

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I know of no further business to come before the Senate on this bill. As I understand it, all of the amendments that were to be considered by the time agreement have now been brought before the Senate, and there is no more time left—I yield back whatever time I have.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator COHEN be added as a cosponsor of the amendment of Senator SNOWE, which was previously adopted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I yield back whatever time I have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts yields back his time. The Senator from Alaska yields back his time. All time has been yielded back.

Mr. STEVENS. If all time is yielded back, Mr. President, I would like to move on now to the matter of closing. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, for my colleagues who may have missed it, today President Clinton used executive power under the 1906 Antiquities Act to designate nearly 2 million acres in southern Utah as a national monument.

A national monument, as my colleagues know, effectively locks up land within its boundaries preventing any kind of responsible development and limiting existing rights, including water rights, in the second driest State in this Union.

Utah is already home to five national parks, two national monuments, two national recreation areas, seven national forests, one national wildlife refuge, and 800,000 acres of wilderness.

We prize our land in Utah. We believe we ought to preserve as much of it as we can, and we would like to continue working on legislation to designate more wilderness in Utah.

But the process the President is using is flawed and inherently unfair. I just say, the unilateral action taken by the President today is out of bounds. Members from Utah's congressional delegation and our State Governor had to read about this proposal in the Washington Post. That is the first time

we heard about it. There has been no consultation whatsoever in the development of the proposal. We have seen no maps; no boundaries; there have been no phone conversations; no TV or radio discussion shows; no public hearings; absolutely nothing from this President.

None of the procedures for review and comment that are built into our environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act or FLPMA have been followed. These procedures are a part of our law precisely to guard against the Federal Government from usurping State or local prerogatives without public knowledge or comment.

While the 1906 Antiquities Act may, indeed, give the President the literal authority to take this action, it is quite clear to me that in using this authority, President Clinton is violating the spirit of U.S. environmental laws and, indeed, of American democracy itself.

It was no doubt inconceivable before today that any President of the United States would take such dramatic action—action that so dramatically affects any State—without due diligence. And it is plain to this Senator that the White House either flunks the test of due diligence or takes this action deliberately without regard to its negative impact on our State.

What should be especially relevant, and alarming, to every Senator is that this disregard for established public law requiring public input, let alone the disregard of established traditions of democracy, can be applied elsewhere other than Utah. Today, Utah; tomorrow, your State.

I hope my colleagues will not brush off the precedent this Executive action creates. There are numerous negative consequences to this President's action today. Among the most serious is the effect on education in Utah.

Many States in the West depend on school trust lands to help finance their educational systems. In fact, 22 States, most of the States west of the Mississippi River, have trust lands.

Utah relies heavily on the income produced by these trust lands to help finance our schools. The national monument proclaimed by President Clinton will capture approximately 200,000 acres of Utah school trust lands and render them useless to Utah schoolchildren. I say to my colleagues, and to President Clinton if he is listening, this is a potential loss of \$1 billion to Utah schools, and these environmental extremists are already talking that it is only \$36,000 a year. That is how ridiculous they are.

There is not a single State in America that can afford to lose that kind of money for education—that is \$1 billion worth—let alone Utah, which, because we have so much public nontaxable land, is always straining to fund education.

What is even more appalling is the fact that the resources President Clinton is taking away from Utah kids, in

effect, is their own land. These school trust lands were deeded to Utah to be held in trust for our children's education, and with one stroke of the pen, these 200,000 acres will be gone.

The Utah Public Education Coalition, which includes professional educators, State and local administrators, the PTA and school employees, have come out strongly against this arbitrary action by the President.

I ask unanimous consent that their letter to President Clinton, position statement and resolution, be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, another adverse ramification of the President's action today is inability to responsibly extract the high-quality, clean-burning, low-sulfur coal that lies in the Kaiparowits coal basin. Please note, the coal is in the basin, not on the Kaiparowits Plateau. This is not a strip mine. This is a mine right in the side that will not even show.

The basin has been called the "Saudi Arabia of coal." There are about 62 billion tons of coal here, about 16 billion tons of which can be mined with existing technologies. That is enough coal to fulfill Utah's energy needs for the next 1,000 years, and, I might add, the energy needs of this country. That is environmentally sound coal that could be blended with the dirty coal from the East, and it would be in the best interest of the environment of this country.

I find it a little ironic that the President wants to prevent the mining of this clean, environmentally beneficial coal while we are still paying billions of dollars to clean our dirty air from burning high-sulfur, dirty coal.

These coal reserves, in addition to being a financial asset to our State, are a critical energy resource for our entire country. We are being extremely shortsighted if we forget this fact.

How can we justify sending U.S. troops to keep the Middle East stable and to keep the oil flowing when President Clinton refuses to develop energy resources right here in our own country? We have to do both. We have to act in the best interest of the energy needs of this country. What the President did today is not in the best interest.

Mr. President, we should not forget the impact the restrictions on water rights will have, not only on Utah, but also on Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and California.

Utah is the second driest state in the union. This action by President Clinton would deny our state the right to develop its water in southern Utah.

Finally, Mr. President, I wonder how the Administration plans to pay for the operations and maintenance of what would be the largest national monument in the United States.

Already, the National Park Service is stretched to the limit. Adding nearly 2