

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## U.S. FOREST SERVICE POLICY

### HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, something has gone haywire at the U.S. Forest Service.

In published news reports, and in testimony before the House Resources Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, it is clear that the agency is pursuing forest policies which are driven by politics and public relations rather than science and common-sense. I have to agree with subcommittee Chairman HELEN CHENOWETH of Idaho that the Forest Service's top-down policies have more to do with the 2000 presidential campaign than responsible national forest management.

What has been recently imposed in our forests is a moratorium on management. The hands of local forest managers have been tied. Combined with the recent weather trends in my home State of Montana, this lack of local management is a recipe for disaster during this upcoming fire season.

A recent article in the newsletter Conservation News (March 23, 1998) entitled "Sportsmen being excluded from public lands, House panel is told" is a clear example of the emerging agenda of the Clinton/Gore Administration and how they are using our forests in the most cynical way possible.

#### SPORTSMEN BEING EXCLUDED FROM PUBLIC LANDS, HOUSE PANEL IS TOLD

#### CHENOWETH HITS 'MEDIA MANIPULATION' PLAN

Sportsmen are increasingly being denied the right to enter public lands, Safari Club International told a House subcommittee last week.

Before the U.S. Forest Service is permitted to pursue its planned moratorium on forest road construction, Congress should require that the agency publish a list of all road closings in the last 10 years, the group told the forest and forest health subcommittee.

"We want to insure that this new effort does not further erode an already diminishing access to recreational opportunity on public lands," said Ron Marlenee, Safari Club's government affairs consultant. "Increasingly, sportsmen are coming up against pole gates, gates, barriers and 'no motorized vehicles' signs when they arrive at the edge of public property," he told a hearing.

The hearing was the second in two weeks to consider the Forest Service's proposal to impose an 18-month moratorium on the construction of roads in so-called "roadless" areas. The scheme has drawn angry protests from westerners, with several congressional chairmen threatening to slash the Service's 1999 budget (See Conservation News, March 9, page 1).

The focus of last week's hearing was H.R. 3297, which would suspend the continued development of a roadless area policy by the Service until public hearings are conducted on all Forest Service units nationwide. As of late last week, the measure had 24 co-sponsors.

Subcommittee Chairman Helen Chenoweth (R-Idaho) again blasted the Clinton Adminis-

tration for its forest policies. She referred to a recent Washington Post article about a Forest Service communication plan to promote its agenda. "It's a detailed strategy on how to manipulate the media and everyone else to get support for the administration policies over the next eight months," the article stated.

The article quotes the plan as proposing to have Service Chief Mike Dombeck traveling to spectacular forest fires to gain media coverage.

"We now have seen a copy of Chief Dombeck's PR plan which was reported in the press," Chenoweth told the hearing. "After reading it, I am left to question, Where does the Forest Service get the legislative authority to manipulate the press and others to promote their agenda?" she asked.

"I am also left to wonder where Chief Dombeck gets the legislative authority to use this once proud agency—and I stress once proud agency—to take every opportunity to tie with the vice president's Clean Water Initiative and indeed provide a media event for the VP?" Chenoweth said, quoting from the plan.

She claimed that, "rather than protect the forest environment, Chief Dombeck has allowed the Forest Service to be used as a tool of the Clinton-Gore Administration to gain partisan political advantage and promote Vice President Gore's presidential aspirations.

"This blatant use of the Forest Service for strictly partisan political purposes will not be tolerated," Chenoweth said. "It is unthinkable to utilize catastrophic fire and the resulting devastation to human life and the environment for partisan political gain and to promote Vice President Gore's presidential aspirations."

The Safari Club's Marlenee suggested a hidden agenda in the roads proposal. "In an effort to further justify road closures, the Forest Service implies that hunting in the forest system is having negative impact on wildlife," he testified. "They contend that access has led to 'increased pressure on wildlife species from hunters and fishers,'" he said, quoting an agency notice.

"My experience has been that the Forest Service consults extensively with state wildlife agencies and that the jurisdiction of wildlife and hunting is primarily a state right and responsibility," Marlenee continued.

"Because the Forest Service allegation appears in their public document, because it impugns the role of hunting in conservation, and because it denigrates the capability of state wildlife management, I would suggest this committee require the Forest Service to name even one state wildlife agency that is not fulfilling (its) obligations. We know of none and resent the fact this ill-thought-out statement is being used to justify closure considerations that could be harmful to sportsmen and to wildlife management," he said.

