

allies join with us in enforcing U.N. resolutions vigorously. This is a battle we will likely have to fight for a long time. Iran is also making advances. Our sanctions on Iran have not, however, been wholly fruitless—the current government of Iran appears to be aware of the economic and other sacrifices the country has suffered because of the effectiveness of U.S.-sponsored sanctions. India and Pakistan have tested nuclear weapons—but both have felt under enough international pressure as a result of their policies that they are now talking, at least, about joining international non-proliferation agreements, including the Comprehensive Test Ban. So even though we may focus on breakdowns of multilateral constraints on technology transfers, the policy has still forced proliferators to pay a price.

Our efforts to build effective structures of regional security have made real progress, though much remains to be done. In Europe, NATO has enlarged to include new members, and across much of the continent, military forces are engaged in extensive military-to-military contacts that bolster mutual confidence and security. Instability in the Balkans remains threatening, but allies are working together to address it. In Asia, the U.S.-Japan security relationship has grown stronger, China appears increasingly interested in security cooperation rather than confrontation, and most of the smaller nations in the region, while shaken by economic crises, see the United States as the ally of choice. In Latin America, though several nations are under assault from narco-terrorism, democracy remains ascendant, and U.S. military-to-military contacts have played an overwhelmingly positive role. In Africa, the United States has supported the first small steps toward development of regional security structures, though tragic conflicts continue. The Middle East and the Persian Gulf remain dangerously unstable, and only our presence can deter conflict.

Engagement, in sum, is as centrally important to our security—and to the prospects for peace in the world—as containment was during the Cold War. Perhaps above all, the key issue is whether we will persist despite the fact that the struggle to maintain relative international peace will never be concluded. This is not a struggle we can see through to the end—it is, nonetheless, an effort that we as a nation must continue to make.

ISSUES FACING THE WEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, last week, I spoke about character and so on. Tonight's speech I think will be a little less exciting. I do not intend to address the issues that are going down at the White House. I do not intend to address some of the comments I heard earlier on HMOs, although I think certainly that would be fertile ground for debate.

What I am going to address is the West. For some of my colleagues today, it may be a little boring; but for those of my colleagues who look at the heritage of this country and understand the

geography of this country and the people of this country, I think they will find some of the comments I am about to make of some interest.

I was inspired to do this speech in the last couple of weeks. About 2 or 3 weeks ago, I went to the club called the Knife and Fork in Grand Junction, Colorado, run by a fellow named Reeford Theibold. My wife Lori is on that board. What they do is there is a group of people in Grand Junction, Colorado; and once a month or once every 6 weeks, they have a speaker that comes in and speaks to the audience.

The speaker this time was a fellow named Dennis Weaver, a name that all of my colleagues know. Dennis Weaver, of course, is a movie star. We have all seen him on our TV. He has dedicated this portion of his life to different aspects of the environment. He lives in Ridgway, Colorado. I am going to tell my colleagues a little bit about the district that I represent, but Ridgway, Colorado is contained within that district.

The other person that I talked to was a fellow by the name of Phil Burgess. Most of my colleagues do not know who Mr. Burgess is, but I can tell them that he is kind of a think-tank kind of fellow. He is out in the West. He also has a place out here near the Chesapeake Bay.

I had an opportunity the other day to spend several hours with him, and we talked about the West and the country and how the West was settled and how it has evolved throughout this time and the evolution that we now face in the future.

Mr. Burgess has a think-tank operation, I think it is the largest think-tank probably out of Washington, D.C. It is called the center, appropriately named, the Center for the New West. I thought I would go through a few of his ideas as we evolve or go through this speech.

The other thing that inspired me is I got up Saturday morning to run, got up about 6:30 or so, I guess, got ready to run at 7:00, and I turned on the TV, and there was James Arness. Remember James Arness, Gunsmoke, great guy. It is on every Saturday morning about 7 o'clock in the morning. Unfortunately, the show had started, and I did not get the name of the show, but I think it was *How The West Was Won* or something, but I turned it on Saturday morning. You watch that and you get a real feeling, a good feeling about what the West was like, the beautiful ranges and the mountains.

