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I. PRIORITIES: PRODUCTION OR PRESERVATION?

FICTION: The charge has been made that Secretary Watt places a much higher priority on development and exploitation than on conservation and protection.

FACT: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, mandates that the Secretary of the Interior manage America's national lands.

Title I, Section 102(a)(8), of the Act states,

"..the public lands (shall) be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use;"

Title I, Section 102(a)(12), states,

"..the public lands (shall) be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 as it pertains to the public lands;"

In addition, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as amended, in Section 5(a), mandates that,

"..the Secretary of the Interior shall administer the provisions of this Act relating to the leasing of the outer continental shelf, and shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out such provisions."

Section 18(a) provides that,

"..The Secretary...shall prepare and periodically revise, and maintain an oil and gas leasing program to implement the policies of this Act. The leasing program shall consist of a schedule of proposed lease sales indicating, as precisely as possible, the size, timing, and location of leasing activity which he determines will best meet national energy needs..."

This law also provides mandatory balance between production and protection as it states in Section 18(a)(3),

"The Secretary shall select the timing and location of leasing, to the maximum extent practicable, so as to obtain a proper balance between the potential for adverse damage, the potential for discovery of oil and gas, and the potential for adverse impact on the coastal zone."

Secretary Watt realizes, and has testified before the Congress . the laws and public policies of the United States require he give equal priority to being both the "steward and protector of our public lands" and the overseer of development of our natural resources.

As Secretary Watt testified before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee February 5, 1981, FLPMA and other laws call upon him to be the "nation's chief environmental and conservation officer" and also to be in charge of bringing about opportunities "for development of America's resource base."

Neither responsibility--protector or developer--is given a higher priority than the other. Secretary Watt believes the United States must have simultaneous development of domestic resources with strictly guarded environmental protection and he has directed his policies accordingly.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW: ENFORCEMENT OR ELIMINATION?

FICTION: Some claim Secretary Watt plans to overturn laws that protect the environment.

FACT: Secretary Watt has testified before the Congress and has outlined within public speeches that he supports present environmental protection laws and that the Department of the Interior has not proposed--nor does it plan to propose--any overhaul of environmental laws under which the department operates. In addition, Secretary Watt is reorganizing and streamlining Interior Department programs in order that they "do a...better job of protecting (the) environment and do it more economically."

Under Secretary Watt's direction, the Interior Department is fully implementing environmental laws according to Congressional intent. For example, his reorganization of programs to implement the Surface Mining Act of 1977 will increase assistance, advice and review of State efforts to assure the environmental protection standards of the 1977 Act are met.

In enforcing environmental protection statutes, Secretary Watt is not only improving the Interior Department's oversight and enforcement of these laws, but he has called upon State officials, special interest groups and industry to help identify unnecessary bureaucratic red tape which delays environmental protection programs.

Secretary Watt has also warned that the Department of the Interior will not permit industry to despoil the land and pollute the environment. He has stated he considers it industry's responsibility to not only follow the rules on environmental protection, but to constantly search for new and better ways to protect the environment.

Secretary Watt has stated that he is basically a "conservative" and as a "conservative", he is dedicated to the "conservation" of America's natural beauty and resources.

III. CALIFORNIA OCS LEASE SALE #53

FICTION: Some say Secretary Watt has decided to hold OCS Lease Sale #53 off California's northern coast.

FACT: On August 7, 1981, Secretary Watt announced he will not make a recommendation to the President with respect to oil and gas leasing exploration in four areas off the coast of Northern California, a decision which will withdraw the Eel River, Point Arena, Bodega and Santa Cruz Basins from Outer Continental Shelf Sale 53.

In making his announcement, Secretary Watt stated the California court decision blocking the sale of 31 tracts in the Santa Maria Basin "poses a clear threat to any decision" which the Interior Department could have made "with respect to leasing in the four other Basins. Lawsuits on these tracts," which the Secretary had been advised were almost certain, "would almost assuredly go to the same Court and judge who decided against" the Interior Department's "position on the 31 tracts."

Secretary Watt also stated, "there needs to be a decision on the legal status in California with respect to whether the lease sale itself directly affects the coastal zone and thus requires that the Department make a determination of consistency with California's Coastal Zone Management program. Until that decision, proceeding with a lease sale would only subject the government to unrealistically low bids and to the prospect of long and expensive Court battles." The cost to the American taxpayers--both in terms of legal procedures and in terms of low bids for the tracts involved--would be enormous.

The Secretary explained that "the due process" for a decision to lease in the four Northern Basins would have been to start a recommendation through the Cabinet Council on Natural Resources and the Environment and on to the President. Secretary Watt added the leasing will be halted simply by not making a recommendation to the Council of which he is Chairman.

IV. SECRETARY WATT AND THE OUTDOORS.

FICTION: Some say Secretary Watt doesn't like the outdoors-- that he "doesn't like to paddle (a boat) or walk."

FACT: Secretary Watt enjoys the outdoors immensely. On March 9, 1981, after giving a speech before the National Park Concessioners, Secretary Watt was asked about rumors that the Interior Department was going to forbid horses in parks and motors on rafts. In a humorous attempt to assure the questioner that horses and small boat motors would continue to be allowed, Secretary Watt "frolickingly" responded that he "does not like to paddle and doesn't like to walk".

Critics took the quote out of context, distorted it, and have circulated press reports that Secretary Watt does not like the outdoors, while nothing could be further from the truth.

The Secretary developed an early appreciation for the great outdoors. He was born, raised, and educated on the plain of Wyoming at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. He has seen the West not simply through the eyes of the summer traveler but as a native, fighting the cold, biting wind, the grinding dust, and the blinding blizzards. He has learned the values of water and land. He knows the grandeur and beauty of open space and mountains. He has also chosen to live in his native West--with its harsh but fragile ways of nature and land--and here, to raise his family.

Throughout the years, Secretary Watt has experienced numerous fulfilling outdoor experiences with his family. With his family or with friends, he has fished for bass in Louisiana, salmon off the coast of the Pacific Northwest, flounder in the Chesapeake, marlin in the seas off American Samoa, and bottom fish in the Red Sea.

With his son, Secretary Watt has lifted his family canoe onto the Watt family station wagon on many weekends so they could paddle through the back waters of the Chesapeake and the waters of Colorado. He has enjoyed the Boundary Water Canoe Area and Lake Powell, snorkeling

off the Florida Keys, and water skiing and sailing on the man-made lakes of Colorado and Wyoming, floating the Snake and Platte in Wyoming, the Colorado in Arizona and the New River in West Virginia.

Secretary Watt has said that "recreation--to re-create one's soul--is not limited to the pursuit of wildlife nor does it require great skill". For example, he and his son were thrilled by their trail biking expeditions near the Canyonlands National Park. Their first night out in the early spring, they awakened to find 12 inches of snow covering their tents and motor bikes. Getting out of that area reminded Secretary Watt of their snowmobile trip in the Wind River mountains along the Continental Divide in Wyoming the year before. As they stood on their snowmobiles atop those mighty and majestic mountains, they could see how those very snow packs would melt and flow to the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California. The Secretary has described the beauty of this magnificent scenery as "captivating".