## ON THE PASSING OF FATHER ORESTE PANDOLA OF BALTIMORE

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great pastor and great person, Father Oreste "Rusty" Pandola, who has been chosen to receive the Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. Award for 1998. This award is named for my late father, who served as a long time Mayor of Baltimore and as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is presented annually by the Little Italy Lodge to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Baltimore's Italian-American community.

Just a few days before his untimely death on January 17th, 1997, Rev. Oreste Pandola, SAC, known to everyone in St. Leo's as "Father Rusty," was asked what he would like inscribed on his tombstone. Always ready with a witty reply, he answered, "Well, I put an elevator in the church and another one in the school. How about, 'Going up!'" With that, he laughed heartily and made his familiar thumbs-up sign.

Although he had been suffering a constant battle against the debilitating effects of diabetes, little did anyone realize how soon afterward, those words would come to fruition. Father Rusty was only 54 when he died of a heart attack. He had been pastor of St. Leo's for eight years. One parishioner summed up his leadership by saying, "He affected the parish unlike anyone we've had in the past. His open friendship, his demeanor, his confidence. He could get people to do things for the church."

He was a priest who saw the needs of his community beyond the religious aspects, although he certainly was a wonderful shepherd of his flock. He never let personal health problems get in the way of his pastoral duties. After injuring his shoulder in a fall while attending a meeting in New Jersey, he celebrated Mass with his left arm in a sling.

Father Rusty enjoyed life, Italian food—especially pasta—and cream donuts, laughed loud at a good joke—even at his own expense—and was not afraid to try new things such as para-sailing.

One of his major achievements was the renovation and subsequent re-opening of the church school, closed in 1980, as an adult learning center. A man of vision, he saw a building wasting away and he saw many of the more senior residents of the Little Italy community with idle time and idle minds. He gave birth to the Adult Learning Center, which today bears his name and is in its third year and growing.

Father Rusty had a reputation of being involved in activities and interests that went beyond his duties as pastor. He was compassionate, understanding and optimistic. To him, no task was to great. Being happy all the time and being positive in his assessment of things

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

seemed to be natural qualities. "Piece of cake," he would say to someone who felt that a task was too great. "Hang in there."

Born and raised in New York, he was ordained a priest in the Pallotines of the Immaculate Conception Province in Brooklyn, NY in 1969, seven years after entering the order. He served as chaplain and teacher of religion at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pensauken, NJ, in 1969. Father Rusty came to Baltimore in the 1970's, serving as vocation director and novice master for his order. He also was the director of the Pallotine Seminary in Hyattsville, MD, and he also served for a time as a Provincial Superior of the Pallotine Fathers.

Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, called him "a truly great pastoral leader. He spoke to the people in a way which was at once witty and humorous and also quite profound." Reflecting on his avid reading, the Cardinal added, "If I had to name one person who was knowledgeable about the Bible, who was in tune with today's current problems and was compassionate, it was Father Rusty."

Rev. Peter Sticco, SAC, the Pallotine Provincial at the time, told the mourners in his eulogy, "He was your pastor, he was your hero, he was your friend."

The Rev. Oreste Pandola, SAC, is a worthy recipient and exemplifies the great spirit of Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. in whose name this award is presented.

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IN HONOR OF GEORGE AND HELEN  
DUDAS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of the marriage of George and Helen Dudas fifty years ago, May 22, 1948. These two people truly exemplify a bond that can stand the test of time.

George and Helen Dudas entered the covenant of marriage at a time when the future was uncertain. World War II had just concluded, an economic boom was prevailing over the nation, and two young persons chose to take the first step on a long and successful life together. Their marriage saw many events in its fifty years, both joyous and challenging, that strengthened their bond and their love for each other.

George and Helen Dudas have clearly maintained a close bond with each other that has survived the test of half a century. Their marriage covenant, a beacon for all of us in these unstable times, exhibits a true love for each other and an ability to cope with the tests of marriage.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting George and Helen Dudas, two fine persons who have maintained a loving and devoted relationship for fifty years and we hope for fifty more.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 1998*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 25, 1998, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

1965, my first year in Congress, was extraordinary in its legislative accomplishments. In that year Congress enacted Medicare, aid to education, and voting rights legislation, just to name a few examples.