So with a combination of those three things, I thought it would be important to come down today, talk about a few issues that face the West.

We have things like transportation problems out there, obviously. I want to talk a little about the water issue we have out there. The West is very unique in its water issues. I will talk a little bit about multiple use of Federal lands.

But I thought I would begin first of all by describing the Third Congress-

sional District. That is the district that I am privileged to represent back here in the United States Congress.

The Third Congressional District is one of the largest congressional districts in the United States. Most of my colleagues here today have been in the Third Congressional District of the State of Colorado. It is well known. Why? Here is the State of Colorado over here to my left. The Third District, roughly the eastern border goes north to south and like this. This is Denver, Colorado right here. So it goes about this size, goes all along the border with New Mexico, comes back up along the Utah border and the Wyoming border.

This district contains more ski areas than any other district in the country. This district is the highest in altitude of any other district in the country. So many of my colleagues have probably skied or certainly have heard of areas like Aspen, Colorado, Durango, Colorado, Steamboat, Glenwood Springs, Breckenridge, any number of these areas.

Many of my colleagues have hunted out in this country. We have the largest herds of elk in North America. Our ranges, we have 54 mountain peaks, 54 mountain peaks over 14,000 feet. Pikes Peak, just outside of the District, Pikes Peak out in this area, Pikes Peak goes just around this area.

This district has lots of Federal ownership. In fact, there are 22 million acres, 22 million acres contained just in that area that is owned by the Federal Government.

The Third Congressional District geographically is larger than the State of Florida. It has got a lot of other unique aspects about it. We have lots of wealth contained within that district. For example, Beaver Creek, Vale, Telluride, Aspen, Steamboat, Durango, lots of wealth, a lot of second homes.

But also in this district out in the southern end of the district where I have got the pointer down in this area, we have the poorest area of the State of Colorado down in San Luis and Costilla and Canal and some areas like that.

We also have huge agricultural interests, some of the largest, I think the largest potato warehouse in the world is in this part of the district. Up here, we have large orchards, and of course we have lots of cattle ranching in this area. Up in this area, we have sheep ranching.

As I mentioned earlier, recreation, hunting areas like that all are in that economy out there for the Third Congressional District.

Let me talk a little about one of the things that is unique to the western part of the country. Here in the eastern part of the country, when you deal with water, primarily your problem with water is how to get rid of it. You have too much water. You get floods and things like that.

Out in the West, it is an arid region. I saw with interest the other day the

hurricane that came in on the Louisiana and Florida coast and the amount of rain it dropped there. It dropped more rain in those poor areas, poor meaning I feel sorry for the amount of rain that they got, but it dropped more rain in those areas than our State in Colorado and a lot of the Rocky Mountains get in an entire year.

We have very unique parts, geographical areas, in parts of this district. We have Wolf Creek Pass down in the southwestern part of the State that gets 540 or 580 inches of snow a year, and, yet, 20 miles away gets about 18 inches of snow. Dramatic comparisons.

By the way, the winter snows have moved in. Our first snow of the year, it actually snows year-round on the mountain tops, but the first fall snow that came into the valleys occurred over the weekend.

One of the crucial areas, as I mentioned to my colleagues, is water. There is kind of a saying out in the west. In fact, it was quoted this week in the Denver Post. The Denver Post is a newspaper out of Denver, Colorado, also the Rocky Mountain News out of there, both of them cover water on a regular basis. But some of the best readings I have seen out of newspaper coverage, frankly, the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction, Colorado, a reporter named Heather McGregor did some extensive coverage of water.

But this last week, going back to the Denver Post article, there was a quote in there, and of course it is by the poet Tom Ferrell. And it says "Here is a land where life is written in water. It is said that, out here in the West, water runs thicker than blood."

