

COMMENTS OF CONGRESSMAN LES AuCOIN
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE
PORTLAND, OREGON
OCTOBER 29, 1982

I WANT TO SAY TO THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE THAT I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SPEND THIS LUNCH PERIOD WITH YOU. I HAVE RESPECTED YOUR ORGANIZATION AS I HAVE WATCHED IT OVER THE YEARS, AND TO BE ABLE TO JOIN WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON TO GIVE A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR AND EXPECT TO SEE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS OR MORE IS A GREAT PRIV-ILIGE. IT IS A PRIV-ILEGE BECAUSE I THINK THAT OF ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT CARE ABOUT PUBLIC RESOURCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES YOUR ORGANIZATION IS ONE OF THE LEADERS, IF NOT RIGHT AT THE VERY VANGUARD OF THIS CONCERN. THE POLICIES BOOKLET YOU PUT OUT IS OUTSTANDING. AFTER LOOKING THROUGH IT AND IN LOOKING THROUGH THE RESOLUTIONS THAT CAME OUT OF YOUR JULY CONVENTION, I WANT TO SAY THAT IT IS PROOF AGAIN THAT AMONG THOSE ORGANIZATIONS WHO CARE, THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE IS A LEADER.

ROD MENTIONED THAT I SERVE ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND I GUESS I WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS MY REMARKS TODAY ON THAT BATTLE. THE BATTLE OF DOLLARS AND CENTS AND HOW THAT'S GOING TO PLAY OUT IN TERMS OF NATURAL RESOURCE POLITICS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, FOUR YEARS, SIX YEARS, EIGHT YEARS, PERHAPS FOR THIS NEXT DECADE. DOLLARS AND CENTS ARE REALLY THE POLITICAL BATTLE FROM THIS POINT FORWARD IN WASHINGTON, WHATEVER THE SUBJECT MAY BE. BUT I THINK THERE ARE SOME PARTICULAR ISSUES WITH REGARD TO NATURAL RESOURCES THAT I MUST INV-ITE THE ATTENTION OF THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE TO. THIS IS THE LAST SPEECH I'LL BE MAKING ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL THIS YEAR. I DON'T INTEND TO MAKE IT A CAMPAIGN SPEECH, BUT RATHER A SPEECH OF CONCERN FOR SEVERAL REASONS.

I BELIEVE THAT A BUDGET IS FUNDAMENTALLY A DOLLARS AND CENTS STATEMENT OF NATIONAL VALUES. IT'S NOT JUST A LEDGER, A BUNCH OF NUMBERS THAT ADD UP TO SOME GRAND TOTAL DOWN AT THE END. IT IS THAT, BUT IT'S MORE THAN THAT. ITS A NATIONAL STATEMENT OF VALUES. BECAUSE WHERE YOU PUT MONEY AND WHERE YOU TAKE IT AWAY TELLS WHAT YOUR VALUES ARE AS A COUNTRY, OR AS A PEOPLE. IF YOU SHARE THAT VIEW, THEN WHAT SEEMS TO BE IN STORE ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES FRONT IN OUR BUDGET, THE BUDGET POLICIES BEING CALLED FOR, SHOULD ALARM EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. I THINK THEY ARE OUT OF SYNCH WITH WHAT MOST OREGONIANS FEEL SHOULD BE OUR VALUES AND SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES IN THIS COUNTRY.

I AM VERY CONCERNED, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH THE IDEA OF PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC LANDS. SERVING ON THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, I HAVE HAD THE FASCINATING EXPERIENCE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS OF WATCHING THE BUDGET PROPOSALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND PARTICULARLY THE POLICIES PROPOSED BY THE NEW INTERIOR SECRETARY, MR WATT. IN DOING SO I HAVE WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PECULIAR IDEA THAT IN ORDER TO PLUG UP A DEFICIT THAT IS PROJECTED TO BE ABOUT \$700 BILLION OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS IT MAKES SENSE TO SELL OFF PUBLIC LANDS, 35 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS.

TO WATCH THIS PECULIAR IDEA TAKE ROOT IN POLICY, TAKE SHAPE IN POLICY, AND BE ON THE VERGE OF BEING ENACTED IS A FASCINATING THING TO ME BECAUSE I NEVER WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT ANY ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN, WOULD DARE FOR A MOMENT TO SUGGEST SUCH A THING.

IT'S A LOT LIKE THE FARMER WHO HAD OPERATING LOSSES IN HIS FARM OPERATION, AND TO COVER THOSE LOSSES HE SOLD OFF THE SOUTH FORTY ONE FARM YEAR. THEN HE RAN MORE OPERATING LOSSES AND DECIDED TO SELL OFF THE NORTH FORTY. THEN HE RAN MORE OPERATING LOSSES AND SOLD OFF THE REMAINING FORTY. PRETTY SOON, IF YOU FOLLOW THAT COURSE AND SELL OFF YOUR LAND ASSETS TO PROTECT DEFICITS, YOU FIND OUT THAT THE FARMER WHO DOES THAT IS NO FARMER ANY MORE. HE IS GOING TO BE SOMEWHERE DOWNTOWN, PROBABLY COMPLETELY BROKE, AND HE ISN'T IN THE ENDEAVOR THAT HE SET OUT TO BE IN.

