

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Earth Day. Today, we observe and celebrate the twenty-eighth annual Earth Day. Every year on this date, the people of our nation and across the globe focus their attention on the environment. The spring observation of Earth Day gives us the opportunity to renew our commitments to environmental preservation with activities from tree plantings to workshops and community clean-ups. I have long been an advocate of conservation and environmental protection, and I am particularly proud to lend my voice to this celebration.

Now more than ever, Americans enjoy the benefits of our country's natural resources, from our National Parks to our forests, lakes, rivers, and beaches. Environmental protection is consistently recognized as an overwhelming concern of the American public. A new study released yesterday affirms that environmental concerns span generations, from teenagers to baby boomers. Earth Day offers us the opportunity to continue the challenging task of protecting our natural resources. I believe that it is the responsibility of Congress to enact legislation to help create a cleaner, safer, and healthier environment. We must work to ensure that our children and future generations can live in a clean environment.

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, we have made significant progress in preserving our environment. Much has been accomplished in terms of protecting our natural resources and cleaning our environment. Because of the diligence of many, our land, air, and water are cleaner. Species such as the bald eagle have been saved from the brink of extinction. However, there is much work to be done, both nationally and internationally. The environment and our health are threatened more than ever. For example, a study released this week indicates that a mass extinction of plants and animals is currently underway. This rate of loss, perhaps up to 20% of all species in the next 30 years, is much greater than at any time in history. A mass extinction of this magnitude could pose a major threat to humans in the next century. Earth Day offers us the opportunity to applaud our progress, but more importantly, today's celebration allows us to renew our commitment to the challenges facing our planet. It is important to raise the awareness about the continued threats to our environment, and the positive steps that we can take to face these hazards.

I consider environmental protection to be a national priority. We must continue to work for the preservation of our natural resources and protection of the public's health. As Henry David Thoreau wrote in *Walden*, "Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads." The bounty of nature cannot be wasted, and we must preserve and protect this treasure for

future generations. The hard work of our nation will lead to a healthier world to live and flourish. Today, Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner world.

SPACE POLICY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 15, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

EXPLORING THE FINAL FRONTIER

The American public has had an abiding fascination with space exploration. When I first came to Congress in 1965, the public's attention was focused on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) efforts to put a man on the moon. Hoosiers had a special interest in the Apollo program because many of the astronauts, including Gus Grissom, had ties to Indiana.

While humans haven't set foot on the moon in over a generation, space-related stories continue to hold our attention, whether those stories involve photographs from the surface of Mars, or the recent detection of ice on the moon, or the images from deep space produced by the Hubble Telescope, or the announcement that Senator John Glenn will return to space this fall. The recent prediction, which has now been discredited, that an asteroid might collide with the Earth early next century dominated the news for several days.

Space exploration continues to enjoy widespread public support. The challenge for NASA will be to achieve its objectives over the next 20 years, including the building of a Space Station and possibly a human mission to Mars, in an era of constrained federal budgets. NASA budgets, for example, have been relatively flat in recent years.

NASA has worked to streamline its operations by cutting costs, shifting more responsibilities to the private sector, and partnering with other countries. It remains to be seen, however, whether those efforts will succeed in bringing NASA's ambitious program in line with budget realities.

MAJOR NASA PROGRAMS

The current NASA budget, \$13.6 billion, represents less than one percent of total federal spending. NASA's proposals for the next few years include three major components:

Space Station: The International Space Station is to be a configuration of laboratories placed in orbit by the U.S., Russia and other international partners that will allow astronauts to live and work in space for months at a time. Originally planned to be operational by 1994, the Space Station has undergone a number of redesigns, delays and cost overruns. The current plan calls for assembly of the station to begin later this year and be completed by 2003. Total cost estimates for the project, including previous work, design, assembly and operation, range from \$30 billion (a NASA estimate) to \$94 billion (a General Accounting Office estimate).

The Space Station has been mired in controversy for the last several years. Support-

ers say that the station is critical to future exploration of space, particularly human exploration, and to scientific advances in materials, biomedicine and agriculture. Critics, including me, respond that the program is too costly and poorly managed, that it diverts limited federal resources from other NASA programs as well as other domestic programs, and that the amount of research that can be conducted on the redesigned station is not worth the investment.