Why? Well, because we are an arid region. In fact, when the explorers first went out to the West in the early days, they discovered a desert. In fact, we can look at the history books back then and some of the quotations in the reports by the explorers and what they wrote in their notes and their daily notes, they talked about the plains, about the lack of vegetation.

When we go into Colorado, we can see what we have been able to do with water, what we have been able to do with irrigation, what we have been able to do over the years, over the decades, over the century by being able to divert that water.

Let me give my colleagues a few statistics on water. This applies wherever you are in the country. I think these are kind of fun things to look at because most people do not realize just how critical water is to sustain the kind of life that we have.

A cow, for example, 12 gallons of water a day just for the milk producing Jersey cow. Up to 23 gallons of day for a holstein producing a large quantity of milk. An acre of corn gives off 4,000, 1 acre of corn, 4,000 gallons a day in evaporation. About 4,000 gallons of water are needed to grow every bushel of corn. Every bushel of corn requires 4,000 gallons. And 11,000 gallons to grow 1 bushel of wheat, and 135,000 gallons of water to grow 1 ton of alfalfa.

It takes about 1,000 gallons of water to grow the wheat to make a 2-pound loaf of bread and about 120 gallons of water to produce one egg. Can you imagine tomorrow morning when you have breakfast, one egg, throughout the whole system, to come to that one egg, it took about 120 gallons of water.

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About 1,400 gallons of water used to produce a meal of a quarter pound hamburger, an order of fries and a soft drink. So the quarter pounder, your fries and a soft drink, 1,400 gallons of water from the inception to your dinner plate of that food. Mr. Speaker, 48,000 gallons of water are needed to produce the typical American Thanksgiving dinner; 48,000 gallons of water. About 1,800 gallons of water to produce cotton in a pair of jeans and 400 gallons of water to produce the cotton that we use in a shirt.

Where do we get all of this water? Where does it come from? Water has a very unique characteristic. It is one of the natural resources we have that can be used and used and used again. It recycles and it recycles.

For example, where I live in Colorado, I live at the base of the mountains, the water at the top of the mountains where we have the water from the snowfall and the spring runoff, up in this area of the State of Colorado, a gallon of water there really means about 6 gallons of water by the time it comes down here to the border, because that water is reused and reused and reused. It is a very valuable resource.

Well, in Colorado, we do not have, as I mentioned earlier, mentioned several times, in fact, we do not have heavy rainfall. We are very dependent upon the snows that we get in the winter. As I mentioned, we just had our first snow in the valleys this weekend. As that snow accumulates during the winter, we have to have the capability to store that water once the snowmelt comes down the hillsides. That period of time, called the spring runoff, lasts for about 60 to 90 days. We do not have much rain in the summer, so we need to be able to store during that 60 to 90-day period of time in order for us to get through the rest of the year. That is why storage is so critical in the west. Because again, we are in the arid area.

Now, Colorado is called the Mother of States for rivers. If we take a look at the Colorado River, which services about 18 States and the country of Mexico and we compare it to the Mississippi; I remember the first time I ever saw the Mississippi, I thought I was standing on the edge of an ocean when I was a small person. We have big, big rivers back here in the east. But the Colorado River, while probably in most parts of the Colorado River, one could not put a barge in that river, the kind of barge that one runs in the Mississippi River. So it is small by these standards, but it is huge, it is huge for the needs that it serves out

there, I think probably 25 to 50 million people, maybe more, out there in the west out of the Colorado River.

Well, there are a number of rivers, because of the height, remember that I said that the district was the highest district in the country, because of the snowmelt we have, the heavy snows and then subsequently the snowmelt, and the runoff from that, Colorado is the mother of a number major rivers, major by standards of who they serve and the areas where they go into where it is the only source of water. It is also, as we have all heard, we have heard of Lake Powell and Lake Mead. In fact, in this last year, the National Sierra Club named us their number one priority to drain Powell. It is ludicrous. That kind of statement, by the way, shows a lack of knowledge of geographical, scientific, and historical needs of the west.