In addition, the Secretary has hiked the Appalachian Trail, bicycled across the State of Wyoming and through Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. He has walked through the parks of many cities and strolled in America's neighborhoods and walked the beaches as the tide rolled in and out.

He has always enjoyed these enriching and enjoyable outdoor experiences.

V. OIL AND GAS DRILLING, TIMBER HARVESTING AND HARDROCK MINING IN NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE REFUGES AND WILDERNESS AREAS.

FICTION: The charge has been made that Secretary Watt plans to ignore the law and allow oil and gas drilling and logging in national parks, wilderness areas and refuges.

FACT: Since his very first public appearance before a Congressional Committee (Nomination Hearing of James G. Watt to be Secretary of the Interior, January 7, 1981, before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources) Secretary Watt has continually stated he will not allow--nor does he plan to allow--hardrock mining, oil or gas exploring or development or logging to be permitted in any public lands--whether they be national parks, wilderness areas or refuges--where such activities are prohibited by law.

To the contrary, he has upheld the sanctity of public land areas from all improper activities. As he testified before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Subcommittee on Public Lands, May 14, 1981, under his leadership, the Department of the Interior "has never intended to change, nor (will the Department) ask Congress to change, the law in order to allow drilling for oil or gas, hardrock mining, or logging in the national parks". The Department will only be responsive to the specific activities which the Congress has defined within public laws as allowable within the public lands systems. For example, in enforcing the law, the Department will permit hunting and fishing only within the specific areas Congress has outlined such as in certain national parks.

Units of the National Wildlife Refuge System are closed to oil and gas leasing and exploration by regulation, except where it can be shown that the refuge lands are subject to drainage by operations on nearby lands. When this occurs, the law states affected lands in refuges can be leased upon approval of the Secretary. Alaska refuges, as established by the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act, may be opened to oil and gas exploration when such operations are found to be compatible with the purposes for which an area is established as included in the refuge management plan.

As provided by law, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is closed to oil and gas activity pending a study and further authorization by Congress. The Department is enforcing the law and not presently permitting oil and gas activity in the Arctic Refuge.

The leasing of other leasable minerals such as coal, potassium, and sodium is not prohibited within refuge areas by law or regulation. However, by regulation the Bureau of Land Management may not lease such minerals on refuges unless approved by the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service's policy is to not lease for other minerals since such operations might cause disturbance to a refuge. The Interior Department is not considering the leasing of any of these minerals in wildlife refuges because adequate deposits of commercial value are already under lease or are available for lease on other public lands where such activities are allowed by law and regulation.

All refuges are now closed to mining of hardrock minerals under the general mining laws. Four refuges, initially established as game ranges, are temporarily closed while the Department is considering closing them permanently.

Some mining and mineral exploration is being permitted where the United States does not own the mineral rights or where valid mining claims are outstanding.

VI. HIT LIST OF NATIONAL PARKS AND REFUGES

FICTION: Some have reported that Secretary Watt has compiled a "hit list" of national parks and refuges.

FACT: As Secretary Watt testified before the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, s.c. on Public Lands, May 14, there is not presently, nor has Secretary Watt instructed his Department to compile, for future use, a hit list of national parks or refuges. Contrastingly, Secretary Watt has been concerned over the deterioration of America's national parks. He successfully urged the Reagan Administration to request a 225% increase in park funds in order to improve the condition of our national parklands.

The Secretary has presented his public park policies within public speeches and before the press where he has outlined that he feels the United States "has allowed our national parks to deteriorate. Our parks have fallen into appalling condition largely because of the recent emphasis on parkland acquisition. Our government was so busy grabbing out for more and more land that it failed to take care of what it already had." Secretary Watt has directed that the Interior Department "repair, restore and provide better management for the parks the United States already has." At a press conference July 15, he stated he hopes the national economy and condition of our present parks improve so that in the not-too-distant future, the United States can resume acquisition of new park areas.

VII. STRATEGIC MINERALS

FICTION: The charge has been made that Secretary Watt has ordered the Interior Department to design its policies in order to help the U.S. minerals industry.

FACT: Secretary Watt has never nor would it be legal or proper for him to direct the Interior Department to issue policies for the sole purpose of financially assisting any specific industry or company.

Secretary Watt does share the concern of the United States Congress, particularly the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Mines and Mining, that earlier administrations have failed to implement public laws such as the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 and as a result, the United States is importing from foreign nations the most critical elements of our civilization, the universal building blocks of an industrialized economy--strategically important minerals. As Secretary Watt has testified before the House Interior Subcommittee on Mines and Mining, the United States is growing more and more dependent upon foreign sources for these minerals and materials that are vital to our nation's economy and security.

In their initial meeting, President Reagan and Secretary Watt discussed the need to develop a strategic minerals policy so that America would be ensured access to the minerals which are vital to our national security and quality of life. They agreed upon the goal of revitalizing America's strategic minerals security and to take steps to improve our precarious profile of strategic minerals shortages.

For example, the United States is presently dependent upon foreign sources for 100 percent of our manganese--which is instrumental in the production of steel. We are also dependent upon other nations for 100 percent of our cobalt--the critical hardener of steel. Experts agree that America's stockpile contains, for many materials and minerals, inadequate qualities and quantities.

Of the 62 basic materials stockpiled, only 21 meet national security quantity requirements. Among these 21 stockpiled materials, many are poor quality, making them unusable in the event of a minerals crisis.

In order to reverse America's precarious strategic minerals posture, Secretary Watt has ordered a review and examination of the sufficiency of America's strategic minerals stockpile. In following the President's orders, Secretary Watt is in the process of formulating and implementing an aggressive strategic minerals policy. He is leading the Department in fulfilling the mandates of the Congress by enacting the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 and the Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 which order the Executive branch to "encourage" development of America's domestic minerals.

Secretary Watt is enacting these laws by creating and implementing a national nonfuel minerals policy which not only involves having in place emergency plans with which to face a minerals crisis (such as war, market disruption, or price manipulation), but also encouraging America's minerals industry to greater develop domestic minerals which will, in turn, improve America's balance of trade, revitalize our economy, and provide national security.

VIII. WILD HORSES AND BURROS

FICTION: Press reports claim the Interior Department plans to needlessly slaughter 5,000 wild horses and burros.

FACT: Since the days of the U.S. calvary and independent gold and ore miners, stray horses and burros in the West have roamed and reproduced in Nevada, Arizona, California, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah.

The horses and burros have grown to overpopulations--presently numbering more than 70,000--which have destroyed public ranges, consumed the food supplies of other animals and destroyed natural wilderness lands and ecosystems.

The Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, Public Law 92-195, passed by Congress to address this problem, requires that excess wild horses and burros must be removed in order to "restore a thriving natural ecological balance to the range and protect the range from the deterioration associated with overpopulation". This law mandates the ranges and wilderness areas in the West must be protected from the overpopulation of wild horses and burros, and in order to protect the land from destruction, the federal government must take the following steps:

- Old, sick or lame animals must be "destroyed" in the most humane manner possible;
- Additional excess animals shall be captured and made available for private maintenance as long as an adoption demand by qualified individuals exists; and,
- Excess animals for which no adoption demand by qualified individuals exists are to be destroyed in the most humane and cost-effective manner possible.