Earth observation: Another major NASA program, called Mission to Planet Earth, involves a series of satellites to be launched over the next several years to collect environmental data on the Earth. The goal of the program is to increase our understanding of the Earth's natural processes and how humans might be affecting them. The program will study such problems as ozone depletion, deforestation, and global warming. The satellites, the first of which will be launched in June, will collect data ranging from surface temperatures and cloud structure to solar radiation and carbon monoxide.

Study of the planets: NASA has launched many spacecraft over the years to study other planets in our solar system. Robotic probes have visited all the planets in the solar system, except Pluto. Galileo, launched in 1989, reached Jupiter in 1995 and is successfully sending back data about the planet and its moons. A similar space probe called Cassini was launched in 1997 to explore Saturn and is scheduled to arrive at the planet in 2004.

Current attention, however, has focused on NASA's study of Mars. Last July the Mars Pathfinder space probe landed on the surface of the "Red Planet", capturing video footage of the planet. A second spacecraft, the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS), arrived at Mars last September and will gather data on the planet from orbit. MGS is the first in a series of "Mars Surveyor" spacecraft which are scheduled to be launched at 26-month intervals through the year 2005. The intensive analysis of Mars may set the stage for future human exploration in the next century, although the cost of such an effort would likely run into the hundreds of billions of dollars.

OUTLOOK

Pressures to keep down overall spending on space have had important consequences for how NASA manages its programs. First, NASA is placing increased emphasis on international cooperation in space. Constrained budgets in the U.S. and elsewhere will continue to bring countries together in the name of space exploration and research. My sense is that the U.S. will continue to lead space-related efforts, but the end of the Cold War has certainly created new opportunities for international partnerships.

Second, NASA is looking increasingly to private sector involvement in space programs to help lower costs and spur innovation. The private sector is already heavily involved in satellite launching and operations for communications and imaging. Other potential commercial space activities are microgravity materials processing and space tourism.

CONCLUSION

I believe that we have a basic need to explore the final frontier. The American people have a great romance with space. They watch the astronauts dance through the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

vastness of space and do a job that no one could be sure was even possible. We need to be bold and innovative, and I understand that we cannot make progress unless we take risks.

Nonetheless, I have serious reservations about NASA's emphasis on human space spectaculars. If our goal is really to explore space and advance our knowledge of its mysteries, robotic rather than human exploration can penetrate longer, farther and deeper into space for a fraction of the cost.

I do not reject the long-term goal of human space exploration, but believe that NASA's focus should be on scientific research projects like Mission to Planet Earth, which will improve the quality of life for people on this planet. Among other things, this approach would mean scaling back if not eliminating the Space Station, the purpose of which has never been as clear as its huge costs.

IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR HENRY KING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man, Henry King, who at the age of twenty-seven, when most persons are just beginning to think about their careers, took part in one of the most prominent events in the post-World War II era: the Nuremberg Trials. Professor Henry King undertook a great task in joining the United States prosecution team at Nuremberg and his many accomplishments in the field of law during and after the trial truly are a testimony to his successful career.

Professor King was educated at several fine institutions of higher learning in his younger years and later matriculated at Yale Law School. After graduating and obtaining a prestigious position with a New York law firm, King was offered the chance to join the U.S. prosecution team in the trials of Nazi criminals at Nuremberg in 1946. Exempted from military service because of a heart murmur, King felt he could serve his country and attempt to correct the wrongs of the war by serving as an attorney on this team.

King was heavily involved with the prosecution of Erhard Milch who participated in slave labor and human experimentation. While investigating Milch, King met and interviewed Albert Speer, one of Hitler's highest ranking lieutenants, and gained insight on the secret activities of the Third Reich. After success in the prosecution of the Nazi war criminals, King had a successful career in corporate and government posts. He became chief corporate international counsel for TRW in 1983 and joined the faculty at Case Western Reserve University's School of Law. He recently authored a book about Speer and his experiences at the war tribunal.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the accomplishments of Professor Henry King through his many years in the practice of law and most notably, his contribution to his country at the Nuremberg war crimes trial.