But going back to the water issue, Colorado is also the only State in the Union where we have no water that comes into our State for our use. We have no free running water that comes in through our borders that we can utilize within the State. In fact, the green barely comes in right here and goes right back out. Other than that, we have no other water on any of those borders. Our water flows out of the State of Colorado.

That is why the water law in Colorado and the water law in general in the west is different than the water law in the east. That is why the Congress and the American Federal Government early on realized that water should not be controlled at the Federal level, that water should be controlled at the State level. Out in Colorado, for example, my colleagues will remember I mentioned that we serve several States and the country of Mexico, that is all agreed to, or the agreements are through what we call compacts.

For example, the Colorado River compact that involves the Upper Basin States and the Lower Basin States, and it divides the quantity of water. For example, under the Colorado River Compact, Colorado puts about 70 percent of the water into the Colorado River, and we take out about 25 percent of the 70 percent, so as my colleagues can see, we put a lot more water into that river than we take out of it. That came about through the evolution of river water compacts, and that is more or less how we resolve our waters differences, our water needs between the States.

Now, another interesting thing about water, as my colleagues know, water is not always necessarily where the population is. We see it in the west. Colorado has large quantities of water, but be have very, very dry States like the State of Nevada, the State of Arizona. The State of California is not necessarily dry, but it has huge populations. So there is an effort always to move water to population.

In the early days we did that without any concern to the environment.

Around the turn of the century, we just assumed; first of all, we did not have the scientific knowledge, our forefathers did not have the scientific knowledge to really know with the movement of water what kind of impacts it would create and what kind of mitigation was necessary for these impacts. We did not have that kind of knowledge. So water moved freely, much more freely than it does today.

But even within our own bounds of Colorado, again using my pointer here, 80 percent of the water in Colorado is located in this area of the State. Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of the population is located in this part of the State. So even within the borders of the State of Colorado, we have very significant differences in where the water should be utilized. Down here in the valley we have large aquifers. Up here it is the spring runoff and the water storage. The purist water is up here in this district. We know the water is obviously the purist at the top of the mountain. By the time the water comes down the mountain and goes through the farm fields and municipal use and so forth, it picks up salinity and solution, and it is not as pure. That is why we are concerned when people say they want to divert water from this area of the map into the large cities. They are diverting one gallon of pure water in this direction, and remember that that gallon interprets it, by the time it gets down here to the border, it converts to 6 gallons of water because we use it and use it and use it. However, it is not as pure down here as it was up at the top of the mountain. So water over a period of time was a critical part of the evolution of the west.

Another key issue in the west that is very important are the Federal lands. Obviously, here we have a map of the United States. The map is titled, Government Lands. One can see that in the eastern part of the country, say from the Midwest, really, here is Kansas and go up into the Dakotas, Texas and over here, we do not really have a lot of government owned land. Most of the land here in the east is privately owned, and as we know, private landownership is a basic and fundamental foundation for our country.

Here in the west we have huge amounts of land, and take a look at Alaska. I think Alaska, I am not exactly sure of this number, but I think Alaska is 99 percent or 98 percent owned by the government. Out here in my district, for example, as I mentioned earlier, that is my district in Colorado, the district that I serve, there is 22 million acres of Federal land.

Well, what happened is in the early days of the settlement of this country, they said, as Horace Greeley says, and I have some great thoughts from Horace Greeley. He said, "Go west, young man, and grow up with the country." The best business Horace Greeley said you can go into, you will find on your father's farm or in his workshop. "If

you have no family or friends to aid you and no prospect open to you there, turn your face to the great west and there build up a home and a fortune."

Well, in the early days when they were trying to settle the country and actually occupy all of the different areas that we had, they did what they call homesteading or land grants. They would go out there, and one would go into Missouri or Kansas, terrific States, very rich in their soil, and with 160 acres or 320 acres or 640 acres, that is enough to sustain a family off a farming operation. But what Washington, D.C. determined and the Congress determined way back when was that when one got into the mountains, it was a little different.

