

can and should do to reinvigorate, to enhance, and to conserve America's outdoors.

Our national parks—our Nation's crown jewels—are losing some of their luster. We need to ensure that all Americans can enjoy and be proud of our parks system for years to come.

We have at least an \$8 billion backlog in unfunded projects and programs.

Yellowstone needs about \$300 million in road repairs.

Yosemite needs \$178 million in repairs after January's floods.

Each year, another 1 percent of the National Parks Service roads fall from fair to poor or failing.

We are working to leave a legacy everyone can be proud of—a new, reinvigorated, world-class National Park System.

Mr. President, an expanded fee demonstration program, major concession reform, a bonding initiative, and additional private-sector sponsorships are all under consideration in this Congress. Our system of parks includes State and local parks as well. Capital needs of State and local recreation systems for 1995–99 are over \$27 billion, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association, but we have a problem. The stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund has been shut down.

Over 30 years ago, in a bipartisan effort, Congress and the President created the Land and Water Conservation Fund referred to as the LWCF. It is funded primarily by offshore oil and gas revenues which now exceed \$3 billion. My committee has authorized land and water conservation funding to the year 2015 with an annual ceiling of \$900 million.

The LWCF stateside program promotes a unique partnership among Federal, State, and local governments. It provides matching grants that enable State and local governments to create recreation facilities, parks, and playgrounds. Because they are matching grants, they double the impact.

The stateside LWCF program has helped finance 37,500 national parks and recreation projects—campgrounds, trails, playgrounds, recreation centers, and gyms. It has also helped in my State of Alaska. We have had a number of very effective State and local parks which received a stateside LWCF grant. The demand continues to increase. As a matter of fact, in fiscal year 1995 over \$600 million was requested.

But I want to explain very briefly, Mr. President, that the recent balanced budget agreement between the administration and the congressional budget negotiators provided \$700 million over 5 years for the Federal side of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That is the portion of the fund used for land acquisition by the Federal land management agencies. The administration wants \$315 million of that to buy Headwaters Forest and the New World Mine. This is not what LWCF was designed to do. The remaining \$385 million, according to the ad-

ministration, would be spent for Federal land purchases. That is hardly a State matching program. This means the stateside matching land and water conservation fund program would still remain unfunded.

So what would Americans get for their \$700 million? More Federal land acquisitions over the next 5 years chosen by politicians in Washington, DC, rather than the people. State and local recreation projects, the ones closest to the people, get nothing, and that is too bad because those are matching funds and we get twice the bang for the buck. We need to save the stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program and I have asked appropriators to provide some money to keep the matching grant program alive.

When Congress authorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund, it had two parts. One part dealt with Federal acquisitions. The other provided matching grants for State and local governments to purchase and develop parks and recreation facilities. The administration is trying to abolish the second half, and Congress should simply not let that happen. In fiscal years 1996 and 1997, Congress and the administration simply zeroed out those funds.

Mr. President, let me show you a couple of charts, and I will conclude my remarks. This chart shows the Land and Water Conservation Fund authorizations and appropriations. As one can see, the stateside LWCF appropriations in green have dramatically decreased. Of course, the authorizations have gone way up. What we have here is a dropoff from 1983 to 1995 down to 1996 where there is zero money provided for stateside LWCF matching grants. That is probably the greatest single significance of what the Federal role is. It is in matching, if you will, so that Federal appropriations can come on and the priorities can be addressed in an appropriate manner that represent the will and attitudes of States and local communities.

There is just one other chart that I want to show, and that is the receipts. Where does the money come from? It comes from a dedicated fund, the Outer Continental Shelf areas where revenues now exceed more than \$3 billion a year. There is very little from recreation fees. There is some from the motor fuel tax and surplus property sales. The funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund comes from offshore revenues, but the Appropriations Committee has seen fit to use those funds for other expenditures.