1998, my last year in Congress, has been extraordinary so far for the opposite reason. Each week, Congress wants to get out of town as quickly as it can, come back as late as possible and spend a minimal amount of time in session. The legislative schedule for this year calls for Congress to meet for fewer than 90 days—including Mondays and Fridays, when virtually no real business gets done. That's the shortest schedule in history. At this time, Congress has only about 50 serious legislative days remaining before it adjourns in October. The biggest bill enacted so far was the renaming of Washington National Airport in honor of Ronald Reagan.

Congress is doing a bare minimum to get by. Members feel that the less we do here the better. They want to go home more often to remind the public of their accomplishments—most notably, last year's balanced budget agreement—and want to avoid the high-profile errors of the recent past, like the government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996 and the delay in passing a disaster relief bill for flood victims last year.

So far, the "recess strategy" employed by the congressional leadership seems to be working. For the first time in 25 years, a majority of Americans approves of the way Congress is doing its job. Congress, one of the most criticized institutions in America, has rarely gotten above a 40% job approval rating in recent years. Today it's at 56%. The standing joke here is that Congress is never more popular than when it is in recess. There isn't any doubt that the nation's soaring economy and the mellow political mood in the country have contributed to these high ratings, but it's also true that voters are pleased with the balanced budget agreement and this year's anticipated budget surplus, and those two achievements will certainly define this 105th Congress. When people feel better about the performance of government it helps everybody in the government.

OUTLOOK

Much of the remaining time is going to be taken up with measures that simply have to be passed, like the budget and the appropriation bills, and very popular legislation, like the highway bill.

The parties are at loggerheads over a long list of major issues including a minimum wage increase, education initiatives, campaign finance reform, Medicare expansion, tax policy, and the terms of any new funding for the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition, some of the legislative possibilities have already been foreclosed. There will not be a campaign finance bill this year, must to my distress. It is unlikely there will be a significant environmental legislation, and it's beginning to look now as if we will not address the long-term problems of financing Social Security and Medicare. Those items will not be taken up until the next Congress, if then. The tobacco legislation is very much in doubt and a great deal of work needs to be

done on a code of conduct for the managed care industry and increased support for child care.

All of which is not to say that there aren't any high-stakes battles ahead in the remainder of the legislative year. Education will be one. Members of Congress are very much aware that across the country parents and business leaders want more done to improve the quality of education. Congress has before it competing proposals, including more funding for repairing and modernizing schools, increasing the number of teachers, providing more money directly to states through block grants, tax-free savings accounts, voucher programs, and additional money for teacher education. Some significant education legislation is a real possibility in this Congress.

There is strong interest in taxes. There is talk of a flat tax or a national sales tax or eliminating the current tax code, and, of course, a long list of tax cut proposals. But it is quite clear that Congress will not enact comprehensive tax reform this year.

Expanding health care coverage for those approaching retirement age and regulating HMOs will certainly be seriously considered, as will child care initiatives. There is also a lot of concern in Congress about values. Many bills have been introduced to address this concern, including bills to crack down on drunk driving, to discourage smoking, to ban online gambling, and to restrict access to pornography on the Internet. The values concern is also reflected in debates on re-vamping the bankruptcy laws and even on providing new money for the IMF.

There is, of course, a lot of debate on what to do about a possible federal budget surplus. Some want to return the money to the taxpayers, others want to spend the money on highways and bridges, others want to put the money toward Social Security reform.

CONCLUSION

Members frequently comment that the populist anger that dominated the political environment in the early 1990s is on the wane. We do not construe that as being a newfound, overwhelming respect for Washington, but it does reflect contentment with the status of the economy and a growing feeling that politics is irrelevant to the lives of most people. Public approval of Congress is hardly sky high but it has been consistently higher in 1997 and 1998 than at most times in the previous decades.

One of the positive things about the present mood is that Congress is focusing more on governance rather than simply rhetoric, which marked, for example, much of the early 1995 period. I really do not think the American people are telling us to do nothing. I think they want us to focus on the areas that are very tangible to them: health care, education, child care. What they are telling us is to work together and to avoid producing bad legislation.

This Congress is not going to make any big waves. But Congress can do a lot in a short time when it wants to, and I would expect the pace of activity in Congress to pick up in the next months.

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HONORING ROSA AND CARLOS DE  
LA CRUZ

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 25, 1998*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Cuban patriot José Martí said: "Talent is a gift that brings with it an obligation to serve the world,