

whole slew of laws related to campaign fundraising, the activities of Federal employees, the use of Federal property, and the expenditure of Federal tax dollars.

I've investigated and monitored this situation with such zeal since last October, not because of any partisan interest, but because of my genuine concern for this country's security, especially when a foreign power like China, under a Communist government I have viewed with distrust for many years based on a wide variety of policies, is being investigated for actively trying to infiltrate our political system for their own gain. In any other administration, Mr. Speaker, no matter who was in the White House, or the Justice Department for that matter, there came a point where politics were cast aside for the best interests of the country. Tragically, that line has been blurred, if not erased, as a great deal of the fundraising activities that may have compromised American business and security interests were condoned, and even orchestrated, by the Clinton administration.

But, I know and have known all along, that in order to prevent the entire controversy from being lost and consumed in the shadows and barbs of partisan politics, and independent prosecutor was necessary. Mr. Speaker, there are a few moments in history where a particular person in power or in public service will make a decision that will be judged over time as either a monumental stand for what is right and just, or as cow-towing to the powers that be. I fear Attorney General Reno has had her moment and the powers that be are smiling.

[From the Times-Union, Apr. 16, 1997]

JANET RENO, WRONG AGAIN

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was wrong to resist previous calls to appoint a special prosecutor to look into widening allegations surrounding President Clinton's campaign last year. She was wrong again on Monday, when she rejected, for a fourth time, a similar entreaty.

Ms. Reno's explanation for sticking to her position grows weaker by the day. She continues to insist that there is still no credible evidence of possible criminal wrongdoing by any of the high government officials who are covered under the special prosecutor statute. She argues the Justice Department is capable of handling the inquiry.

There are at least two reasons why a special prosecutor is warranted now. One is the accumulation of charges that point to possible criminal wrongdoing at the White House level. The now infamous "coffees" may have violated federal prohibitions against fund raising on federal property. So might Vice President Gore's phone solicitations. The trail of Asian money may have influenced Clinton administration policy on China and Taiwan. Government phones and credit cards may have been improperly used.

Each day, it seems, more allegations come forth, to the point where the public is now so overwhelmed by the charges and countercharges that only a credible, outside investigation can clear the air.

The second reason for Ms. Reno to act is even more compelling: To avoid the appearance that she is reluctant to turn on Mr. Clinton after he agreed to keep her on for his second term.

It is no secret that Ms. Reno had earned Mr. Clinton's disfavor with her readiness to appoint special prosecutors during his first term. It seemed apparent that she would remain on the Clinton team only if she promised to change her ways. Could this be the reason she has once again rebuffed a call for an independent inquiry?

There is only one way for the attorney general to give a reassuring answer to that question. By doing the right thing, and calling for a special prosecutor.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES CURRENTLY IN PRACTICE AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw my colleague's attention to an article on the management policies currently in practice at Yellowstone National Park written by Montana Representative RICK HILL. RICK invites us to give some serious reflection about the role and condition of Yellowstone and its future stewardship. Recent testimony in the Parks Subcommittee indicates that the park is badly overgrazed. The impact of this mismanagement goes way beyond the overpopulation of bison to impact the entire Yellowstone system. My friends our colleague has sounded the alarm, and I would ask you to take a few moments to read this article to gain a better appreciation of the current state of Yellowstone and the substantial problem we must address. I submit the article for the RECORD.

OPINION BY CONGRESSMAN RICK HILL

(February 28, 1997)

This week Congress received more bad news about our beloved Yellowstone Park: It's being ravaged by misguided environmental policies. In testimony before the House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Dr. Charles Kay, discussed his research that indicates many of the native plants and animals in the park are being wiped out.

How can this happen you ask in an area as carefully monitored and managed as a national park? According to Kay, it is those very management practices that have led to the near disappearance of willow, beavers, berry shrubs, and mule deer. Most alarming of all, is that even grizzly habitat, which we are spending millions of dollars to expand in other areas of Montana, is being allowed to dwindle within the park. According to one study, there is now 100 times more stream bank erosion on Yellowstone's denuded streams than on the same willow-lined streams outside the park.

It would seem only logical that the park service would reassess the natural management program it has used over the last 30 years, especially given the disastrous results of the "let-it-burn" policy. However, we now are seeing the "let-em-starve" version of that same misguided thinking applied to the animal population of the park.

In questioning Park Director Roger Kennedy, during the House hearing, the committee was told that this policy dates back 30 years and that no one has made a conscious decision how the bison will be managed. It is clear from the park director's testimony and meetings with Secretary Babbitt that the Department of the Interior and the Park Service do not consider their current management policy as a failure. Nor do they have any immediate plans to change the policy despite testimony that called it foolish and misguided.

While Secretary Babbitt continues to engage in finger pointing, he is overseeing the systematic destruction of our nation's oldest national park. In a letter to Governor

Racicot, Secretaries Babbitt and Glickman suggest three steps to reach a solution. The first of these is an expansion of the range for the bison. However, all parties agree that this is not much more than a temporary band-aid. What do we do when the bison have overgrazed the new range? Perhaps the secretary sees all of Montana as the eventual range of the bison? Their second proposal is that we control the size of the herd. We all agree the size needs to be controlled, but again there is no willingness on the part of the Department of the Interior to take the actions necessary to control herd size. In a meeting with Montana's delegation Babbitt refused to commit to any action that would result in a reduced herd size. Their third step is to eliminate Brucellosis. Once again there is total agreement on the need to eliminate this most serious disease. However, Babbitt flatly refuses to discuss even testing for the disease or a systematic vaccination program. It is hard to see how Brucellosis can be eliminated without either testing or vaccination.

No one is advocating the wholesale slaughter of bison. However, we cannot ignore the fact that over population which leads to overgrazing is killing Yellowstone Park. For the Department of the Interior to insist that nothing can be done to control the size of the herd is irresponsible. Bison herds at Moiese, Montana, have been successfully managed for years, as was the herd we are discussing in Yellowstone Park up until the change to hands-off management.

What every Montanan knows and now many Americans also realize from sensationalized news reports, is that Bison are dying. Overlooked by most of these reports is the cause of this "slaughter." Until we turn the discussion to the underlying cause of this problem, we will repeat this same tragedy every few years. Our goal must be a complete reassessment of management policy for Yellowstone Park. Montanans and Congress need to prevail upon the National Park service and the Secretary of the Interior to take action immediately in order to stop this from happening again.

DEFENSE WORKERS HEALTH BENEFITS LEGISLATION

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, I am today again introducing legislation to provide health insurance benefits to former employees at defense nuclear facilities such as the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

This bill, the Defense Nuclear Workers' Health Insurance Act of 1997, is essentially identical to a bill I introduced in the last Congress, and is based on provisions of a Defense nuclear workers' bill of rights that I introduced in 1991. Other provisions of that larger bill were enacted as part of the 1993 defense authorization bill.

The bill I am introducing today would establish a health insurance program to help with the costs of serious illnesses resulting from workplace exposure to radiation or toxic materials. This would be funded through the Department of Energy and would cover treatment costs exceeding \$25,000 for the covered illnesses or injuries.

Mr. Speaker, nuclear weapons plant workers were on America's front lines in the cold war. They helped our national defense mission, working with dangerous materials often