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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPRO-
PRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF
HON. DAVE WELDON
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, H.R. 2107, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELDON. Mr. Chairman, during the debate on my amendment to the Interior appropriations bill that will ensure families are able to enjoy this national seashore, I was asked by my colleagues to submit examples of the type of behavior that park visitors were encountering. In response to these requests, I am submitting the following examples. When families go to a national park, they do not expect to see the type of behavior that is listed below. These examples are taken verbatim from National Park Service Criminal Incident Records. My amendment, which was adopted 396-25 ensures that Brevard County, FL is able to set its own public decency standard without fear of the Federal Government overruling their decision.

CRIMINAL INCIDENT RECORDS

Two visitors stopped at the visitor center and reported a man and woman having sex on the beach while numerous other nude people watched. Ranger [deleted] and I responded and walked to the area, observing the couple described earlier and approximately 10 others in the immediate area. Most were regulars on the beach, including [deleted].

On 02-[deleted]-96 at approximately [deleted] hours, Ms. [deleted] reported to me at the North District Ranger Station that she and her two sons ([deleted], age 9 and [deleted] age 2) had witnessed a sexual offense on the beach. Ms. [deleted] stated that she and the children were on the beach, 60 yards south of boardwalk #5, when they observed a W/M walking down the beach who then stopped 20 feet from them. He took his clothes off and sat down. Then he started masturbating in full view of them. She and the children then walked off the beach. The W/M put his clothes on fast and walked off the beach. He got in front of them and stopped on the boardwalk at the top. When Ms. [deleted] came up to him she called him a Creep and told him he shouldn't masturbate in front of her children. He told her that she was crazy. She walked to her vehicle and the W/M went into the bathroom. She had her back turned in his direction and told her son [deleted] they must have lost him. [deleted] told her the W/M was getting into a van. Ms. [deleted] then followed the van up A1A at a high rate of speed.

While visiting the Beach at Parking Lot Area 2 with my 3 sons, ages 12-15 and a female friend who is a local resident, and her two sons, ages 7 and 16; we found we needed to cut our visit short due to the arrival of a young man who, approximately 50 yards

from us, began sunbathing in the nude. Several times he would stand up, or would turn and lie in different positions facing whichever direction our children ran. He did not attempt to speak to anyone, but we felt this type of behavior was inappropriate at a national site.

I was contracted by the complainant who was very upset with the confrontation she and her family had with two nude white males. While walking south from boardwalk #3, two males who had been lying in wait for the group to get close, both got up and began walking toward [deleted] family. Shocked by the nudity of the men, the family quickly turned around and departed the beach. I attempted to explain to the group the situation the Park Service and its rangers at Canaveral National Seashore are faced with.

[Deleted] stated that while she was on the beach at grid marker 29, south of boardwalk #4, on an ATV she came upon a dead sea turtle. A white male who was jogging came up to her asking questions about the turtle, and as he was talking to her he began fondling himself. [Deleted] got on the ATV and headed north. When she looked back, the male appeared to be masturbating.

Mr. [deleted] came to the North District Ranger Station on [deleted]93 at approximately [deleted] p.m. He wrote the following complaint against nudity.

Currently, I have alternating weekend visitation with my son. Having selected Cape Canaveral National Seashore for time to spend with my son, I eagerly awaited an enjoyable day. "National," implies family oriented being these parks are visited by families; however, while walking south of parking lot 5 with my 9 year old son, an adult male walked out of the water, nude, without any consideration for the ill-effect this could have on a child. I now have to determine how to explain this to my son. I believe this activity is detrimental to a family unit and should not be tolerated at a vacation location.

At about [deleted], 03/[deleted]93, Mr. [deleted] approached me at the Miles Avenue 7-11 store. He said that he and his wife had just been walking on the beach about 1 mile south of parking lot 5. He said that when he got some distance away from his wife he looked back and saw a nude white male, with an obvious erection, "Bird-dogging" his wife. He said the man walked up close to his wife and clearly attempted to display his masculinity to her.

Mr. [deleted] described the subject as a white male, [deleted]. He said he saw the man drive away from parking area 5 in a 2-door Honda with Florida tag# [deleted] said he did not want to press charges. But wanted me to file a report.

[Deleted]

On 02-[deleted]93 at approximately [deleted] hours, I was contacted by [deleted]. She explained that she had been jogging on the beach, north of Lot #13, when a man jogged up to her and removed his shorts. He then started to jog next to her and was fondling himself and trying to "masterbate". [Deleted] repeatedly told the man to put his shorts on. She said she was going to report him and get him "busted". [Deleted] then went up a boardwalk to get away from the individual. A few minutes later the man drove up beside her and asked her if she wanted [deleted].

On 8/[deleted]96 at about [deleted] hrs, I received a complaint from a male visitor

who alleged that [deleted] had been fondling his genital area in front of the complainant's female companion. The complaining party did not wish to give his name. [deleted] denied this allegation. I checked for want's and warrants on [deleted] and did not find any.

[Deleted] that made a verbal threat about the complaining party but then calmed down and returned to the beach.

Mr. [deleted] called via cell phone to report two males and one female engaged in sex acts on the beach in front of numerous passersby. I responded, but was unable to locate the suspects or reporting party. The phone connection was poor and the message misunderstood as to location.

Later, Mr. [deleted] contacted me on the road and described in detail how the three performed sex acts without regard for others on the beach.

He described each individual and I recognized Mr. [deleted] as a regular visitor. Ms. [deleted] had just been issued a citation for unsafe operation, and the third individual was observed [deleted] leaving the park.

I was stopped by a [deleted] at the boardwalk #3. She was complaining about a [deleted] male who was walking around her family. The male was nude and purposely exposing himself to her family. Suspect left the area and parking lot when he observed me arriving on the ATV. [Deleted] wrote a complaint and I seized the suspect's abandoned property, (towel, shirt, cooler, sunscreen, and umbrella).

ANTI-GOVERNMENT, ANTI-SOCIAL
ATTITUDES

HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 1997

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, many of us are concerned about some of the anti-government and anti-social attitudes that are developing in some rural communities. It is important to understand that one of the contributing factors in this unhealthy development is the economic squeeze that is being placed on many hard-working farmers throughout the country. Recently an article appeared in one of my hometown newspapers, City Pages, which brings into sharp focus the psychological emotional pressures that are fed by the cruel way that farmers have been dealt with in national farm policy over the past decade or more. One does not have to agree with every point in the article to recognize that this analysis is attempting to bring to our attention some profound truths about the damage that is being done to rural America by those policies. I urge every American who cares about justice and cares about the future social stability of the country to heed the concerns brought to light so forcefully in the article.

HARVEST OF RAGE

HOW THE RURAL CRISIS FUELS
ANTIGOVERNMENT MOVEMENT

(By Joel Dyer)

It's two in the morning when the telephone rings waking Oklahoma City psychologist Glen Wallace. The farmer on the other end of the line has been drinking and is holding a loaded gun to his head. The distressed man tells Wallace that his farm is to be sold at auction within a few days. He goes on to explain that he can't bear the shame he has