

is long-overdue and convey a message to the EU that its canned fruit subsidy excesses must be discounted.

LAND FOR YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS

We are well aware of the migration away from rural areas in part due to the difficulty young people encounter to stay in farming. I believe providing young farmers the opportunity to discover, first-hand, the changing technologies agriculture presents and to keep them interested in agriculture is a vital role for Congress. This legislation will help advance young people's interest in farming much like the USDA's Beginning Farmer Program.

Specifically, this bill will allow education institutions and non-profit organizations that are involved in teaching farming to young people the ability to acquire land held by USDA. Currently this ability is available, however, these specific groups are put at the bottom of the list of people who are eligible to bid for the land. Under current law, these groups are bidding against interested parties such as real estate investors, land speculators, and business groups, all of which could easily increase the price of the land making it financially impossible for organizations interested in keeping the land in farming. My legislation will provide these nonprofits and educational institutions the same purchasing rights to USDA land as beginning farmers. Under the bill, these groups must be involved in teaching young people farming practices they can use to start their own farming practice. Given the current age of our farm and ranch population, I believe the ability for young people to start a farming or ranching operations remains a top priority of the agriculture community. This bill will continue to advance that priority.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PRESERVATION ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the United States Federal Government Preservation Act. On the first day of the 106th Congress, I introduced H.R. 62 and H.R. 63. Both of these bills concern Executive Order 13107, which President Bill Clinton signed on December 10, 1998. Today I am introducing a redrafted version of this legislation. The two bills I am reintroducing today take the necessary steps to nullify the provisions of Executive Order 13107 and prevents the Federal Government from spending any money to implement this Executive Order.

Executive Order 13107 directs the Federal Government to take numerous steps to require our nation to comply with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In my legislation, I discussed the fact that these treaties were never given the advice and consent of the Senate. In clarification, these treaties did in fact pass the Senate by voice vote.

Our Constitution provides in Article II, section 2, clause 2, that "He [the President] shall

have the Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur." Because these treaties were accepted by voice vote, we cannot be certain where each individual Senator stands on the particular treaties involved. I believe these concerns warrant a debate, and an individual vote in the Senate. Committing the American people to United Nations treaties is an endeavor that should be carefully scrutinized.

President Clinton claims this Executive Order was written to promote this Administration's human rights record. In actuality, it acts as a vehicle to commit the United States to a definition of human rights that is vastly different from the one contained in our Constitution. The United Nations defines human rights in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which addresses the freedom of thought, conscience, religion, opinion, and expression. Article 29 of this document states that "These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

The founding documents of the United States make it clear that basic human rights are inalienable, meaning they descend from the ultimate Sovereign, the Creator, God. Therefore, no human authority, no government, no criminal, no individual can abrogate or abridge those rights. The United Nations has frequently shown only contempt for biblical values, American sovereignty, and the U.S. Constitution. If the government can bestow upon a people certain rights, it can just as easily take those rights away. On December 10, 1998, with the signing of this Executive Order, President Clinton accepted on behalf of all Americans a definition of human rights that descends from government authority. Due to this action, every American has lost some of their basic freedoms.

Executive Orders are supposed to be a presidential tool for running the Federal Government. President Clinton, however, has used Executive Orders to bypass the legislative branch, and make policy affecting other branches of government, states, and individuals. For example, Executive Order 13107 requires the Federal government to establish the Interagency Working Group on Human Rights Treaties to provide guidance, oversight, and coordination concerning adherence to and implementation of U.S. human rights obligations and related matters. This not only expands the President's regulatory authority, but also bypasses Congress's legislative powers and the Senate's treaty power. If President Clinton believes this is an important objective of his Administration he should send legislation to Capitol Hill and allow Congress the ability to debate and vote on this proposal. It is clear this Executive Order contains alarming provisions that diminish basic rights provided for in our Constitution.

This is a clear example of the President abusing the power entrusted to him by the American people. As Paul Begala, an aid to Clinton, has stated "The President has a very strong sense of powers of the presidency, and is willing to use all of them." I believe Congress should recognize its power and vote on the United States Federal Government Preservation Act of 1999 in order to stop the implementation of Executive Order 13107. Executive Orders have long been recognized as a presidential prerogative. However, they are not

a blank check to rewrite the Constitution or to assume powers that belong to the states, or other branches of government. This Congress needs to take immediate steps to ensure Executive Orders are used for their intended purpose, and not to take rights away from American citizens.

TRIBUTE TO GORDON GRAVES

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Gordon Graves, who died on September 16, 1998 at the age of 80. Gordon Graves was a great man and true hero in his efforts to save the Kankakee River.

Gordon Graves was born along the banks of the Kankakee River and thus knew and understood the river. He had been known to describe himself as a "river rat" and was a life-long hunter, fisherman, and conservationist who spent most of his life protecting the Kankakee River. Gordon was one of the first voices of concern for the Kankakee River. According to Gordon, people took whatever they could get from the river, and the next day, they took it again. The problem is that they took more than the river had to give.

At the age of 45, Gordon Graves retired early to work full time to protect the Kankakee River. He is one of the founding fathers of the Northern Illinois Angler's Association, and of the Alliance to Restore the Kankakee River. Throughout his life, Gordon Graves served on many Illinois State Conservation Advisory Boards and Commissions. The highest honor Gordon Graves received was the Pride of America Award, presented to him by President Ronald Reagan.

Gordon Graves is survived by his wife, Marion Graves. As one newspaper article pointed out, Gordon Graves has passed on a legacy of spirit, of vision and of organization that will see his work continue.

Gordon Graves' commitment and impact on his community is not only deserving of congressional recognition, but should serve as a model for others to follow.

At a time when our nation's leaders are asking the people of this country to make serving their community a core value of citizenship, honoring Gordon Graves is very appropriate.

I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their congressional districts whose actions have so greatly benefited and enlightened America's communities.

HELPING PARENTS TEACH THEIR KIDS: THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION TAX CREDIT

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as the father of two beautiful twin daughters, Dana and Claire, I am firmly committed to providing our nation's children an education which will prepare them for the future. Congress must empower parents to do more for their children so that our nation's next generation can truly thrive.