

comforted by the knowledge that he was admired, respected, and appreciated by all of us who knew him. I know I speak for all of us in saying, we will miss him.

REGARDING CANADIAN LYNX AND
ESA

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, over the years I have become very disturbed with the high levels of unethical behavior from various Federal Government officials.

In the past 8 years, narrow-minded, radical environmental Federal Government employees have violated the trust of the American people.

Today, we should be shocked that a recent investigation revealed several Federal and State employees submitted unauthorized control samples for analysis as part of an ongoing nationwide Canada lynx survey. The "lynx" fiasco illustrates just how vulnerable the public's access rights are to agenda-driven advocates within the Federal and State land management agencies:

Then there is the case of Donald Fife, a professional scientist specializing in environmental mining and engineering geology, who learned from a former U.S. Forest Service official that plants listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) had been secretly placed on his property in an attempt to close about 30,000 acres of the highest mineral valued land in southern California.

Then there is the case of a high-ranking official at the Northwest Regional Office at National Marines Fisheries Service (NMFS) who took the time to share her thoughts about the implementation of the Endangered Species Act.

And I quote from the International California Mining Journal (January 2002):

* * * when we (NMFS) make critical habitat designation we just designate everything as critical, without an analysis of how much habitat an ESU (Evolutionarily Significant Unit) needs, what areas might be key, etc. Mostly we don't do this because we lack information. What we really do is the same thing we do for section 7 consultations. We just say we need it all.

The nature of all these events highlight the lack of trust with the Federal agencies that are charged with the task of managing our public lands. The Federal land agencies must be held to the same standards of truth, honesty and accountability as the private sector.

THE DETENTION OF ILLEGAL
ALIENS IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the January 3, 2002, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News entitled "Rights of aliens more limited."

As the editorial correctly notes, people who have overstayed their visas or illegally entered the United States are in direct violation of U.S. immigration laws, and therefore their detention is well within the bounds of U.S. law. Whether the United States is fighting a war on terrorism or is at peace, this is the case.

[From the Daily News, Jan. 3, 2002]

RIGHTS OF ALIENS MORE LIMITED
INVESTIGATORS WITHIN BOUNDS TO DETAIN
THOSE WITH DOUBTFUL STATUS

The war against terrorism has unearthed some not-so-innocent immigrants. They are

not yet accused of being part of Osama bin Laden's network, or proven to have been involved in terrorist activities. Rather, they have overstayed their visas or entered the country illegally. Now some of their American friends join civil rights activists in believing these individuals are being mistreated by longer-than-usual detention.

Some 1,100 men (no women) in this category, having been detained as possible material witnesses. But so far, only one has been charged with a terror-related crime.

In the view of some critics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, that one in 1,100 ratio proves overzealous federal authorities are acting improperly.

Overlooked is the fact that the individuals being held for further questioning violated the terms of their entry into the United States. Those who maintain that immigration charges are being used because it is not now possible to charge the detainees with more serious crimes may be accurate. But the point they fail to acknowledge is that breaking the immigration laws should have consequences whether one is a terrorist or simply a more benign violator.

Failure to meet conditions of entry is a crime. That Uncle Sam has been slow to enforce immigration laws and forgiving of the sins of illegal aliens in the past is no excuse for softness now.

Using immigration law violations to hold those who might be considered suspects, and fit a profile similar to those known to be guilty of terrorism, is a sensible way to conduct investigations. Fortunately, it is also legal.

America may be moved by this war on terrorism to get better control of its borders. Entry into the United States by foreigners is nothing guaranteed in the Constitution. Immigrants and visitors are to be welcomed, but the terms have been dictated by Congress and should be enforced. One of those terms must be to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.