

coal in the world. Senator HATCH testified the coal alone is worth over \$1 trillion. Who has the second largest deposit? The Lippo Group from Indonesia, who just happened to make some large campaign contributions to the Democrats about the time this land was locked up.

In one small rural county in Utah, this means the loss of 900 jobs. Not only does it mean jobs lost, but it means higher prices for every individual and company which uses coal in this country. Environmental extremists, who almost always come from wealthy or upper-income backgrounds, are really destroying jobs and driving up prices all over this country. Rich environmentalists who have enough money to be insulated from the harm they do are really hurting the poor and working people of this country.

Unfortunately, many in the environmental movement have become the new radicals, the new socialists of this day. They are advocating an unprecedented expansion of Federal power and, in many cases, are achieving it to the great detriment of all but a few elitists at the top.

This national monument in Utah is just another of many examples. The size of this power play is enormous; 1.7 million acres is three times the size of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the most heavily visited national park in this country.

Why should people in other parts of the country be concerned about this? Well, it will have a tremendous ripple effect in our overall economy. Why should people all over this country be concerned? Well, because of the secrecy, the political wheeling and dealing, the arrogance, the extremism of this whole thing. But, perhaps even more importantly, if they do this in one place, they will do it in another. If they get away with this in Utah, they will do it in your State too. If people do not speak out, it will happen again and again and again.

Already the Federal Government owns about 30 percent of the land in this Nation. State and local governments and quasi-governmental agencies own another 20 percent. So many restrictions are being placed on Federal land, and now even on private land, that this is now becoming a very serious problem.

Parents and grandparents wonder why their college-graduate children and grandchildren cannot find good jobs. We are ending up with the best educated waiters and waitresses in the world. One big reason is that some of these extremists do not want us to dig for any coal, drill for any oil, or cut any trees.

If we do not get a little moderation and balance back into our environmental policies, we will absolutely destroy our standard of living. Unfortunately, we cannot turn our entire Nation into a giant tourist attraction. Tourism is an industry filled with minimum wage jobs. Do we really want a

nation made up of rich environmentalists, well-paid government bureaucrats, and almost everybody else working for minimum wage or very-low-paying jobs?

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This Utah land grab is based on a 91-year-old law called the Antiquities Act. Supporters say apple pie and motherhood, things like this law have stood the test of time, and that it was used to protect and set aside the Grand Canyon and other great national treasures. Well, we have an entirely different situation today than we had 90 years ago or even 20 or 30 years ago.

The amount of land owned or controlled by Government has exploded in recent years. We have almost 10 times as much land in wilderness areas as just a little over 20 years ago. If this is still to be a free country a few years from now, if we are going to preserve this Nation as a Democratic republic where the people have control and where major government actions are not done in secret, then the Utah land deal should be reversed.

#### DEADLINE LOOMS FOR GOP LEADERS TO ACT ON CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues probably know, over 10 million American children are without health insurance, and Democrats have been aware of this growing problem for some time. Unfortunately, the Republican leadership has been full of inaction. Since the beginning of the 105th Republican-controlled Congress, an additional 372,900 children have lost private health coverage, according to the Children's Defense Fund. Essentially this has been due to inaction by the Republican leadership.

But at the same time, Republicans in the House Committee on Appropriations voted down an amendment last week that fully met the President's funding request for women, infant, and children, the WIC Program. This nutrition program has been cited as one of the most successful Federal programs, and I have to say that I have witnessed this firsthand. I have been in some of the places where people have signed up for the WIC Program. It has been responsible for reducing low birth weight, infant mortality and anemia, while improving the diets of mothers and children.

The WIC Program has a proven track record in providing preventive health care benefits. According to the General Accounting Office, each dollar invested in the prenatal component of WIC averts \$3.50 of Medicaid and other spending.

Instead, the Republicans have voted to cut 180,000 participants of this program by this September. Some States

like California, for example, are already directing health clinics to deny WIC benefits to children.

Mr. Speaker, I consider these cuts in the WIC Program to be unacceptable. Democrats support the President's funding request for WIC because we understand the value of early intervention and prevention in health care. It would appear that the Republican leadership does not.

The WIC Program that the Democrats are concerned about is just basically another example of how we can address, through preventive measures, children's health care. When we talk about the problem of children's health care and the number of uninsured growing, at least if we were involved in trying to support and back up the WIC Program, we would be able to say that we were doing something and continuing to do at least a decent job with preventive care for children.

It is relatively inexpensive, and I have said this many times on the House floor, to provide health care for children, and there are many approaches to achieving this. Many legislative proposals are circulating that reduce the number of uninsured children and assist families in providing for their children's health care needs.

I have introduced legislation that mirrors the Hatch-Kennedy proposal by providing block grants to the States to help families afford coverage for their children. Under this proposal, States would have the flexibility to administer the program and use innovative methods unique to their particular State. The only requirement is that children's health care plans must be comparable to Medicaid, meaning the inclusion of important and cost-saving preventive benefits.

I have to say that the Kennedy-Hatch proposal is only one option that is being offered by Democrats or others on a bipartisan basis. There are many others to choose from, singularly or in combination. But instead of talking about these proposals, the Republican leadership barely acknowledges the problem of uninsured children and appears to be stonewalling against it.

I think a good start for the Republican leadership would be to support full funding for WIC when it comes to the House floor for a vote. Their next move should be to move children's health care legislation through the committee process by Mother's Day, as Democrats have urged.

Congress should be expanding health care options for children, not making matters worse by cutting children's nutrition programs. I just hope, and I urge that my Republican colleagues will join with us to make sure that the WIC Program is adequately funded. At least that would be a beginning to dealing with the issue of preventive care for children, and then we can at least show that there is support, I believe, on a bipartisan basis ultimately for passing a piece of legislation that will cover all, if not most, of the 10 million children that are now uninsured.