First of all, one had adjustments for the altitude. Then one had to deal with adjustments of the winter; very, very tough winters, very short growing seasons. Very difficult in Missouri or Kansas where I am sure that one can have several cows per acre. In the mountains, it is just the reverse. You have to have a lot of acres for one cow. And our forefathers were wise enough to say that we need agriculture, we need ranching. It is fundamentally important to put that into those mountains, to sustain the people that we want to go throughout this country, the citizens of this country.

But it appeared impractical at the time, and I think it was probably a wise decision, but it appeared impractical at the time to go to a family and say, if you go out and homestead in the Rocky Mountains, we will give you 160 acres, because one cannot live off 160 acres from an agricultural point of view back in those times. So they could not just give it away through a land grant. Instead, what they decided to do was to adopt the concept of what is called multiple use.

Now, multiple use does not mean a lot to us here in the east, but in the west it is a way of life. What does multiple use mean? Just what it says. On the Federal lands, these lands, as designated and as determined by the Congress and by the people of this country, these lands owned by the Federal Government, one would not go into private ownership, but while not in private ownership, would be intended for many, many uses. In fact, when I grew up, the sign on all of the Federal lands as one entered the Federal lands, for example, the White River National Forest in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, when one enters into that area, it says, "welcome to the land of many uses."

Now, as of late, many of us feel under an assault in the mountains and out in the west as if people want to come out to the government lands and take the "land of many uses" sign off and put up a sign that says, "no trespassing." But multiple use out there, and I will give several examples of multiple use. When we stop some people and we ask them what is multiple use, many uses of the Federal lands mean, and we will hear, frankly because of the propaganda put

out by some of the national, more radical environmental groups, we will hear, well, it just means ranching and those ranchers are abusing the country, and I dare have anyone put one of those people in front of me, because I would love to have a debate with them, because the love of that country is by the people who have worked it with their bear hands.

My family, for example, my inlaws have the same ranch in the family since 1892, 1892 for that multiple use. But ranching is not the only aspect. The ski areas which many of us have enjoyed throughout our years, the ski areas are not the only use, it is another use. Mining and farming, those are uses, yes, although as we will see from Mr. Burgess's remarks, our economy has changed, it has become much less dependent on mining and so on, but there are many other uses that we have to have off these Federal lands to sustain our lifestyle, to sustain life. Maybe I went too broad to say lifestyle.

For example, all of our highways, all of our highways that cross or traverse the third congressional district in Colorado are on government lands or go across government lands at some point. All of our water is either stored upon, runs across, or originates on Federal lands. Our radio towers, our power lines. I mean we can take a look at many aspects of our life and it is very, very dependent on that concept of multiple use.

By the way, I am speaking more specifically this evening about Colorado, but we can hear with some eloquence from the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), he can tell us about the multiple use and the importance of it for all of their interests up here in Alaska, or we can hear from the gentleman from Nevada, or the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) with the parks and so on and so forth.

Other multiple uses that we think are just very, very important for these mountains are the uses that we enjoy in our national monuments and in our national parks. If I could think of one thing that our generation enjoys as a whole generation besides food and besides some of the other vital elements, it is the relaxation of the Federal parks and the monuments and the things that the west offers to all of us.

Well, that is kind of the west as we know it. Now, in the west we have seen a fairly dramatic change. First of all, mining. Mining in this country for a multiple of reasons has gone downhill. We do not see near the mines that we used to see. Let me tell my colleagues, mining is a very easy item of the economy to attack.

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Frankly, in the late 1800s and the 1900s, and the 19th and 20th century when mining was done, they did not pay a lot of attention or have the scientific knowledge to protect the environment, to mitigate the impact that

the mining was creating on the environment, so it got a very black eye. But everything in this room, this desk, the wood, that came through logging. The metal on these chairs came through mining of one purpose or another. It is very important. It is a basic industry for this country's economy.

But in the West we have seen a depletion of the mining. Some of it has to do with the economy and some with land use regulations. But it has brought about, regardless of what has caused that, we have seen a diversification in our economy out there in the West. And that diversification is being driven primarily I think by recreation.

