

would like to enter into the RECORD an editorial from today's New York Times that correctly challenges the Republicans in Congress for their failure to keep their promises on environmental protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISES TO KEEP

As part of their budget agreement with President Clinton last May, Republican leaders in Congress pledged to provide funds to protect several particularly vulnerable pieces of the American landscape from further degradation. They would give Mr. Clinton enough money to carry forward the largest environmental rescue operation ever undertaken—the restoration of Florida's Everglades. They would also approve generous funds for Federal land acquisition that would allow Mr. Clinton to purchase a potentially ruinous gold mining operation near Yellowstone National Park and to acquire California's Headwaters Redwood Grove from a private lumber company.

So far, Congress has not lived up to its end of the bargain. This puts a special obligation on senior Republicans like the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, and Senator Pete Domenici, who helped negotiate the budget deal, to remind their colleagues that their party may suffer if they break good-faith commitments. It also means that the Administration cannot relax its vigil. Indeed, Mr. Clinton might think about threatening to veto any spending bills that do not contain the promised funds—a weapon he used to good effect in the last Congress when Republican conservatives tried to dynamite the country's basic environmental laws.

The Yellowstone and Headwaters projects are especially at risk. The House has refused to provide a penny of the \$700 million in extra money promised for land acquisitions, including \$65 million for the mine and \$250 million for the redwoods. The Senate appropriations committee approved the \$700 million but then added a caveat that could doom the Yellowstone and Headwaters purchases. The purchases cannot be consummated, it said, until Congress passes separate legislation specifically authorizing them. That would throw the matter back to the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is full of people eager to deny the President an environmental triumph.

The truth is that no separate authorizing legislation is required. The Interior Department and the Forest Service, which would carry out the deals, have pre-existing authority to make the acquisitions as long as the money is there. Mr. Lott and Mr. Domenici must see this mischievous and unnecessary language for what it is—an opening for anticonservationist Republicans to torpedo Mr. Clinton—and make sure it is removed when the bill comes to a floor vote.

The news about the Everglades is much better, at least so far. The appropriations committees in both houses have provided full funding for the Interior Department's Everglades Restoration Fund—a \$100 million program aimed primarily at creating buffer zones between the Everglades and two of its greatest threats, the agricultural regions to the north and the exploding urban populations to the east. This is only a small down payment on the Federal share of a restoration effort that may eventually cost \$3 billion to \$5 billion. But it is an important start.

At the same time, however, both the Senate and House have denied the Administration more than half the \$120 million it requested for restoration projects to be undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers in South Florida. The corps plans a massive replumbing project aimed at replicating the historic flow of clean water from Lake Oke-

chobee southward to the Everglades and Florida Bay. This is a vital part of the overall scheme and for that reason was specifically promised in the budget agreement. To honor their word, Mr. Lott, Mr. Domenici and their counterparts on the House side, should make sure that these funds are restored.

The Republicans keep saying that they want to spruce up their environmental credentials. Breaking pledges on matters of transcendent interest to environmentalists is not the way to go about it.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF HIGHLAND

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to your attention "Ten Years of Success", an anniversary celebration for the proud city of Highland, CA. On November 24, 1997, many people will be preparing to give thanks and commemorate our Nation's history of the day of Thanksgiving. The cold autumn air will bring in another different reason for the people of Highland to celebrate, as they will reach a great milestone in their own history, and ring in 10 years of existence as a city.

Do you believe in miracles?

The community and citizens of Highland certainly do. Many people, especially the so-called experts, warned in 1987 against incorporation of the community because they believed the proposed city was financially infeasible and would be bankrupt within the first 2 years of existence. I am more than pleased to report that the experts were wrong and the city of Highland is flourishing and growing with intensity. More importantly, the city is in relatively sound fiscal condition.

The future of the city of Highland, along with the successful maintenance of its fiscal approach, looks bright. If the past is any indication of the future, those who believe in the miracle and call the city of Highland home will be able to do so for many more years to come. May the next 10 years be even better than the past for the citizens of this great community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the many proud people who call the city of Highland their home, in recognizing a decade of success. This November all of us will recognize that miracles never cease to flourish in the city of Highland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall votes 298 and 299 on July 22, I would have voted "yea." In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 319 and "yea" on rollcall vote 320 which occurred on July 24.

HONORING JEAN WILLIAMSON'S DEDICATION TO VOLUNTEER NURSING

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable woman. Jean Williamson has been a nurse at the Clearwater Free Clinic in Clearwater, FL, for 5 years. The clinic provides critical health services to many of my constituents in the ninth congressional district who otherwise would be unable to afford them. In fact, the clinic was able to treat over 7,000 patients last year alone—and that number is expected to rise this year.

In 1996, Jean earned the title "Volunteer of the Year," for her tireless efforts on behalf of the patients she serves. Perhaps not surprisingly, she is again likely to receive this accolade.

This year, Jean gave up her summer to serve as the interim executive director of the clinic. She was compelled to do so after the previous director resigned to take a national office. This selfless act has permitted the clinic's board to carefully search for the right replacement and has made the transition period far smoother than it otherwise would have been.

However, I believe the greatest tributes come not from the words of outsiders, but from those who work closely with Jean. One of her colleagues described her as, "one of the most dedicated and conscientious volunteers anywhere . . . she has set an example few can follow." It was because of people like Jean that Congress recently passed H.R. 911, legislation to protect volunteers from frivolous lawsuits which arise out of their service. I am pleased to have been a cosponsor of this important bill to protect people like the volunteers of the Clearwater Free Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, in an age when volunteerism has declined, I would like very much to congratulate Jean for her unselfish and outstanding work at the Clearwater Free Clinic. She serves as a shining example for other volunteers around the country. I would ask that our colleagues join me in wishing her continued success with her work at the clinic and, indeed, with all of her future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE NORMAN BLACK OF HOUSTON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Houston colleague Mr. GENE GREEN and myself, I rise to honor the memory of a valued and respected member of the Federal judiciary and a constituent, Senior U.S. District Judge Norman W. Black, and chief judge emeritus of the southern district of Texas, who passed away on July 23, 1997. As much as the community of Houston loved and respected Judge Black, his family has suffered an even greater loss.