

like arthritis, rheumatism, but it attacks every system of the body.

I urge all of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join with me in cosponsoring H.R. 1111.

COMMENTS BY VICE PRESIDENT GORE REGARDING SOLUTION FOR GLOBAL WARMING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express outrage at the recent comments made by Vice President AL GORE to the effect that abortion is the solution for global warming.

I would like to enter into the RECORD a letter many of us in Congress will be sending him today. Let me read a portion of it.

Mr. Gore, as the father of four children, surely you see the value of your own children to our society. Since we are sure you do not regard your own children as a threat to our environment, it is difficult to understand why you would regard a large African, Asian, or Latin American family as an environmental threat.

Your statements contain a crucial fallacy of logic; namely, that human life is incompatible with sound environmental policy. We believe it is practically and morally essential that these two goals be pursued together. A pristine environment will be of no use to the millions of children who would be sacrificed to the policies you endorse.

You accused those who oppose abortion as part of U.S.-funded population control programs of creating controversy needlessly. Let us be clear; it is not our reaffirmation of human dignity that ought to be controversial but, rather, the violence and degradation inflicted upon women and children through these programs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Members of the House to seek environmental health for our world without endangering the lives of defenseless children.

The letter referred to follows:

Hon. ALBERT GORE,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR VICE PRESIDENT GORE: We write to express our concern over the comments you made to TV weather forecasters on climate control at the White House on October 1, 1997. Your conviction that abortion programs in developing countries are crucial to saving the environment is directly at odds with the American commitment to protecting human life.

Mr. Gore, as the father of four children, surely you see the value of your own children to our society. Since we are sure you do not regard your own children as a threat to our environment, it is difficult to understand why you would regard a large African, Asian, or Latin American family as an environmental threat.

Your statements contain a crucial fallacy of logic, namely that human life is incompatible with sound environmental policy. We believe it is practically and morally essential that these two goals be pursued together. A pristine environment will be of no use to the millions of children who would be sacrificed to the policies you endorse.

You accused those who oppose abortion as part of U.S.-funded population control programs of creating "controversy" needlessly.

Let us be clear: it is not our reaffirmation of human dignity that ought to be controversial, but rather the violence and degradation inflicted upon women and children through these programs.

Mr. Vice President, we urge you to seek environmental health for our world without endangering the lives of defenseless children. I hope that you and others in the Administration will bear in mind that when it comes to solving the problems of our planet, human beings are our first natural resource.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION CUT AT DYESS AFB, TEXAS

(Mr. STENHOLM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President used his new-found line item veto authority to cut a number of congressionally and Defense Department approved military construction projects at military installations around the United States.

Among those projects eliminated was a squadron operations facility at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, TX. With one stroke of his pen, he has eliminated the means of building a facility needed to serve the 500 to 1,000 men and women who will make up the 13th Bomber Squadron in the year 2000.

One of the reasons given for vetoing this project is that it did not meet the so-called quality of life requirement for funding military construction projects. I do not know what the President's definition of quality of life is, but I do know that there are currently no existing facilities to house the 13th Bomber Squadron.

Without this facility, the 500 to 1,000 men and women of the 13th Bomber Squadron will be denied the tools they need to do their job. How will this add to their quality of life or their ability to discharge their duties?

This is a programmed project. The appropriate committees of the House and Senate saw the value of this project and funded it for the good of the Air Force and our national security.

Mr. President, you were wrong to veto this project.

ERRONEOUS INFORMATION CAUSES BAD DECISIONS

(Mr. SKEEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, imagine working where buildings do not meet current safety regulations, the heating and cooling systems do not work, the septic tanks are failing, facilities are crumbling, adequate fire detection and suppression systems do not exist, and in one instance a building is a breeding ground for the hantavirus due to rat infestation.

What am I describing? The White House? No. It is difficult to imagine, but these working conditions do exist

for approximately 200 men and women who work at the military launch complexes in southern New Mexico. These are people who are protecting our national interest by testing vital national defense systems, such as the Patriot Missile, one of the most widely recognized and successful systems.

Yesterday, by saying "no" to improving working conditions, when the President vetoed portions of the military construction legislation, he said "no" to the women and men by denying them the opportunity to perform their duties in the safest facilities possible.

I am introducing legislation today that will restore funding for this and other meritorious projects. The President's decision was misguided. This is not about deficit reduction. This is about the President taking the "Washington knows best" approach and ignoring the judgment of individuals who are closest to the problems.

AL GORE'S STATEMENTS MADE AT WEATHER FORECASTERS' MEETING

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I too rise today to take exception to the statements made by Vice President AL GORE last Wednesday in a meeting of the weather forecasters.

In this speech, Vice President GORE claimed that overpopulation was a major cause of worldwide environmental problems and global warming. But what was indefensible were the solutions which he offered for the still disputed problem of global warming.

The Vice President praised President Clinton for the repeal of the Mexico City policy, which permitted hundreds of millions of tax dollars to flow to organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in Third World countries.

According to the Washington Times, Mr. GORE also stated that industrialized nations have stabilized their populations through birth control, abortion, and a reduction in child mortality rates but that world population would grow if developing nations are not targeted now.

Has the Vice President's environmental extremism gone so far that he now advocates the worldwide killing of innocent babies as the solution to the still unproven problem of global warming?

TODAY IS GREAT DAY FOR CONGRESS

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for the Congress. It shows that the system does work.