So, Mr. President, during Great Outdoors Week and every other week of the year, I ask that we all remember the value of outdoor recreation to Americans. We are blessed with a great natural bounty. It is our duty to conserve it. As a consequence, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the necessity of having a meaningful stateside Land and Water Conservation Fund program which would provide matching grants benefiting the States and allowing the priorities at hand to be met.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair and I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR THURMOND

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure I come to the floor today to speak about a distinguished colleague and dear personal friend, Senator STROM THURMOND. I, like so many American citizens, have admired the senior Senator from South Carolina for his outstanding service to the United States in this chamber, and for the life he has lived through military service in World War II to his years of teaching, coaching, and practicing law in the Palmetto State.

The accomplishments and achievements which have been a part of Senator THURMOND's life are truly outstanding. Accordingly, his reach across this country, particularly the Southeast, is remarkable. One can go to the Georgia/South Carolina border, traveling along Interstate 20 to Florence, SC, and be driving on the Strom Thurmond Highway. Or one can take a stroll through the U.S. Capitol and walk into the beautiful Strom Thurmond room, so designated in 1991. These are just two of the many facilities named for the distinguished Senator because of his courage and patriotism. He has set a fine example for all Americans—from the students he taught from 1923–28 in Edgefield, McCormick, and Ridge Spring, SC, to the pages, interns, and staffers to whom he has been so gracious, friendly, and helpful since his arrival in the Senate in 1954.

Senator THURMOND has served diligently on the Armed Services, Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs Committees. He has not only been a champion for his State, supporting such vital missions as those performed at the Savannah River site, but also a leader on security issues for our Nation as a whole. There is no question that his knowledge, understanding, and expertise in military affairs and foreign policy has strengthened our national security and helped to maintain the status of the United States as the world's preeminent military and economic power.

As a soldier, the Senator's record was no less impressive. In World War II, Senator THURMOND volunteered for active service on the day we declared war and flew his glider behind enemy lines during the D-day invasion with the 82d Airborne Division.

Following these heroics, he was awarded 18 decorations, including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star for Valor, and the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster. His military service continued as he was promoted to major general in the U.S. Army Reserve in 1959. This is where he continued to serve in distinguished fashion for the next 36 years.

With the rest of his military and political career well documented and chronicled on the floor by my colleagues, I would just like to close now

by saying thank you to Senator THURMOND, as a citizen of the United States of America and as a colleague in the Senate. I am honored that I can say I served with you and called you my friend. Moreover, I know that many Americans will join me in commemorating the enduring record you have set and legacy you will leave for future generations.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 9, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,348,703,813,773.07. (Five trillion, three hundred forty-eight billion, seven hundred three million, eight hundred thirteen thousand, seven hundred seventy-three dollars and seven cents)

Five years ago, June 9, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$3,940,424,000,000. (Three trillion, nine hundred forty billion, four hundred twenty-four million)

Ten years ago, June 9, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,296,260,000,000. (Two trillion, two hundred ninety-six billion, two hundred sixty million)

Fifteen years ago, June 9, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,072,647,000,000. (One trillion, seventy-two billion, six hundred forty-seven million)

Twenty-five years ago, June 9, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$428,210,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-eight billion, two hundred ten million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,920,493,813,733.07 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty billion, four hundred ninety-three million, eight hundred thirteen thousand, seven hundred thirty-three dollars and seven cents) during the past 25 years.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to have 5 minutes as if in morning business and to extend the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OPPOSITION TO POSSIBLE NOMINATION OF JOHN HAMRE TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on May 27 I sent a letter to President Clinton.

In it, I expressed opposition to the possible nomination of Mr. John J. Hamre to fill the No. 2 spot at the Pentagon.

He would be the Deputy Secretary of defense, and it's a big job.

I told the President why I would oppose this nomination—if it's ever made, and I'll give my reasons in just a moment.

But 2 days after writing this letter, the Washington Post ran a story about my opposition to the nomination.

Mr. Hamre was also interviewed.

He attempted to respond to my criticism.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter and the newspaper article be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to address some of Mr. Hamre's assertions.

