millions of Americans, including this Congressman.

Cesar Chavez will be remembered for his tireless commitment to improve the plight of farmworkers, children, and the poor throughout the United States, and for the inspiration his heroic efforts gave to so many Americans. We in Congress must make certain that the movement Cesar Chavez began and the timeless lessons of justice and fairness he taught be preserved and honored in our national conscience. To make sure these fundamental principles are never forgotten, I urge my colleagues to support legislation to declare March 31 a Federal holiday in honor of Cesar Chavez. In his words and in the words of the United Farm Workers, ''Si, se puede,'' yes, it can be done.

UTAH AND H.R. 1500

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. CANNON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I represent Utah's Third Congressional District. Most Americans know a little bit about my district. Last fall, on September 18, President Clinton stood across the State line in Arizona, on the other side of the Grand Canyon, and with a few quick words and the stroke of a pen created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The fully understand the scale of this new monument, you must understand how big the average U.S. monument is currently. The average is 30,500 acres. The new southern Utah monument at 1.7 million acres is more than 55 times larger. It is bigger than both Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

The monument is extremely rugged, and parts are truly beautiful. The issue is really not that the land should be protected. The issue is process. That is why Utahans are angry. If this had been done through an open and thoughtful process, I think Utahans could have embraced something in the area.

But that is not what happened. Instead this monument was done without discussion, without consultation and without consideration.

The first time anyone in Utah, including my Democratic predecessor, ever heard about the possibility of a monument was in the pages of the Washington Post, a mere 7 days before the actual creation of the monument.

During the week before September 18, Utah's congressional delegation and Governor were told repeatedly that nothing was imminent. Of course, something was.

On the day of the President's proclamation, I was in southern Utah in the town of Kanab, which is on the west edge of the monument. Kanab is a small pioneer town. The residents are solid people, ranchers, farmers and the people who make their living by supporting those who work on the land.

On that day they held a rally at Kanab High School. The entire town closed down and everyone gathered to express their frustration at a President who in another State on the other side of the Grand Canyon was making a decision that would greatly affect their lives. The people were hurt and, yes, justifiably angry. They asked over and over again why their government would do such a thing to them in such a manner.

I can remember standing outside the high school and watching as dozens of black balloons were released as a symbol of what had happened to southern Utah.

□ 1330

Given this history, is it any wonder that the citizens of Utah today feel bruised and battered on the public land issues? I think my colleagues can understand why I say that Utahns are suspicious of anyone from outside the State who would try to impose additional restrictions on Utah's public lands.

And that brings me to H.R. 1500, a bill that will be shortly introduced into Congress. This is a bill sponsored by one of my colleagues from New York. It would designate a staggering 5.7 million acres of BLM land in Utah as wilderness. This is an area three times the size of this enormous monument.

Utahns are still reeling from the blow by President Clinton's monument proclamation, and H.R. 1500 amounts to rubbing salt in still-open wounds. To have outsiders introduce this bill at this time is not only highly inappropriate but offensive to the dignity of the people of Utah.

Now, Utah has a lot of beautiful land. Some of it should be designated wilderness. But additional wilderness is terribly, terribly divisive as an issue in Utah. Utahns are split and deeply divided over how much of any acres of BLM land in Utah should be designated as wilderness. There is absolutely no consensus on this issue.

That is why I went and met with the sponsor of H.R. 1500, the gentleman from New York, a few days ago and asked him for a cooling-off period on this issue of wilderness in Utah. I told him if he introduced his bill it would be hurtful rather than helpful because of the anger over the monument. Any bill right now would have the effect of pitting Utah's political leaders, environmentalists, rural residents, and public land users against each other. It would dramatically and directly hurt the cause of bringing Utahns together over the issue of wilderness.

I proposed a 2-year period during which no one in the Congress would propose Utah wilderness legislation. Utahns could then use the time to deal with the monument and seek consensus on the issue of wilderness.

Despite my appeal, my colleague from New York told me he is compelled to move forward. Frankly, I found this pretty offensive. My colleague from New York has a district some 2,200 miles away from mine. His district has no Federal lands, none at all. Surely he has more pressing environmental concerns in his own district.