In 1971, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began the "Adopt A Horse and Burro Program". To date, adopters have been paying a token fee of between \$0.00 to \$25.00 for a horse or burro picked up at a BLM corral in the West, and up to \$145 for a horse transported from Nevada to Tennessee for pick-up at

BLM's wild horse and burro adoption center in Cross Plains, one of four such centers across the country. The federal government has subsidized the adoption program, by absorbing approximately \$300 per animal to cover the cost of capturing and placing the animals with an adopter.

Since January, 1981, the Office of Management and Budget, the General Accounting Office, and the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee--including full committee Chairman Morris Udall (D-Arizona) and Subcommittee on Public Lands Chairman, John Sieberling (D-Ohio)--ordered the BLM to make the program cost-effective by increasing adoption fees. In implementing these instructions, the BLM has announced that beginning October 1, 1981, the fixed fee per horse will increase to \$200.00 and the fee per burro will increase to \$75.00.

The BLM has also announced that 44,000 wild horses and burros must be removed in order to stop the herds' destruction of western ranges and wilderness. The BLM will remove these 44,000 animals from the public rangelands and hopes all healthy animals can be adopted.

IX. ENDANGERED SPECIES

FICTION: Some groups allege that Secretary Watt has pushed for budget cuts as a backdoor means to eliminate the Endangered Species Program.

FACT: Secretary Watt has not planned excessive budget cuts as a means to eliminate the Endangered Species Program. In accordance with President Reagan's policy of slowing the growth in Federal spending, the budgets of practically all agencies have been cut, and the Endangered Species Program has been directed to share in the reduction. Secretary Watt has ordered the Department to continue to fully implement the Endangered Species Act, and he believes that preventing the extinction of our Endangered wildlife and plants is very important. The Interior Department will continue to fully and aggressively enforce the law to the best of its ability with the resources available.

The Endangered Species Act, passed by Congress in 1973, calls on all Federal Government agencies to help preserve endangered species of animals and plants. It is the special job of the Fish and Wildlife Service professionals to decide which species are truly endangered or threatened and to determine what kind of help they need to survive. With the cooperation of Federal, State and private groups, the Fish and Wildlife Service works to see that this assistance is provided.

One example of how the Interior Department's Endangered Species Program depends upon the judgement of Fish and Wildlife Service professionals is the recent lifting of the ban on kangaroo products.

On December 30, 1974, eastern gray, western gray and red kangaroos were listed as "Threatened Species". At that time, the United States imposed an import ban on kangaroos and their parts and products until the Australian States demonstrated they had "adequate management plans" for the kangaroos.

On various dates in 1979, the Australian States submitted management plans for the three kangaroos. Interior Department biologists examined the management plans and found that they were not sufficiently detailed to determine if such plans would adequately protect kangaroos.

In March, 1980, the Fish and Wildlife Service sent Dr. David R. Anderson of the Utah Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, to Australia to personally investigate the situation and report on the various Australian kangaroo management plans. On April 8, 1980, Dr. Anderson prepared a report to the Fish and Wildlife Service in which he stated his findings that the kangaroos in question were abundant, and the States' management plans were adequate. Consequently, on June 16, 1980, professionals of the Fish and Wildlife Service recommended removing the import ban.

The original comment period on the proposal closed July 16, 1980, but responding to public interest, the Fish and Wildlife Service reopened the comment period from September 16, 1980, to October 1, 1980, and held a public hearing in Washington, D.C., September 16, 1980.

The Fish and Wildlife Service decided the data received during the public comment period was not sufficient to warrant a change in the proposal and consequently, on April 29, 1981, the Service published a final rulemaking to permit the import of kangaroos and kangaroo products. The final rule became effective on May 29, 1981.

X. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

FICTION: Some claim Secretary Watt is out to sabotage the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process.

FACT: To the contrary, Secretary Watt has directed the Interior Department to improve the EIS process in order to make it more valuable, less costly, and a greater tool in making land use decisions.

As Secretary Watt testified on February 24, 1981, before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Energy and Water, "the environmental impact statements" (which were initiated to assist in the implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process) originally were "intended to help inform decision-makers about the environmental consequences of their actions". However, by the time Secretary Watt took office, the environmental impact statements had become "expensive shelf-fillers which were read by almost no one."

In testifying before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources January 7, 1981, Secretary Watt stated he believes decisions "ought to be made to quit wasting taxpayer dollars" with duplicative and unrelated research which delays the environmental protection process. Bureaucratic delays over past EIS procedures have failed to enhance environmental protection. In fact, Secretary Watt has stated the EIS processes, in the past, have "suffered from paralysis by analysis". This paralyzing, duplicative and extravagant expense of time and money needs to be streamlined and made more efficient and effective. Secretary Watt has ordered his department to carefully analyze the environmental impacts upon land areas, but to do so with improved, less expensive, more effective techniques. He has ordered his department to realign the EIS process and to make EIS findings integral considerations in policy decisions.

One example of how the Interior Department is following Secretary Watt's instructions to make the EIS process more valuable and less costly, is the Bureau of Land Management's proposed procedures for environmental statements on grazing impacts.

In July, 1981, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed to streamline costly and time-consuming procedures for writing environmental impact statements pertaining to livestock grazing on public rangelands. Under the revised, proposed system, the BLM will be able to make better use

of its available funds and personnel in the way it will change preparation of environmental impact statements. In order to identify a grazing allotment's production potential and current condition, the BLM would collect information about soils and resources from grazing allotments within each given EIS area. The BLM would then categorize, through the EIS process, the grazing allotments according to current use, production potential, condition, and the demands being made on resources. Lands having a high potential for improvement and increased productivity, or those with major conflicts over their use, would receive the greater share of the BLM's short-term management efforts.

The revised proposed program would also improve BLM procedures for managing livestock use of public lands. Although grazing use still could not be increased or decreased in a given EIS area until the impact statement has been completed, the BLM would base grazing use decisions on not only information used to prepare environmental impact statements, but also on other input. For example, the BLM would collect additional data on vegetation production for those allotments where forage conflicts exist. The BLM would constantly update this information through monitoring. In addition, the amount of data collected would depend on the complexity of demands on the resources.

The BLM proposed policy meets all amended grazing regulations which, for example, provide for a longer phase-in period for adjusting livestock use; the monitoring of the allotment to evaluate the need for additional adjustments and the effectiveness of other management efforts, such as the construction of range improvements; and increased consultation with affected parties.

XI. SECRETARY WATT'S FIVE-YEAR OFFSHORE
LEASING PROGRAM

FICTION: Some groups have alleged Secretary Watt's five-year offshore leasing program leases too much offshore area, ignores environmental laws and regulations, and usurps all powers of the coastal states.

FACT: None of these accusations are true.