THE SAME THING IS TRUE, I THINK, AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL. FOR US TO SELL OFF 35 MILLION ACRES, TO TRY TO GET \$17 BILLION, IS THE LAST WAY WE OUGHT TO BE TRYING TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT.

PUBLIC LANDS ARE PUBLIC TRUST. THEY ARE THE BASIC SOURCE OF WEALTH AND RECREATION AND THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY AND THEY OUGHT NOT TO BE PRIVATIZED. THEY OUGHT NOT TO BE GIVEN TO REAL ESTATE BROKERS TO SELL TO THE PRIVATE INTERESTS. THEY OUGHT TO BE HUSBANDED, THEY OUGHT TO BE MANAGED FOR THE RECREATAIONAL, FISHING, HUNTING AND ALL THE OTHER USES THAT THE PUBLIC DESERVES TO HAVE THEM USED FOR.

35 MILLION ACRES IS THE EQUIVALENT, IN GEOGRAPHY, OF THE SIZE OF THE STATES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, VERMONT, MASSACHUSSETS AND MAINE COMBINED. TO SELL OFF THAT MUCH OF OUR PUBLIC RESOURCE, OUR PUBLIC TREASURY, TO GET \$17 BILLION TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT IS THE LAST POSSIBLE WAY WE OUGHT TO BE DOING IT.

I THINK WE OUGHT TO BE FIXNG THE ECONOMIC PLAN THAT CAUSED THE \$700 BILLION DEFICIT INSTEAD. WHAT THAT TAKES IS THE ELIMINATION OF A FEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS THAT ARE BEYOND WHAT'S NECESSARY TO DEFEND THIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS. WHAT THAT TAKES IS HOLDING THE LINE ON THE

SPENDING FOR OTHER SOCIAL PROGRAMS. AND WHAT THAT TAKES, ALSO, IS A RE-LOOK, A NEW LOOK AT THE 1981 TAX BILL WHICH I THINK WAS EXCESSIVE, AND, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE REST OF THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE, RAN UP A DEFICIT THAT WILL REACH \$700 BILLION.

WHERE YOU PUT MONEY AND WHERE YOU TAKE IT AWAY DOES TELL YOU WHAT WE THINK IS VALUABLE, WHAT IS IMPORTANT. I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I THINK THIS BATTLE WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE/PUBLIC LANDS BATTLE OF THE NEXT CONGRESS. I AM COMMITTED TO ALLOWING THIS GOVERNMENT TO SELL OFF A SURPLUS BUILDING HERE OR THERE, OR OTHER HOLDINGS THAT WE MAY HAVE, BUT NOT OUR NATIONAL FOREST LANDS, NOT OUR WILDLIFE REFUGES, NOT THE 35 MILLION ACRES THAT I'VE JUST DESCRIBED.

I'M REMINDED OF A SPEECH THAT SECRETARY WATT MADE IN JUNE OF 1981. HE SAID IN HIS SPEECH AT THAT TIME, TO A CONVENTION OF NATIONAL PARK CONCESSIONAIRES, AND THIS IS ALMOST AN EXACT QUOTE, THAT "YOU GOTTA UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS USE THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUDGET PROCESS AS AN EXCUSE TO MAKE A VERY PROFOUND, IF NOT RADICAL CHANGE, IN THE POLICY OF THIS GOVERNMENT." WHAT HE MEANT, OF COURSE, IS THAT IN THE NAME OF BUDGET CUTS OR WHATEVER ELSE, THERE'S A POLICY ASPECT THAT MAY NOT GET THE ATTENTION, BUT IS THE REAL MOTIVE. I THINK THAT THE PRIVATIZATION PLAN OR THE IDEA OF TURNING FEDERAL LANDS TO THE STATES IN THE NAME OF THE SAGEBRUSH REBELLION ARE PROOF THAT WHEN WATT SAID THAT THE BUDGET PROCESS WAS GOING TO BE AN EXCUSE TO DO THAT, HE MEANT IT. AND HES HELD OUT TO ACCOMPLISH IT.

I THINK WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS SEND PEOPLE TO CONGRESS, OF GOOD FAITH, FROM BOTH POLITICAL PARTIES. PEOPLE WHO ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE OF THE AISLE REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT; WHO ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE OF THE AISLE REPRESENT THE SPIRIT OF THE MODERATE MIDDLE, AND WHO WILL STAND UP AND SAY THAT THESE POLICIES ARE EXTREMEIST POLICIES -- THEY MUST BE STOPPED. WE NEED A BIPARTISAN MAJORITY TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE.

