My father even graduated from ONU's College of Law. From personal experience, I know ONU is a great contributor to our community. I submit my appreciation and acknowledgment of the efforts taken by the staff, students, and administration. Their combined work has distinguished ONU as one of the best universities in the Midwest according to "US News and World Report." ONU can boast such excellence with a student-faculty ratio of 13:1 and an incoming class in which 1 in 11 is either a valedictorian or salutatorian. Other accolades include recognition in Peterson's "Competitive College Guide" and in Barron's "Profiles of American Colleges" as a very competitive university. Considering the caliber of schools this fine institution competes with, one easily sees that all of Ohio benefits from such a productive and rewarding partnership. I feel that the tradition of quality higher education is being upheld and improved upon by ONU and all the other fine institutions recently listed among this Nation's best. I sincerely wish them continued success.

WAGE WOES BENEATH THE ROSY
NUMBERS

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. This article by Bruce Bartlett clearly describes the true economic worries that American families are facing. Because of stagnant wages and a median family income that has remained flat under the Clinton administration's leadership, families are feeling the Clinton economic crunch. This country would benefit instead from lower taxes that raise family income.

[From the Washington Times, July 8, 1996]

WAGE WOES BENEATH THE ROSY NUMBERS

(By Bruce Bartlett)

For many years, economists and political scientists have studied the relationship between elections and the economy. Their unsurprising conclusion is that when the economy is good, voters tend to reward the incumbent president. On this basis, Bill Clinton would appear to be in good shape. The unemployment rate in May was 5.6 percent, down from 7.5 percent in 1992. At the same time, inflation has been stable at about 2.5 percent and real economic growth has been slow but steady at about 2.2 percent per year.

But beneath these adequate, if unspectacular, numbers lies a potentially serious danger for Mr. Clinton. That is the stagnation in wages and incomes. In short, while the macroeconomy has moved upward, workers and families have been left behind. Real median family income—the single best measure of economic well-being—has been flat during the Clinton years, and down considerably from the Reagan years. Real wages have been flat as well, with increasing numbers of workers forced to work two jobs to make ends meet. And the Clinton administration is not unaware of this problem. Indeed, Labor Secretary Robert Reich has been the most eloquent spokesman for the malaise of the working class. As he put it in a 1995 report:

"In the past year, the American economy has caught fire—but the gains to most American workers have gone up in smoke. Last year at this time, the median full-time worker in this country was earning \$479 per week. This year, factoring in inflation, the median wage is \$475 per week—\$4 less in average weekly paycheck. Among working families, 11 percent do not earn enough to lift themselves above the poverty line. Compared with last year, this year some 636,000 more Americans are working two jobs."

In the year since, all of the concerns expressed by Mr. Reich have gotten worse. The only thing that has changed is the administration line. Recognizing that Mr. Clinton is vulnerable on the issue of wages and incomes, the Council of Economic Advisers issued a report in April totally contradicting Mr. Reich's position. According to the CEA, workers are actually doing great. Since then, Mr. Reich has been noticeably less vocal about the problem of stagnant wages, except for a strained effort to blame the whole thing on a decline in the real minimum wage.

The vast majority of workers make well above the minimum wage. Their problems are the result of slow growth and higher taxes that have reduced their disposable incomes. What they need is faster growth and lower taxes. If the Republicans can make this case, they will find a receptive audience among many Democratic workers and families.