Section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, as amended, requires the preparation, annual review, periodic revision, and maintenance of a 5-year oil and gas leasing program for the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. The Department of the Interior completed the required annual review of the June 1980 5-year program in February 1981 and determined that significant changes were needed. The Department basically believes the June 1980 schedule falls short of making a proper contribution to America's national energy effort. Much of America's untapped hydrocarbon resources are thought to lie offshore, particularly in frontier areas which have never been explored. To help reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and in order to help correct our precarious economic condition, the Department is trying to facilitate exploration and development by making high quality offshore acreage available early and frequently. This is the primary reason for the proposed changes to the existing 5-year program.

Secretary Watt's proposed 5-year program calls for a total of 42 sales. On a regional basis, 6 sales will be held in the Atlantic, 14 in the Gulf of Mexico, 5 off California, 16 off Alaska, and one reoffering sale.

Secretary Watt's proposed 5-year leasing schedule emphasizes the following principles:

- The proposed program provides for an equitable sharing of developmental benefits and environmental considerations among regions. All regions with oil and gas potential are being asked to contribute to energy supplies if they can be produced economically and operations can be carried out without undue environmental risk. The Interior Department is dedicated to continuing the excellent environmental record of OCS activities. Furthermore, the environmental risks from offshore oil and gas production are considerably lower than the risks from foreign tankers transporting imported oil, the alternative source of energy which domestic OCS production

displaces. Not only the regions where production occurs but the entire nation will benefit from production and refining operations. These benefits of offshore production will extend to the ultimate consumers of oil and gas as the entire nation's real income and national security are enhanced by increased domestic energy production;

• The Interior Department has taken into careful consideration the location of sale areas. The Department of Energy has advised the Interior Department that the location of supply regions and the lack of existing transportation facilities should not be viewed as constraints to the OCS leasing process. New transportation facilities will be built in response to the discovery of hydrocarbon reserves. For example, history has shown that once a significant discovery is made in an area without prior production, transportation networks will be designed to meet the requirements for expeditious production of the discovery; and,

• In constructing its 5-year leasing proposals, the Interior Department has considered the laws, goals, and policies of affected States, including coastal zone management programs of the states do not preclude the initiation of planning for sales within the proposed program. In every case, the Department is soliciting states' opinions and input and only after thorough consideration of states' comments will the Department decide whether sales should go forward or not, if certain tracts should be eliminated, or if special lease terms and conditions are required to provide extra protection to particular environmental values or resource uses.

This basic 5-year proposed offshore leasing program has been criticized by Reagan Administration opponents who claim the proposal offers too much area for lease, ignores environmental laws and regulations and usurps states' authorities. As evident by an examination of the proposal, these accusations are totally without evidence or support. First, while many of America's 875 million offshore acres will be available for lease, the Interior Department estimates that industry will not even be interested in nor offer bids on most of these acres. In the past, over any one-year period, the largest area for which bids have been made has been 1.7 million acres. While there will likely be increases in the acres leased in any one year, the total amount to be leased will be a very small portion of the 875 million acres included in the proposed program.

The second area of criticism deals with the implementation of environmental laws and regulations in areas where offshore oil and gas exploration and development will actually occur. In testifying before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Subcommittee on the

Panama Canal and the Outer Continental Shelf, and the House Government Operations Committee, Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, Secretary Watt stated he supports and will continue to direct the Interior Department to implement all environmental laws and regulations that protect the outer continental shelf. The Secretary also testified he does not favor nor does he plan to propose any major amendments to the body of law, which sets the standards and practices for managing the offshore oil and gas program.

In addition, the Secretary has spent much time and concentration on the question of leasing four northern California offshore basins, taking into account the views and comments of the Governor of California which express a variety of concerns. Secretary Watt is still reviewing this question and has made no recommendations on leasing the four northern basins.

A third and final area of criticism leveled against Interior's proposed 5-year offshore leasing program is that it usurps the authorities of the coastal states. Some claim that by offering area-wide leasing, the role of the coastal states will diminish. This is simply not true. The Interior Department will continue to implement all outer continental shelf policies and laws which require cooperation and communication with affected states and the Department will continue to implement all state advisory requirements contained within the OCS Lands Act, as amended. In addition, Secretary Watt does not plan any revision of Interior Department policies which call for extensive state input concerning offshore leasing proposals.

XII. OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING REORGANIZATION.

FICTION: Some are charging that Secretary Watt's reorganization of the Office of Surface Mining is actually an effort to sabotage enforcement of the Surface Mining Act.

FACT: Secretary Watt's reorganization of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) will, to the contrary, improve the implementation of the Surface Mining Act of 1977.

As Secretary Watt testified before the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment, he "fully supports the Act and its intentions". He "seek(s) no changes in the Act. The law, as Congress intended, and as upheld in the highest Court in the land, will be implemented and fully enforced...The Reagan Administration is committed to environmental protection".

In addition, Secretary Watt has testified before the Congress that the Reagan Administration is dedicated to enacting the pledge made by the Congress to coal-producing States--that they are to have the primary responsibility for enforcing surface mining environmental and reclamation standards. Secretary Watt is committed to ensuring that the new OSM structure will enhance the oversight role of the OSM in a manner consistent with the law and the standards outlined in considerable detail by Congress. Secretary Watt has stated, "in this way, America, its states and private interests can get on with the job of recovering coal in environmentally acceptable ways on an economically competitive basis".

In his reorganization of the OSM, Secretary Watt is making the agency more effective in protecting the environment as the States assume primary responsibility for regulating surface mining of coal, as provided in the Act. The Secretary has stated, "as the states move closer to achieving primary responsibility for enforcing the Act, the role of the OSM is shifting to one of assistance, advice and review of state efforts to assure that the environmental protection standards of the Act are met".

In the past, problems have arisen over the way the OSM implemented the Act through regulations. The office's approach was constantly one of strict, inflexible interpretation. This implementation strategy so enraged State officials that outright confrontation was common.

However, regardless of their disrespect for and difficulties with the OSM, the States have acted in good faith and have strengthened their inspection forces. As Federal inspection responsibility has shifted from direct enforcement under the interim program to State program oversight, it has made programmatic and economic sense to reduce the number of Federal inspectors. The previous administration cut the federal inspection workforce from a high of 222 to a finally proposed 97 in fiscal year 1981. President Reagan's revised budget calls for 69 inspectors in fiscal year 1982, a force fully adequate to oversee state programs.

The new organization will restore the states to their rightful roles, will bring about a more balanced perspective in accordance with the purposes of the law, and will accurately reflect how Congress envisioned the OSM to operate after the States take their statutory lead responsibilities. The new organizational structure will replace the presently cumbersome five-region setup with a flexible network of fourteen State liaison offices, mostly in the capitals of the major coal-producing States. This will provide closer working relationships with State counterpart offices and better environmental protection.

In addition, the reorganization will establish two Technical Centers--one in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to serve the east coast and a second in Casper, Wyoming to serve the west--in order to provide a full range of technical assistance to the States. The reorganization will not only improve implementation of the Act, but will also save more than \$2 million in administrative costs alone.

Governor Ed Herschler has expressed his "wholehearted support" for Secretary Watt's plan to relocate Denver OSM personnel to Casper, Wyoming. Most importantly, the reorganization will redirect a greater role for the States in implementing the Surface Mining Act, as Congress intended.