First, Mr. Hamre's remarks imply that my criticism is somehow personal. Nothing could be further from the truth. He is a very likeable person.

But my personal feelings have absolutely nothing to do with my position on his nomination.

What I have tried to do is examine all the facts and then reach a conclusion based on those facts.

These are the facts as I know them.

In 1992, the inspector general [IG] examined the Department of Defense's [DOD] progress payment procedures.

The IG along with legal counsel declared that these policies "resulted in the rendering of false accounts and violations of the law."

The IG told the Department to get on the stick and fix the problem.

The bureaucrats balked.

Under pressure, they finally signed an agreement in March 1993.

In signing this document, they agreed to comply with the law.

One of the persons who signed this agreement was Mr. Alvin Tucker.

Well, 7 months after Mr. Tucker signed the agreement, Mr. Hamre became Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer or CFO.

Well, guess what?

Mr. Tucker became Mr. Hamre's most senior deputy. He became the Deputy CFO.

Mr. President, after becoming CFO, Mr. Hamre did nothing to meet the terms of the agreement and comply with the law.

Instead, he sided with the bureaucrats who were thumbing their noses at the law.

He gave them the green light to keep breaking the law.

He personally reauthorized their illegal operation.

Then, early this year he floated a legislative proposal.

His draft language would have sanctioned the procedure that the IG had declared illegal and that he, Mr. Hamre, had personally authorized.

Mr. President, those are the facts.

In my opinion, Mr. Hamre was attempting to legalize a crime.

Mr. Hamre knew full well his progress scheme was operating outside the law.

Otherwise, why would he feel like he needed some legal cover?

Second, he accuses me of making a mountain out of a molehill.

He claims I am focusing on a "small policy" issue.

I take issue with the notion that this is somehow an insignificant issue.

The statute that Mr. Hamre's progress payment scheme violates is section 1301 of title 31 of the United States Code.

This law embodies a sacred constitutional principle: Only Congress has the power to decide how public money may be spent.

This is the device that Congress uses to control the purse strings.

So, Mr. President, this isn't Mickey Mouse stuff. I'm talking about a constitutional principle.

When a constitutional principle is involved, it's very difficult for me to see the smallness of an issue.

Third, Mr. Hamre claims this is an acquisition issue—not a finance and accounting question.

This is an obvious attempt to deflect responsibility—away from himself.

It's an attempt to make it someone else's problem.

His reasoning is flawed.

If Mr. Hamre thinks this is an acquisition issue, maybe he has abdicated his responsibilities under the law—as CFO.

The CFO's responsibilities are spelled out in the "Money and Finance" section of the United States Code. That's in title 31.

His payment scheme violates section 1301 in the same book—title 31.

It does it by deliberately charging payments to the wrong accounts and then juggling the books to cover it up.

Anyone who thinks this is an acquisition issue needs to consult the law books.

When you go to the law library and locate title 31 and open the book, the subtitle staring you in the face is: "Money and Finance."

Section 1301 lies in a chapter entitled "Appropriations."

Mr. President, misappropriation, mischarging and cooking the books takes Mr. Hamre deep into the realm of money and accounting.

If this is just an acquisition issue, I'll eat my hat.

Fourth, when Mr. Hamre became CFO in October 1993, he declared war on financial mismanagement.

To claim success today, he cites "steep drops in contract overpayments."

Mr. Hamre's claims are not supported by the facts.

The General Accounting Office [GAO] has issued a series of reports on DOD overpayments.

These reports demolish Mr. Hamre's success stories.

The most recent report says Mr. Hamre's progress payments scheme is the biggest, single driver behind overpayments. He's to blame.

That's right, Mr. President, Mr. Hamre's own operations are causing overpayments to happen.

That's exactly what it says on page 12 of the GAO report entitled: "Fixing DOD's Payment Problems is Imperative."

This report is dated April 1997 and has the designation NSIAD-97-37.

GAO reports also say that DOD has no capability to detect overpayments.

Virtually every overpayment ever examined by the GAO was detected by