THAT IS THE FIGHT THAT I'LL BE FIGHTING, HAVE BEEN FIGHTING, WILL BE CONTINUE TO BE FIGHTING ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

LET ME GIVE YOU ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT WE'RE FACED WITH ON THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TODAY. IN THIS CASE, THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE BUDGET, WHICH IS ALSO UNDER MY JURISDICTION. WE'RE LOOKING AT A VERY RADICAL BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE FOREST SERVICE FOR THIS COMING FISCAL YEAR, A PROPOSAL WHICH WILL BE VOTED ON ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE THE LAME DUCK SESSION BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 29. FOR THE FOREST SERVICE, IT REPRESENTS A VERY LARGE DEPARTURE FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN IN YEARS PAST. TIMBER SALES LEVELS ARE GOING TO BE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH IN THAT PARTICULAR BUDGET ACCOUNT IN THE FOREST SERVICE, SOMETHING LIKE 80 PERCENT OF THE RPA. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE FUNDS TO BRING TIMBER SALES LEVELS TO THAT HEIGHT, THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET HAVE LOOKED FOR OTHER ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE FOREST SERVICE BUDGET TO CANNIBALIZE. ONE PLACE THEY HAVE LOOKED IS THE ACCOUNT WITHIN THE FOREST SERVICE BUDGET FOR SOILS AND WATER. THE SOILS AND WATER ACCOUNT DEALS WITH THE FUTURE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE SOILS THAT SUSTAIN THE NATIONAL FORESTS. THIS BUDGET HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY CLOBBERED

DOWN TO SOMETHING LIKE 20 PERCENT OF THE RESOURCE PLANNINGS ACTS' OPTIMUM OBJECTIVE. TWENTY PERCENT, AND THE BUDGET SAVINGS HAVE GONE INTO THE TIMBER SALES LEVEL, DRIVING NEW ROADS INTO ROADLESS AREAS. ANOTHER BUDGET AREA THAT HAS BEEN DECIMATED IS FOREST SERVICE RESEARCH. AND AGAIN, IN THE BUDGET NOTES THAT EXPLAIN THE REASONS WHY SOME ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN CUT AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN INCREASED, THE OMB STATED THAT IS WAS NECESSARY TO TRANSFER THESE FUNDS TO TIMBER SALES LEVELS.

WELL, ANYONE IN OREGON KNOWS THAT TIMBER SALES LEVELS ARE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT -- WE HAVE A TIMBER BASED ECONOMY. BUT THE THING I OBJECT TO, AS A MEMBER OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IS TO SEE THIS LOSS OF BALANCE BETWEEN THE VARIETY OF THINGS WE'VE GOT TO CONSIDER IN MANAGING OUR LANDS WISELY. AT A TIME OF A SLUMPING HOUSING MARKET, AT A TIME WHEN ALMOST EVERY OBSERVER IS SAYING THAT HOUSING IS NOT GOING TO BE COMING BACK IN THE NEAR-TERM IN THE WAY THAT WE'VE KNOWN IT IN THE BOOMS OF THE LAST COUPLE OF DECADES, TO SEE TIMBER SALES LEVELS HIKED UP THAT HIGH BY THE CANNIBALIZATION OF THESE LONG-TERM ACCOUNTS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE FORESTS AND THE LONG TERM VIABILITY OF THE RECREATIONAL AND SPORTS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE FOREST, IS AN INCREDIBLE TRADE OFF AND ONE THAT ILLUSTRATES THE PROBLEM OF LACK OF BALANCE IN THE BUDGET

THERE ARE TWO BUDGETS, TWO CONSIDERATIONS IN BALANCING THE BUDGET. FIRST, A BUDGET HAS TO BE BALANCED ON THE BASIS OF HOW MUCH IS SPENT. BUT THE OTHER PART OF THE CONSIDERATION, IN MY JUDGMENT, IS A BUDGET BALANCED IN WHERE THE MONEY GETS SPENT. AND IT SEEMS TO ME THERE IS NO GREATER EXAMPLE THAN THE FOREST SERVICE BUDGET SUBMISSION, OR THE PROPOSAL FOR THE PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC LANDS,

TO SHOW THAT WE HAVE TWO UNBALANCED BUDGETS, OR THAT THE BUDGET IS UNBALANCED IN TWO WAYS. BOTH IN THE OBVIOUS WAY, AND IN THE QUESTION OF PRIORITIES. SO MY FIGHT, FOR THIS DISTRICT, WHICH IS TIMBER-BASED BUT HAS AN ADDED CONSITUENCY FOR THE RECREATIONAL ASPECTS OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS, HAS BEEN TO TRY TO SEEK BALANCE BOTH FROM THE PRIORITY SIDE AS WELL AS FROM THE FISCAL SIDE.

THESE ARE OVERVIEW REMARKS THAT I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU BEFORE TAKING YOUR QUESTIONS BECAUSE I REALLY DO BELIEVE THAT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, IN THE NEXT CONGRESS, THIS BATTLE IS GOING TO BE A FEROCIOUS ONE, PARTICULARLY PRIVATIZATION. AND I KNOW THAT THE IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE NATIONALLY HAS BEEN VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IT. I LOOK TO YOUR LEADERSHIP HERE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP HERE, AS WELL AS IN WASHINGTON TO TRY TO NETWORK AND TO TEAMWORK IN ORDER TO FIGHT FOR THE KIND OF BALANCE I THINK WE NEED TO SEE IN THIS BUDGET.

ROD, WITH THAT I'D BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS TO YOUR MEMBERS, AND REPEAT HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE WITH YOU HERE TODAY.