But because we have recreation coming in, one does not have to spend very long in my district, the district that I represent there in Colorado, one does not have to spend a lot of time there to say this would be a great place for a family vacation. It is absolutely beautiful. We have four distinct seasons and I could go on and on. Some would think I work for the Chamber of Commerce out there promoting this area. But it is a unique area and it does have a lot to offer.

But there are other things that are important to consider. One of them is that this area will only be an area that people want to explore and come out to, or an area of the kind of values that it should represent, if we protect the heritage that it came from. What some people refer to as the Old West.

Many have been down to Durango, Colorado, and ridden on the narrow-gauge train. The Durango-Silverton narrow-gauge steam train. I suggest folks try it. It brings back a lot of good feelings about the West. These kind of things should be allowed to be preserved into our future, so that we have a clear understanding of our past.

Phil Burgess talks about the New West, and I thought I would go through a couple of things, four forces that he says shape America and create a new West. He says first of all, migration. The West is the Nation's most rapidly growing region. Which is also greatly increasing its political power in America's democracy.

Urbanization. This is hard to believe, but contrary to popular belief, the West is the Nation's most urbanized region as a higher percentage of westerners live in urban areas. How does that happen? Out here we have vast amounts of land, but most of the people live in the cities. In Colorado, we have four or five major cities. By our definition in Colorado, Denver would be considered a major city. But we have many other cities that we call cities.

Take a look at Alaska. Huge, millions and millions and millions, they probably have 600 million acres of land. 600 million acres of land would be my guess up here in Alaska. They have Anchorage, we could go through and see all the different, probably name on both hands the communities of 20- or 30- or 40,000 population. We could see where the urbanization statement comes in.

The other area, the other force, the third thing as far as shaping America and creating a New West, that is called diversification. The economics based on commodities are increasingly diversified as manufacturing, business service, high-tech, and other sectors grow.

Globalization. The West is a major beneficiary and provides the strongest political support to the Nation's growing trade with overseas markets. And that is going to be put to a test with the worldwide economy that we are facing today. Keep an eye on that economy. If we do not, we are being ignorant of what could be a real challenge to us within the very short future, and that is the worldwide economy; what is happening with trade throughout the world and with the American dollar, not just as it affects the American West but as it affects all of America.

Finally, we have what we call corporate refugees. A word that Phil creates: Gentrification. Corporate refugees and urban refugees and others seeking a new life in the Nation's mild and wild. And he quotes that from Rand-McNally, who called it "mild and wild" areas, and are moving in droves to smaller cities and towns in the rural areas that dot the West's urban areas.

We have seen a lot of migration in the West because we have been able to bring in fax lines. We have enhanced our ability to communicate. Now one can live in the Rocky Mountains and communicate with an office in New York City and be in instant contact with the stock market or other areas of business while enjoying the life of the West. That has brought a lot of that migration.

He says in his notes, and I think Phil's points are well taken, that take a look at what is happening in the West. Utah, for example, the 2002 Olympics. And if you have not made your reservations, you ought to make your reservations and go see that beautiful State.

Nevada, America's fastest growing State. The fastest growing county in the United States is Douglas County, a portion of which is in the 3rd Congressional District in Colorado. Colorado has become the home, and it was interesting to see how many people are from Colorado in the Forbes 400 list which I read just last week. Corporations like Qwest; TCI; John Malone, people like that; the Magnus family; Jones Intercable; Daniels Communications, Bill Daniels; these are all pioneers for industry. Echostar, Microsoft, there are a number of others that have come to Colorado. The West is changing.

It is not all cowboys. It is not all ranches or mining anymore. But as this West changes, as we begin to evolve into that, we have to preserve what made our State great and what made Colorado great were our cattle and our mining and the boom and bust. The Unsinkable Molly Brown. Leadville, Colorado. The Ice Castle built down there. We could go on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, if we lose sight of our very basics which made the State of Colorado and the West what the West is and the West that we dreamed about, if we lose sight of that, then we will in the future dilute a very important part of our history for future generations. It is not right.