Remember that H.R. 1500 is not about protecting public lands in Utah, it is about showing disregard for the people of Utah and the Utah congressional delegation. I ask my colleagues, as a matter of courtesy, please do not cosponsor H.R. 1500.

TERRORISM THREATENS MIDEAST PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the suicide bombing today in a Tel Aviv cafe, which killed at least 4 Israelis and injured dozens of people, was a cowardly act. This cowardly act represents a knife in the heart of the peace process. Terror is not an arrow in the quiver of those who strive for peace.

What bothers me, Mr. Speaker, is that while Yasir Arafat condemned the bombing, he once again is speaking out of 16 sides of his mouth. What disturbs me is the Palestinian negotiators or the Palestinian authorities have been using the threat of terror for a while now, saying that if the Israelis went ahead and built the Har Homa housing that there would become suicide bombings, there would be terror, and that they could not be responsible for what might happen.

I say such rhetoric, such language is to give an indirect green light to those people who would use terror to maim and kill innocent civilians.

We will not and cannot allow terror to destroy the peace process. When Yasir Arafat releases Hamas terrorists from prison and then predicts that violence will happen in Israel as a result of the housing, he is giving a green light to terrorist attacks.

He cannot speak out of 10 or 20 or 30 sides of his mouth. He cannot oppose Hamas when it is expedient and then wink and turn the other way and say, ''Oh, I condemn this terror,'' when in essence we know that by predicting it and looking the other way, it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. When Arafat signed the peace accords, he committed himself to the peace process, and committing himself to the peace process means no side deals with Hamas terrorists.

The Hamas terrorists ought to know that Jerusalem is the undivided capital of Israel and will remain so. When Israel decides it wants to build housing or do whatever else it deems necessary in its own capital, Israel has the right to do that. Terrorism should not be used and cannot be accepted as a vehicle with which one side in a peace process makes threats and says if you do not give us what we want we are going to have terrorist attacks and we will not be able to do anything about it.

The conference which condemned Israel, that was held just last weekend, in which the United States participated, sadly, was such a conference where the rhetoric got out of hand and encourages Palestinian and terrorists to attack Israel.

Mr. Speaker, all of us who favor peace in the Middle East must condemn this cowardly act. We must not stand for terror and we must put the blame where it belongs, on the rhetoric of Yasir Arafat and his people who say one thing and do another.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to my good friend and co-chairman of the peace accord monitoring group with me, the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman SAXTON. I yield 1½ minutes to him, and then I yield 1½ minutes to my friend, the gentleman from New York, the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations Mr. GILMAN.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HAYWORTH). The Chair would instruct the gentleman he does not have 3 minutes remaining. However, he can yield the balance of the time, and accordingly the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON], is recognized for the balance of the time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I would join with my friend, the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL], and the chairman of the Committee on International Relations in condemning this.

Frankly, I have 5 minutes of my own time set aside here a little bit later, so I will curtail my remarks at this time so that Mr. GILMAN may be able to make his. But I just think this is a very, very serious situation, one that is overlooked all too often by us in this country, and I will withhold the rest of my remarks for a few minutes until I get to my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SAXTON] for yielding his time and the gentleman from New York [Mr. ENGEL] for arranging this moment to be able to commemorate what is happening in Israel.

The Hamas bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe today, killing three people and wounding scores of others, including a 6-month-old child, was possible because of the climate of acceptance of terrorism against Israel which still prevails among the Palestinians.

Yasir Arafat can utter all the words of condemnation he wants to but, more important, he must actively root out the infrastructure of terrorism in territories under his control and make it absolutely clear to the Palestinian people that terrorism will no longer be tolerated if we are to see an end to these despicable acts.

Regrettably, Arafat's recent meeting with Hamas leaders only sends the wrong signal. Whether or not continuing to tolerate violence gives Arafat an occasional short-term victory, in the end it will cost him, and his people, the peace that the vast majority of both Israelis and Palestinians so desperately want and need.