XIII. AMERICA'S ENDORSEMENT OF SECRETARY WATT'S
BASIC POLICIES.

FICTION: Some claim Secretary Watt's policies are contrary to a majority of American opinion.

FACT: To the contrary, the June 29, 1981, edition of Newsweek Magazine contained a recent Gallup Poll that showed more than 70% of the American people endorsed Secretary Watt's basic policies and general philosophies.

More than 75% of the American people believe it is possible to maintain strong economic growth in the United States and still maintain high environmental standards--as does Secretary Watt.

More than 76% of the American people favor increasing oil exploration and other commercial uses of Federal lands--as does Secretary Watt.

More than 73% of the American people favor spending money to improve the condition of the national parks rather than expanding the national park system--as does Secretary Watt.

And, more than 70% of the American people favor enlarging the area of offshore oil drilling on the East and West coasts--as does Secretary Watt.

This poll, and numerous other indications of American public opinion, show that Secretary Watt is enacting the regulatory mandates demanded of the federal government by the American people last November 5, 1980. Without question, the often too silent majority of the American public supports the Secretary, his policies and management objectives, which are in the mainstream of American consciousness.

XIV. IS SECRETARY WATT A SAGEBRUSH REBEL?

FICTION: The charge has been made that Secretary Watt is a dangerous Sagebrush Rebel who plans to return millions of federal acres of land to the states.

FACT: Secretary Watt is a Sagebrush Rebel only in the respect that he is dedicated to making the federal government a "good neighbor" in its management of public lands. In testimony before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Secretary Watt has outlined his position that in the past, an arrogant Department of the Interior ignited the Sagebrush Rebellion by its failure to manage public lands in the West as a good neighbor.

Secretary Watt has ordered his department to enact the laws Congress has passed which require coordination and cooperation with state and local governments. He has placed making the federal government a "good neighbor" to state and local authorities among his highest priorities at the Department of the Interior.

In addition, Secretary Watt does not see the need at this time to transfer massive areas of public lands to the states, nor has he implemented such a program. He believes that good land management can best solve land problems and that if the federal government becomes the "good neighbor" it is statutorily responsible to be, it will diffuse the Sagebrush Rebellion.

Washington Star

WASHINGTON, D.C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1981

Reagan Says He Supports Watt Fully

A-3

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

President Reagan said yesterday he fully supports his controversial interior secretary, James Watt, and suggested that he has been the target of "environmental extremists."

In a luncheon interview with editors and reporters of The Washington Star, Reagan was asked whether Watt has become a political liability because of the fire he has drawn from conservation and environmental groups.

"No, he has my full support because I think that we have been victimized by some individuals that I refer to as environmental extremists," Reagan said.

Watt has become involved in acrimonious controversies because of his proposals to open up public lands for multiple uses and his move to lease a billion acres of offshore lands for oil and gas exploration over the next five years.

Reagan said that there has "been a lot of irrationality" with regard to Watt. He said the job Watt is doing is "a little bit like getting a mule's attention - you hit it with a two-by-four first."

"Maybe he's been doing something to get people's attention to these things but our government as long back as the early '60s was embarked on a program of acquiring more and more privately owned land. They did it then under the basis of the need for the future of outdoor recreational land and then along came the whole environmental thing and that gave them a new approach to go."

Reagan said he wanted the wilderness areas where they are so unusual that they should be preserved for all time. Reagan indicated he was not disturbed by the oil leases off Northern California.

"Only 3 percent of the continental shelf around the United States has been explored for oil," Reagan said. "And here we are at the mercy of - well, what would happen to us if suddenly there was a hostile situation in the world and our lines of supply were cut off abroad? I have believed that we could be self-sufficient."

Reagan said that he did not regret any of his Cabinet nominations. "I think we've got a great team, starting with our immediate staff and Cabinet," he said. "We are making Cabinet government work. It was an experience that I had in California, and I wanted to see if it could be transferred here to Washington and it has. I have been pleased."

Text of the President's Interview With Star Reporters and Editors

THE WASHINGTON STAR Wednesday, August 5, 1981

Q. Now, President, the established conservation and environmental groups are mobilizing very furiously and apparently effectively against your secretary of Interior. Are you concerned that he could become a politician liability down toward the mid-terms that perhaps could not - (inaudible) -

The President: No, he has my full support because I think that we have been victimized by some individuals that I refer to as environmental extremists. Now, I think I'm an environmentalist. When I was governor of California, we adopted a clean air act that was more stringent than that of the federal government. As a matter of fact, we had to go into court to get permission to have a stiffer law than the federal government and we won. But I do think that there has been a lot of irrationality. And what he's trying to do, and maybe it's a little bit like getting a mule's attention - you hit it in the forehead with a two-by-four first. Maybe he's been doing something to get people's attention to these things. But our government, as long back as the early 60s, was embarked on a program of acquiring more and more privately owned land. They did it then under the basis of the need for the future for outdoor recreational land and then along came the whole environmental thing and that gave them a new approach to go. But I want the beauty spots of this land preserved. And I want wilderness areas where it is so unique that this should be preserved for all time that generations to come can see what this was like.

Q. Were you disturbed by the Santa Maria oil leases in Northern California, for instance? That seems to have been the most vulnerable move he had made in that area.

The President: Only three percent of the continental shelf around the United States has been explored for oil. And here we are, at the mercy of - well, what could happen to us if suddenly there was a hostile situation in the world and our lines of

supply were cut off abroad? I have believed that we could be self-sufficient. Now, only three percent of the continental shelf explored so far, for the potential of oil, and there have only been, I think it is, two oil spills in all these years of offshore drilling and we have - how many thousand wells in this three percent that we've drilled so far. You contrast that with the risks from tankers and how many spills we see from them; it's a fairly regular thing.

We had a major oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel and it was from a federal well, outside the 12-mile limit. The state had permitted drilling inside. We were aware, at that time, that the federal government did not have the same safety requirements that we had and we had once offered to take over at the state level the policing of their wells off California if they would allow us to impose our state-owned requirements. When we had that major oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel, I was governor, the head, the chief executive officer, chairman of the board of that oil company told me that he had come up from the commercial ranks. He had not come up from the engineering side. And it was only after the spill that he learned the difference and he told me personally, that had that well been drilled under the rules that the state imposed, there never would have been a spill.

So, I think I've got some confidence in our ability to safely explore for oil and natural gas and I've once said to somebody that seems to feel that because they can look way off in the distance and see an oil rig out there silhouetted against the horizon, well, maybe we ought to take some of those liberty ships out of mothballs and anchor one that each one of the oil platforms between that and onshore because people never objected seeing a ship at sea.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 97th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1981

No. 115

Senate

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR JAMES WATT

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I have been very concerned about the criticism that has been levied against the Secretary of Interior, James Watt. If there are voices of extremism in the country today, they are the extreme voices that are criticizing Secretary Watt before his policies have had a fair chance.

The policies he has promoted, in my opinion, will help restore the balance and reason to the programs administered by the Department of the Interior.