We need to make a very focused effort as we move into the New West, as we move into what Mr. Burgess talks about here, we have got to make a very conscientious effort to educate our young people about the needs. Why water? Why we have to store water. If we listen to some of the national radical, in my opinion, environmental groups, we should never store water. Tear down the dams. They have only the most remote understanding of water in Colorado and water in the West.

We will hear people say, well, we should lock off all of these areas and put them in wilderness. What does that mean? It is a very nice buzz word. Let us talk about wilderness. It is important enough as we evolve into the New West that we talk about what wilderness really means.

On our Federal lands that is owned by all of us and, frankly, every one of us has a fiduciary duty to manage those Federal lands and that fiduciary duty especially falls on us elected to represent the people to manage these lands owned by the Federal Government, whether up here in the East or over here in the West or in Alaska.

Congress through the years and through the century has provided a number of different management tools to manage lands owned by the government. Owned by us. Those management tools, for example, we have a particular tool on how we manage Yellowstone Park. We have a particular tool on how we manage Colorado National Monument in Grand Junction, Colorado. We have a particular management tool on how we manage the Sand Dunes down in Alamosa, Colorado. We have a particular management tool on how we manage the Mall outside the fine Capitol here. A management process for how we manage this building itself.

It is all property, and we have a huge amount of management tools available to us. But because of changing times and changing uses, because of changing needs and geographical changes, and because of disasters like forest fires and floods and things like that, we have to have flexibility in the management tools that we use for the Federal lands or for the Federal property or the government property.

We have one tool out there that has almost zero flexibility and it is the only tool out there that for all practical and political purposes, once an area receives this designation, it will never again leave that designation. That designation is called wilderness.

Now, I am a proponent of the right area in the right time being put into wilderness areas. In fact, I am sponsoring with a Democrat, the gentleman

from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS) who ably represents the community of Boulder, Colorado, a wilderness bill. But the area which we are putting into wilderness called the Spanish Peaks is an area that fits that description.

We have to be very cautious about using that designation of wilderness, because it locks us in forever under that particular use. And in essence what wilderness means is that man can only be a visitor. Man cannot stay in that area. Man can come in, but he must go. And it restricts how he can come in.

In a lot of wilderness areas, we may not enter by motorized vehicle, which means that a lot of our senior citizens will never be able to enter those areas. It has severe restrictions on walking. When I grew up, we cut across the neighbor's lawn and hiked up the mountain. A lot of that freedom is taken away. In certain areas, we need to restrict that kind of freedom because the resource is so fragile. The resource is so precious that this is the only management tool that really makes sense.

Now, we have a lot of other resources out there, Federal resources, Federal properties where it is also very important, very valuable Federal property. Very fragile in its own way, but it can be managed as a national monument or maybe as a national park or maybe in an area run by the BLM for grazing or maybe in an area for flood control or maybe in an area for water storage. Water storage, by the way, is not just for water usage. Water storage also helps us on flood control, much as we have here in the East.

So, when we talk about the different multiple uses and the wilderness tool, it is a concept that we have to keep in mind as we talk about the Old West.

As we talk about when we come into the New West, one of the things that Mr. Burgess talked to me about that I thought was fascinating was the politics that is now coming out of the West. Let me go through a couple of things here that he says.

Growth, he says, will lead to expanded political influence. The West is become the next political power. The same way the South rose in political prominence from a political point of view. The President, the Vice President, the Majority Leader in the Senate and the Speaker of the House are all southern, an indication of the rise of the South politically in the last several years.

The trend, however, is shifting to the West as witnessed by the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jim Nicholson and the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Roy Romer, both from the State of Colorado.

The next census in the year 2000 should result in several House seats being shifted from other places in the country to the West.

