

GORTON TO GORE: "WELCOME TO EASTERN WASHINGTON!"

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, the citizens of eastern Washington will experience a rare occurrence this week: AL GORE will visit there for the first time since he was re-elected Vice President almost 4 years ago. I welcome him to that beautiful part of Washington, and hope that he takes the opportunity to listen to the concerns of as many people as he can.

If he had come a week earlier, he could have joined me at any or all of the seven stops I made in eastern Washington, so that he could hear about the primary concern of citizens—the proposed removal of dams by the Clinton/Gore administration. On the other hand, knowing how eastern Washington citizens feel about hydroelectric dams, it is not a surprise that he would choose to stay away.

But let me urge the citizens of eastern Washington to take a good look around this week, because they will be getting a preview of what life would be like under a Gore administration. Just as in the Clinton/Gore administration, they would have a President and an administration who believe that the Federal Government knows better than local citizens do how to manage their eastern Washington way of life.

They would have an administration and a President who appears more interested in politics and his own election than what is necessary to save salmon or which energy source is the cleanest and most efficient for Washington citizens.

Consider the following dubious challenge that eastern Washington citizens face in this administration:

Next week, the Clinton/Gore administration will enact its 4(d) rules under the Endangered Species Act. Under the rules, the National Marine Fisheries Service will have the right to regulate the "daily behavior" of Washington citizens, including how much energy they consume, how far they travel, and how they maintain their gardens. Earlier this year, the administration ignored eastern Washington's request for more public hearings on the subject and more time to gain a better understanding of the vast impact the rules will have on their lives.

Later this summer, the administration will seek to implement the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project over the strong opposition of many citizens of eastern Washington.

Tomorrow, AL GORE will announce that 200,000 acres on the Hanford site will be set aside as a national monument by Presidential fiat. No one disagrees that the Hanford Reach must be protected. It is a magnificent part of the state that deserves preservation for generations to come. Of course, it is not now under threat and no emergency requires presidential action without consulting those who live around the reach. So, as decisions are made on how to protect the Hanford

Reach, local consensus should be a vital component in reaching those decisions.

I have always advocated collaboration with and listening to all of the stakeholders to achieve a just solution. The Clinton/Gore approach is but one more example of Washington, D.C. deciding for Washington communities something I believe that they are fully capable of deciding for themselves.

The fact that GORE will tell local people what the Federal Government intends to do on the Hanford site rather than listen is a preview of how a Gore administration will deal with local citizens on a whole host of issues in the future.

The issue of the Snake River dams, however, is another matter. I expect that while AL GORE is in eastern Washington, such as with his previous visits to Seattle and Portland, he will refuse honestly to reveal his position about whether he believes tearing down the Snake River dams is necessary to save salmon.

Equivocating on an issue that will affect the lives of hundreds of thousands of people, cost billions of dollars, and have minimal if any impact on salmon is flat out wrong. Last month, the only thing new that GORE told reporters in Portland about his position on dams is that the issue requires more study and that "he refuses to prejudge or play politics" with the issue. Well, if he's not playing politics with the issue, then I'm the inventor of the Internet.

After all, last fall the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, using science from the National Marine Fisheries Service, released a report stating that more than 90 percent of adult salmon survive through all four of the Snake River dams—the very dams that the administration has proposed to take out.

The Corps of Engineers was prepared to recommend, rightfully, that the costs are too high, that the benefits are too few, and that the dams should be left in place. But high-ranking officials within the Clinton-Gore administration directed the Corps' recommendation be suppressed.

AL GORE owes the people of the Northwest an explanation. We deserve to know why the Clinton/Gore administration hid this important recommendation from thousands of Northwest citizens who spent the better part of four out of the last five months writing comments, attending public meetings, and speaking out on the dams.

AL GORE apparently agrees with the National Marine Fisheries Service that, despite the expenditure of \$20 million and five years of study so far by the Corps, any decision on the dams should be postponed for five years, and that a "trigger" should be set, based upon the arbitrary performance standards set by unelected bureaucrats, that will require that the dams be breached if the standards are not met to their satisfaction.

The fisheries service hasn't even published its biological opinion, which was

due two months ago. How can we trust that delaying a decision five years or the imposition of arbitrary performance standards won't also be moved to meet the Gore agenda to take out the dams? We can't.

Another subject I'll bet the Vice President will ignore is the amazing return of salmon to the Columbia and Snake river system last fall and this spring. It was reported last week that 189,000—a record number—of spring chinook salmon have passed through the Bonneville Dam already. Will he be willing to declare victory and move on? Of course not.

So, I hope that the Vice President enjoys his most recent trip to Washington. I ask him to listen to local people in eastern Washington about the Hanford Reach with or more open mind than Bruce Babbitt did three weeks ago.

And I ask him to take a firm position on the dams now—to practice what he preaches and not to play politics with the lives of eastern Washington citizens.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:41 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 9, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

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#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 8, 2000:

##### FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

John Train, of New York, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2003, vice Scott B. Lukins, term expired.

##### UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

Holly J. Burkhalter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Peace for a term expiring January 19, 2001, vice W. Scott Thompson, term expired.

##### THE JUDICIARY

John S. W. Lim, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, vice Alan C. Kay, retired.

Gregory A. Presnell, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida vice a new position created by Public Law 106-113, approved November 29, 1999.

James S. Moody, Jr., of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida vice a new position created by Public Law 106-113, approved November 29, 1999.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James A. Daley, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to St. Kitts and Nevis and to Saint Lucia.