During the last few years, I have been intimately involved in the legislative battle over a very important issue to Alaska, which the Senate knows well from the long days that we spent on it last year. I am referring to the legislative battle on the Alaska lands bill.

During that battle, the former Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, who I believe is a good man, held viewpoints that were definitely contrary to those that I hold.

We had many battles as we tried to convince Federal officials of the needs of Alaska's Native communities, Alaska's hunters, Alaska's fishermen, miners, businessmen, hikers, and both the rural and urban dwellers of our State.

In the past, the Federal Government showed great antipathy toward Alaska and Alaskans concerning the rights and needs of Alaskans.

Now, that policy has changed. It is my opinion that Secretary Watt has brought a fresh viewpoint to the Department of the Interior, and although we are certainly not winning all of the battles, today there is a great deal more understanding of the problems relating to Alaska and the West in the Department of the Interior. Secretary Watt has surrounded himself with experts in land policy and management and he remains sensitive to concerns made known to the Department of the Interior by States and communities on controversial issues. I am pleased with his leadership at the Department.

Mr. President, an editorial was recently published in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner describing the viewpoint of Alaskans toward the policy of Secretary James Watt. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the editorial be printed in the Record at this point.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

BACK SECRETARY WATT

The political wolves are snapping at the heels of Interior Secretary James Watt. Alaskan leaders, both here and in Washington, D.C., would do well not to join the pack because many of his policies are heading in a direction that will make him one of the best friends our state has had in the federal government for quite some time.

The focus of the criticism is Secretary Watt's plan to increase and speed up offshore leases for oil prospecting. Some of the California leases are controversial from an environmental standpoint and so are some of the ones in fish-rich Alaskan waters. He also is being criticized for letting out too much lease acreage at one time.

One aspect of the attack on Mr. Watt is outlined in an article elsewhere on this page. The thrust seems to be that the new administration should forget about what the voters seemed to be saying last November and continue with the tired policies that were rejected in that election.

Much is being made of the fact that the supposedly moderate National Wildlife Federation has joined more militant environmentalist groups in calling for Mr. Watt's resignation. It seems to us, however, that a very real question exists about just how moderate the NWF is. Alaskans will recall, for example, that federation members from our state broke with the national organization several years ago when it was bent on supporting overly restrictive Alaska lands legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S 8568

July 28, 1981

Another aspect of the attack takes a viciously personal approach. We saw it this week when Rep. James Weaver of Oregon tried to drag Secretary Watt's fundamentalist religious beliefs into a House Interior subcommittee hearing. We Americans laid that sort of religious bigotry in our politics to rest with John Kennedy's campaign for the presidency in 1960 and those who are now trying to revive the corpse two decades later are ill-serving our Nation.

We also saw this personal approach in the attack this week from Cecil Andrus, Interior Secretary until the voters turned his boss out of office last fall. Secretary Watt has, Mr. Andrus said, "a developmental zeal I've never seen the like of before in public life."

And the former Secretary didn't stop there. "I had hoped that this was just bombastic rhetoric early on and I've remained silent for six months," Mr. Andrus said. "But it becomes apparent that he plans to dump extra acreage out, more than they can use."

That's laughable; doubly so coming from Mr. Andrus, who recently allowed that he might have tended just a wee bit to hyperbole a few years back when he characterized Alaskans who were opposing him on the lands bill as the "rape, ruin and run boys." Certainly Mr. Andrus knows whereof he speaks when he talks of bombastic rhetoric. Remember the bulldozers he said were poised to rip through Alaska? He certainly does know how to turn a phrase. By comparison, Mr. Watt seems almost tongue-tied.

It's true that many Alaskans, most of our political leaders among them, oppose some of the off-shore oil leases the Secretary has proposed for our state. Some are in areas that produce major amounts of fish for the world market and an oil spill there could have disastrous consequences. And it's also hard for Alaskans to understand why we need to explore some of these environmentally risky areas right now when there are so many good oil prospects on the land in our state.

Our leaders should continue to press those questions, working in Congress, which must approve the lease offerings before they can be made, and even going to court if we must.

But despite this disagreement, we must keep in mind the fact that Secretary Watt is generally treating our state better than we've been treated for a long time. One such indication is his rules for the new federal holdings set up under the lands bill: they generally seem to take Alaska's special conditions into account.

Certainly we Alaskans are not going to like everything Mr. Watt proposes and we're going to fight him on some issues. But on the many things he's doing right, our leaders ought to be backing him strongly. The voices that call for his resignation need to be countered if our country is to move away from its debilitating dependence on foreign resources.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I am hopeful that others will come forward and defend his right to attempt to change the policies of the Department of the Interior in the future.



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WASHINGTON, MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1981

No. 120

Senate

JAMES WATT, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. President, I have noted with considerable interest a variety of recent commentary which has been offered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with regard to Interior Secretary Jim Watt. I must admit that I was somewhat startled at the intensity of the recent remarks by my fine friend and colleague, Senator ALAN CRANSTON of California. I thought his assessment of Jim Watt to be uncharacteristically harsh. I think it is appropriate for those of us who support Jim Watt to respond to those comments.

I would respectfully state that all of the evidence certainly has not been presented in this case. Jim Watt is a solid guy, a fair one, and I want to say just a very few words about him.

I think Jim Watt realizes that he may have erred in his early months in this administration, since he made the determination to set the Department of the Interior "on course," to mold it in the new image of the Reagan administration, and in doing so he cloistered himself, limiting his media availability. He paid dearly for that.

We are all personally aware of that.

When he arrived on the scene, he very quickly found that some of those red hot issues which had been discussed in past weeks have been lurking around in the inner recesses of the Department of the Interior for many years. One of the issues that was not dealt with in past administrations was the critical need to assess the location and extent of strategic materials in our country. These are minerals which our country simply could not replace if sensitive sources were shut off. Many of those strategic materials are located in Third World countries that have an unstable govern-

mental structure and many of these countries feel no special obligation to the United States of America. If these sensitive sources of supply are shut off, we will be in critical need in this country.

Mr. President, there has been a lot of high old hysteria about Jim Watt. Many have a real sense of glee as they hurl their harpoons into him. It is ironic that various organizations in America which characterize themselves as "sensitive and gentle folk" who banded together years ago to "preserve, protect, and nurture" really do like to get the gloves off and get into some pretty vile characterizations. Those organizations are having a heyday at the present time. It is interesting to see them rubbing their hands with glee as they contemplate tacking Jim Watt's pelt on a wall of their redwood paneled dens. They really are quite the hunters, even though they would like to give one the impression of hunting "only with binoculars or cameras" as they tramp through the woods searching for the furbish lousewort and various species of the crested titmouse. But I conclude they know more about the jugular vein of adversarial combat than many a hunter I have known out in the high country of Wyoming.

I have known Jim Watt for over 20 years. He is no zealot, no nut, no light weight. He is doing things that fit into this administration's agenda and he will be doing those things in a manner which will be protective of the environment. Yes, that just could be so. But there is a dedicated band out to nail him to the cross. So dedicated and so bizarrely zealous and off tilt that he now has Secret Service coverage with him around the clock. No other Cabinet Secretary is confronted with the type of abuse and threats he receives. And so it goes. He is a tough guy and he knew what he was headed into.