In the 1900 presidential election, the West accounted for 8 percent of all

electoral votes. In 1900, during the presidential election, we had 8 percent of the electoral votes come out of the West. In 1952, 52 years later, it about doubled to 15 percent. Fifteen percent of those electoral votes. In 1996, in a much shorter period of time, the West rose to 22 percent of all electoral votes. Take a look at the California primary. An example of just how important the West has become.

There are other areas that we have to consider when we talk about the New West and moving into these areas. Again, it is a special area to live. And if you have not been out to the West, and I did not know how beautiful the East was until I had an opportunity to come out here and go up north and see the mighty rivers that they have up here and go to Gettysburg and see the rolling hillsides and down to Lynchburg, Virginia, or Smith Mountain Lake. There is a lot of beauty.

But for those out here who have not been to the West, come out and see how special it is. Come out and begin to understand our concern for multiple use. You will understand why we are so guarded about our water. As I said, water runs thicker than blood out in the West. You will begin to understand why things like transportation have become a real challenge for us.

One do not have to have skied very long in Colorado to know that I-70 is a major transportation problem for us. That is east to west. North to south on the I-25 corridor, another big problem for us. Or Aspen, Colorado, from Glenwood Springs, Colorado, on Highway 82, a big problem. Or Grand Junction to Delta on Highway 50. Big problem. Or go from Ouray, Colorado, to Durango on Highway 50 where the side of the road continually falls off four football fields straight down because of the challenge of maintaining at that altitude those kinds of roads.

These are all kinds of things that we need to educate our friends and family in the East about the challenges that we have in the New West. But the most fundamental thing we can do, the most fundamental thing that all of us can do is that as it has the evolution in politics, as it has evolution in urbanization, as it has evolution from migration, is not to forget the days reflected by James Arness in those movies of "How the West Was Won." Not to forget the commitments that we have made to the people in the West, like the Native Americans.

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Down here, in this part of the district, I am very proud to tell my colleagues that we have the Mountain Utes and the Southern Utes. That is exactly the area where this Congress, and many Congresses before us, and many presidents before this President, after we took the water from the Native Americans, we promised to give it back to them. We promised to build them water storage. And we have told them, trust us, we will deliver.

And we have continued, year after year after year, as the new west begins to come in, as some of the more radical environmental groups begin to have more and more influence in this area of the country, we, on a consistent basis, break our commitments to the Native Americans in building their water projects down there.

This is hard to conceptualize. None of us in this room have to do this. I would venture to say not one of us, not one of my colleagues in the United States Congress, in fact, I doubt very many people we would run into still have to carry their water to their house.

Do my colleagues know of the lands and the waters we took away from the Native Americans? Then we gave them the land and water back. Then we discovered there was gold, so we took some of the land back. Then we discovered how valuable the water was, so we took the water. Even though we did not take the water by treaty, we use the water.

There are Native Americans down there on those reservations that still have to haul water to their houses because we have not carried through on our commitment on projects. The Animas-LaPlata specifically. This speech tonight is not about the Animas-LaPlata, but it is a reflection of some of the conflicts the new west brings when we begin to evolve the old west. The west that Horace Greeley spoke about: "Go west, young man. Go west."

In conclusion this evening, I want to say to my colleagues that I realize this speech does not excite, like talking about some of the problems down the street; or we could talk about the budget or the appropriations process; or we could talk about the attack on Sudan. I would love to debate with my colleague on the HMO and some of those other issues that are pretty important. But when all of those issues, when all of those clouds clear out and the sun comes up, we can still see the fundamental issue of how the west, that key special part of this country, why it needs attention; and why speeches like this, even though they may be somewhat boring, it cannot get much more boring than to talk about water, unless of course it does not come out of the faucet when we need it, but why comments and attention needs to be paid to the west.

The west needs special attention because it is a very unique part of our country. It is a part of our country that will become even more unique in its political power, in its urbanization, in its migration and, in its special way, when my colleagues and their families have an opportunity to go out and enjoy the west.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3694

Mr. GOSS submitted the following conference report and statement on the