DEDICATION OF UTAH NATIONAL MONUMENT BACKFIRES ON PRESIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Utah [Mr. HANSEN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, a thought occurred to me as my colleague from the Third Congressional District of Utah got up to speak about something. He talked about President William Jefferson Clinton going to the south rim of the Grand Canyon on September 18, 1996, and in a few short words he declared that 1.7 million acres of Utah would be a monument. He said he did the same thing that Teddy Roosevelt did using the antiquities laws when Teddy Roosevelt created the Grand Canyon.

History tells us a different story. Teddy Roosevelt planned this out for years. He talked to the Governors, legislators, interested people. Teddy Roosevelt went all over the Grand Canyon. He hunted in the Grand Canyon. He hiked in the Grand Canyon. He floated the Colorado River. He knew it inside and out. He was a historian and a man who understood it. Then he made the Grand Canyon, and bless his heart for doing it, into a beautiful area.

William Jefferson Clinton, if he was asked to put his hand on this new monument, would probably miss it by 500 miles. He did not even know it was there. So the question comes up, why did he do it? I guess a lot of environmental folks said, gee, this will be a wonderful thing for you to do, Mr. President. We will all think it is a great thing if you make this monument and set it aside.

Who benefits from this? Anybody benefit? The schoolchildren of Utah had a little piece in there, just 40 acres, of low sulfur coal that would accrue to their benefit and their education, so much so it is the only coal that I am aware of in this hemisphere that is acceptable with low sulfur and high Btu.

The President cut that out, just like that. How much money would that mean to the kids in Utah? How about $5 billion that they are not going to have for their education at this time.

Who benefited from this? There is a coal industry in Indonesia owned by Red China, and they now have a monopoly on all of the coal of the world that is acceptable coal because this occurred. Of course, the Red Chinese seem to have some affiliation with this administration, but I will not get into that.

We have another problem as we look at regarding who benefited from this. Did the environmental community benefit from this at all? Oh, yeah. Wow, we are going to get all this wilderness in this area.

Guess what? That wilderness was extinguished by the President. In 1964, Congress passed a law that said only Congress could create wilderness, and in this area there are three big WSA's, wilderness study areas. Nowhere can a monument have wilderness.

So instead of a pristine area set aside for people to enjoy, now what is it going to be? Hotels, airports, everything going through there. And there should be wilderness in that area. No, nobody benefited from this. Nobody. Absolutely nobody.

That is why my friend from the Third District, our Senators and others, are introducing right now, yesterday as a matter of fact, the Fairness Antiquity Law, which means the President of the United States cannot willy-nilly go around declaring places all over this country. He will be subjected to 5,000 acres. If he goes over 5,000 acres, he will have to have the concurrence of the Governor, the legislature, and it will have to pass this Congress. I personally think that is the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I am really disappointed that the President would do this for a few measly votes with a few people, and then it flies right in his face. It did not work at all. In fact, it has hurt people all over America. But it has helped the Chinese. I hope they enjoy it.

BAD NEWS ON TRADE DEFICITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. The Department of Commerce released yesterday more bad news on trade figures and more bad news for American workers.

Trade figures show that this past month we had a trade deficit of $12.7 billion; setting records, again breaking records, bad news records month after month after month after month.

Again, Mr. Speaker, with the countries that we have had the most problems with in terms of our trade numbers, in terms of loss of jobs, the countries where most of our trade policy has been directed, Mexico and China were where the worst news came from.

The trade deficit with Mexico went up 50 percent from 12 months ago this month, with those trade figures costing, again, thousands of American jobs that have gone south. The trade figures with China, the trade deficit has gone up a billion dollars over 1 year ago in the same month.

Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to go down the path of free trade with larger and larger trade deficits, with a situation that is clearly costing us thousands and thousands of American jobs. At the same time, we are seeing a push from the administration and from Republican leadership in this House asking for fast track for Chile so that we can negotiate another trade agreement, another trade agreement that will not work, another trade agreement that will cost us jobs.

We are seeing the administration push for negotiating for Chinese admittance to the World Trade Organization. Again, a step that clearly will cost more American jobs.