As someone well stated several days ago, "It is possible to do controversial things in a noncontroversial manner." Jim is learning that. Jim Watt is also making himself available in the editorial boardrooms throughout the United States. He is holding himself open for media questioning and participation and he is becoming accessible. I think that is great. And yet, it must be a little disappointing and disheartening to him as one of the human clan to be painted as some sort of a "death's head" engaged in the mindless destruction of the fragile world of flora and fauna and also some kind of a religious fanatic. He is not that.

I do say that one of the toughest prejudices that Jim Watt has had to encounter is one that has been planted with great glee. All sources of opposition to him prefer to languish in the distortion that Jim Watt, if he but had his way, would allow oil and gas leasing and mining development in the national parks. Now, there is a phony one. But it still gets good coverage. Jim Watt could not do that even if he wanted to, and he has indicated on repeated occasions with utmost incredulosity that he never made such a statement. He did not. But it gets good mileage. He could not do it

even if he wanted to, since the statutes of the United States would prevent it, and there are not two or three Senators in the United States who would give him that authority. I assure you that this one would not.

It might just be well to review for a moment the circumstances which have brought us to this point. Perhaps we can wade through all of the stuff and see why we are now hearing all this hue and cry from this rabid opposition?

Well, Jim Watt will never shake the bar sinister which was conferred upon him by the so-called environmental extremists when he chose years ago to enter the fray on behalf of a public interest law firm in a manner which caused him to realize the ironic worth of that remarkable adage, "Hoist on your own petard." This is what has vexed those organization so and it continues to do so. Those are the groups who failed to get their way in the legislative arenas throughout America years ago and, therefore, began to zealously utilize the court systems for their triumphs. It worked, and indeed it worked well, and it worked unfettered for many years until these public interest law firms, such as Mountain States Legal Foundation, rose up to bring some semblance of balance to the serious environmental issues that confronted Americans. And now they also shriek that he has surrounded himself with people of "his own ilk."

What a kicker. Go take a look at the roster of the cast of characters that staffed the Interior Department and the Forest Service in the previous administration—the Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Deputy Secretary. Talk about a revolving door. They bounced between being counsel for the environmental organizations to being a part of the department with whom they would bargain in the courts. I commend you to a review of my previous remarks on that subject many weeks ago on page S. 525 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 22, 1981.

You might just want to take a look at a few of those names and offices and see why those groups seem to so enjoy that method of administering the public lands when their side was riding high.

I still believe that Jim Watt is the right person at the right place at the right time for just the right position in this new administration.

I believed that at the time of his confirmation and I believe that now.

What I hope that Americans would keep in mind was that Jim Watt pledged—prior to even accepting the nomination of Secretary of the Interior—that he would support the language and the intent of the statutes of the United States. Those are the statutes that describe the stewardship of national public lands and the concept of multiple use. That concept of multiple use was not Jim Watt's new idea as Secretary of the Interior. That was the concept of Congress when they first spread the law on the books. Jim Watt will carry out that pledge he gave to the President and to the country at the time of his confirmation.

He loves the land which nurtured him.

During many times in his youth, there were periods of hard scrabble in seeing that the earth could provide enough sustenance for him and for his family. He knows more about the fragile nature of the ecosystem than many who simply read about it in the magnificent and graphic publications that you are privy to when you pay your dues to those vigorous organizations. He paid his dues many years ago and in many ways. He believes deeply in stewardship and conservation and protection of the environment. He happens to be in a job where he is required by law to do that and also by law to allow for grazing and mining and timbering and development on the public lands.

That is what the law says. Those things are demanded by the statutes of America. If we do not want to give him that power, change the statutes. They were not hatched by Jim Watt or those in the present administration.

Jim Watt knew the stakes of this game when he came. What he did not count on was that peculiar parlor game played in Washington where what is said in private and thoughtful conversation with your adversaries is totally different from the babbling and posturing by those adversaries when those camera lights go on or when somebody stuffs a microphone under their nose. We all learn that one around this place—sooner or later.

Well, enough of that, Mr. President. It is my great pleasure to enter into the Record an editorial from the Detroit News of July 6, 1981, which is supportive of these observations of mine.

I also wish to state again that it has been my rich personal privilege and pleasure to have shared much with this fine man. He brings rare skills to what is most assuredly a very tough job. He has a great personal faith—a great personal stability—and a firm anchorage and heritage of persistence and perseverance. What pleases me most at this time in his tenure is to see my friend listening to others and hearing them out. That augurs well for the future. It is the kind of thing that will turn rugged opposition into ragged opposition. I commend Jim for his willingness to do it. I think Americans will be pleased with that new attitude of his.

I think that it is important to reflect that none of us in our daily lives as humans have ever witnessed anything but a hollowness that comes when a person or an organization attempts to add greater stature and dimension to his or its own self by lessening or diminishing another.

I ask unanimous consent to have the aforementioned editorial printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

A DELICATE BALANCE

The Department of Interior has generally been an obscure Washington preserve presided over by forgettable directors. Then came James Watt.

During his five-month tenure, Secretary Watt has generated more controversy than any of his predecessors. From the confirmation hearings when he faced down Senate

critics, to the initial decision to reconsider offshore oil drilling along northern California's scenic coastline, Mr. Watt has not been one to shrink from confrontation.

A Newsweek cover depicts him lifting a carpet of wooded beauty to assist in the "exploitation" of the land. Former Sen. Gaylord Nelson calls Mr. Watt "unfit to hold office." The Sierra Club is circulating a petition to force him from office.

Who is this man the environmentalists characterize as a Dr. Strangelove bent on defiling nature's grandeur?

He is a man who simply wants to restore the balance between preserving the environment and promoting economic development—a balance that has been lost during the past two decades.

This may sound easy, but it isn't. Not only is the Interior secretary the nation's chief environmentalist, he oversees dam construction, mining, the leasing of oil fields on the outer continental shelf, and mineral-rights grants.

Mr. Watt must resist those who would exploit the land for profit, as well as the environmental purists who would make the world safe, at any cost, for the snail darter.

There is a clear need both to preserve the land's natural beauty and to extract those resources that will promote economic self-sufficiency. And, from the evidence to date, Secretary Watt seems to recognize the need for equilibrium far better than his detractors do.

The energy crisis has clarified American attitudes about achieving that balance.

A Newsweek poll reflects an American eagerness to increase the nation's energy production. Seventy percent favor expanded offshore oil drilling and 76 percent want increased oil exploration on federal lands. A plurality supports easing strip-mining regulations to extract more coal from the land, and a majority favors relaxing air-pollution standards to permit more coal burning.

Many environmentalists view this trend with alarm.

They believe that the public's shortsighted self-interest will defile the land. But it is the extreme environmentalist who has been shortsighted, and selfish, by refusing to acknowledge the possibility of development that is sensitive to the ecology.

But charges that Secretary Watt will sacrifice the national landscape to wanton timbering, drilling, and mining inflame the issue without providing hard facts or, more important, redeeming and practical alternatives.