TRIBUTE TO JACK FIELDS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate, Mr. Jack Fields upon his retirement next month from his position as St. Clair Shores City Clerk. His friends and colleagues will honor him with a retirement party at Blossom Heath on April 8, 1998.

Jack Field's compassion and dedication have earned him a special place in the hearts of the residents of St. Clair Shores. In his office, a cork board is warmly decorated with pictures of families and children who reside in St. Clair Shores. The people who know and work with Jack realize he is more than just the City Clerk, he is a friend. As St. Clair Shores mayor Curt Dumas has said, "He has touched a lot of people in many ways. Jack Fields always has that kind of smile on his face that helped so many people."

When Jack quit his job at an automotive factory in 1971 to run the Civic Arena, he had no idea the job would lead him to the position of City Clerk. During the twelve years that Jack ran the Civic Arena, he earned a reputation for fairness and as a peacemaker. His popularity within the community prompted city officials to ask Jack to apply for the position as clerk. Jack turned them down. However, after some persuasion, Jack became the City Clerk in 1983. Jack has said, "I have loved this job more than I can express." I as sure many people in the community feel the same way about him.

St. Clair Shores has been lucky to have a leader like Jack Fields. Few people give to their community with the same time and energy that Jack has given to his. On behalf of the citizens of St. Clair Shores, I would like to thank Jack for all of his hard work and dedication.

VETERANS' ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTH CARE ACT OF 1998 H.R. 3702

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, for years veterans who rely on the VA for their health care have run into a brick wall when they sought reimbursement from VA for emergency health care received from a non-VA provider. Even when veterans took the time to contact VA when a medical emergency arose and were directed by VA to seek emergency care from the closest health care provider, they have been routinely denied reimbursement by VA for the cost of the emergency health care they needed and received from a non-VA provider.

The Veterans' Access to Emergency Health Care Act of 1998 will provide veterans access to emergency services when and where the need arises. It will solve a long-standing problem—reimbursement from VA—that has bedeviled veterans who needed and received emergency health care when they were needed from a non-VA provider.

The Veterans' Access to Emergency Health Care Act of 1998 will also make it possible for

the Department of Veterans Affairs to comply with the Consumer Bill of Rights, which President Clinton has directed every Federal agency that administers or manages health plans to adopt. VA has reported that it will largely be able to comply with the Consumer Bill of Rights through administrative action, but legislation will be required to provide veterans the access to emergency services. Currently, only veterans who are on VA property when an emergency occurs receive reimbursement from VA for contract emergency care furnished by a non-VA provider. VA has limited emergency care capabilities and must refer much of its emergent care to other providers.

The Consumer Bill of Rights, developed by a Presidential Advisory Commission on Consumer Protection and Quality in the Health Care Industry, establishes eight basic rights for consumers. In addition to access to emergency services, these rights include: Accurate information about health plans; a choice of providers and plans; participation in treatment decisions; nondiscrimination; the protection of their confidential medical information; and a fair and efficient process for complaining about and/or appealing a medical decision; and responsibility for one's own health.

VA has reported it will be able to largely comply with the Consumer Bill of Rights through administrative action, but legislation will be required to provide veterans the access to emergency services.

The Veterans' Access to Emergency Health Care Act of 1998 will provide veterans access to emergency services when and where the need arises. Providing veterans who rely on VA for health care access to emergency services when the need arises is long overdue. This legislation should be quickly passed by Congress and signed into law by the President.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, April 22, 1998 into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

I often hear that nobody really cares that the way we finance political campaigns is rotten. Polls indicate that by a wide margin Americans believe the system is corrupting and needs a major overhaul, yet I rarely find people outraged that the system isn't being reformed. The American people are deeply cynical that the system will ever be changed. They recognize that special interests and elected officials from both parties are complicit in the system and have a vested interest in perpetuating it. After all, they have made the system work successfully for them.

I've come to the view that those of us who think the current system must be overhauled immediately need to spell out more specifically why Americans should be outraged by the failure of Congress to reform the campaign finance system.

NEED FOR REFORM

Defenders of the current system argue that as a nation we spend far less on our federal elections than is spent to advertise various consumer products, that contributions from