Certainly the Interior Department's program must be tempered by a reasonable concern for preserving the landscape. But to prevent the nation from tapping its abundant natural resources would be precisely the kind of foolishness the American people emphatically rejected last November.

The extreme environmentalists, who dislike compromise, have a choice: They can either recognize the economic need to accommodate dual values, or they can go out to the garden and eat worms.



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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

WILDERNESS AND THE REAL WORLD

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I call the attention of the Senate to an article in the "Comments" section of the Washington Star written by Allan Fitzsimmons, an associate professor of geogra-

phy and chairman of the environmental studies program at George Washington University. It concerns a letter that Mr. Fitzsimmons received from the Sierra Club urging him to sign a petition to the Congress concerning the positions Secretary Watt has taken and advocating the replacement of the Secretary of Interior, James Watt.

I am impressed by the article, and equally impressed by the conclusion of this gentleman who has very eminent qualifications as part of the environmental movement of this country, in which he indicates he will not sign the Sierra Club petition. The reasons he sets forth, I think, ought to be compelling to all America, and I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

WILDERNESS AND THE REAL WORLD

I recently received a letter from the Sierra Club advocating the replacement of Secretary of the Interior James Watt. Accompanying the letter was a petition to the Congress and a listing of the objectionable positions taken of Mr. Watt. Heading the list was his intent to allow oil and gas exploration in wilderness and wildlife refuge areas.

Wilderness advocates are motivated by the pursuit of an ideal relationship between man and nature. In a perfect world, mankind would have no impact on the natural environment. For many activists, the ideal is irrevocably intertwined with spiritual and religious values. Mankind is viewed as a despoiler of nature—we are profane while nature is profound. The ideal and its sacredness provide a core of beliefs around which many rally and organize.

AVOIDING HUMAN INTRUSION

The Wilderness Act in 1964 enabled statutory protection to be given to lands demonstrating little human impact. Such lands are the embodiment of the ideal. For the wilderness advocates they have become sacred space and in need of protection from those who would vandalize them. In this case the vandals are those who would explore for minerals, cut timber, or build roads and summer cottages. Each of these activities affects the environment and so is a retreat from the ideal.

The establishment of the National Wilderness Preservation System allowed some of the advocates' energies to be turned to the pursuit of the ideal on other fronts. In recent years they have become involved in onshore and offshore petroleum and natural gas decisions; surface mining procedures; national forest management activities, and many others. Their purpose always has been to try to move policies and actions toward fulfillment of their goal of trying to minimize human impact on the environment.

Whereas movement in this general direction has attracted widespread support, there is, on the other hand, concern about how much movement is prudent—about the costs and benefits involved in the resource use—environmental protection tradeoffs inherent in the wilderness advocates' positions.

The assessment of the wide variety of costs and benefits associated with particular policy decisions is a major difficulty in the current natural resource debate. Many of the costs and benefits are intangible and defy even crude quantification, whereas others can be estimated with more precision.

Many of the intangibles are closely associated with the beliefs and values of the wilderness advocates. They have succeeded in turning the vagueness surrounding the benefits of their espoused positions to their advantage, while using the more quantifiable benefits of their policy opponents against those same opponents.

ONLY SIX MONTHS SUPPLY

For example: From the advocates' perspective, it is relatively easy to construct an argument around the need to protect a wilderness from petroleum exploration. They cite the spiritual benefits of an untouched area, stressing such secular benefits as gene-pool preserves, maintenance of living laboratories, and the provision of certain recreational opportunities. At the same time they point out that the upper limit of potentially recoverable petroleum is, say, only a six-month supply for the United States. They then argue that the benefits of such a limited supply are not worth the irrevocable costs associated with introducing human activity of this kind into a sacred (wilderness) area. This line of argumentation has been extended to nonwilderness areas, as witnessed by the current northern California offshore leasing controversy.

The costs of such arguments can be high. In the case of petroleum there is widespread agreement that most new and future domestic discoveries can be characterized in terms of so many weeks' or month's worth of our total petroleum requirement. Furthermore, most such discoveries will occur in or near areas that wilderness advocates deem worthy of special protection. Should the don't-develop it because it's only a few weeks' worth of petroleum argument prevail, the nation's petroleum producing future could be significantly altered.

It must be determined if the benefits of the purists' positions are real or illusory, and, if real, what is the least overall societal cost path to obtain them. For example, is statutory wilderness really necessary for society to gain such secular benefits as gene-pool preservation and living laboratories, as the wilderness advocates insist? Or can they also accrue in carefully managed multipurpose lands, without incurring the costs of foregone mineral production associated with statutory wilderness areas? Are the spiritual benefits of wilderness real? If so, for whom, and can they also be obtained in the national parks or national forests?

This is not to suggest that the benefits which the wilderness advocates attach to their policy positions are without merit or that they should be dismissed offhand. It is to suggest that perhaps policies other than those of the wilderness advocates can secure for the country many of the benefits of their positions without some of the attendant costs. It is to suggest that perhaps a better balance can be struck between use and preservation.

I will not be signing the Sierra Club petition.

NEWS RELEASE

file Interior

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In a recorded interview on Conservative Counterpoint, to be telecast at 6:30 PM, EST, Wednesday, January 19, 1983, on the Satellite Program Network (SPN), Secretary of Interior James G. Watt has advocated abolition of federal Indian reservations.

"If you want an example of the failures of socialism, don't go to Russia -- come to America and go to the Indian reservations," Watt said.

Watt stated that the 1.4 million American Indians who live on the 50 million acres of reservations maintained by the federal government were experiencing tremendous difficulties, especially drug abuse, alcoholism, unemployment, divorce, and venereal disease.

"Every social problem is exaggerated because of socialistic government policies on the Indian reservation...because the people have been trained through 100 years of government oppression to look to the government as the creator, as the provider, as the supplier, and have not been trained to use the initiative to integrate into the American system," Watt said.

"If we had treated the black people in America like we're now treating the Indians...there would be a social revolution that would tear the country up. But Congress tolerates the abusive government actions on Indians. I try to liberate them and get squashed by the liberal Democrats in the House of Representatives," he said.

Watt was interviewed by Howard Phillips, national director of The Conservative Caucus, and Jeffrey St. John, a columnist and commentator. Conservative Counterpoint is produced by Richard A. Viguerie through National Television Corporation.

Excerpts from an interview with Secretary of the Interior James Watt on "CONSERVATIVE COUNTERPOINT" scheduled for broadcast over Satellite Program Network (SPN) January 19, 1983

Q: At the heart of the problem is a reservation policy which distinguishes Native Americans, distinguishes Indians from the rest of the population. Instead of a policy assimilation and integration with respect to the Indian, the policy is one of distinction, of separation. Do you think that's right?

WATT: We have tremendous problems on the Indian reservations. (How) I frequently talk about it by telling people if you want an example of the failures of socialism, don't go to Russia--come to America and go to the Indian Reservations.

We have 50 million acres of Indian reservations, 1.4 million American Indians, and every social problem is exaggerated because of socialistic government policies on the Indian Reservations. Highest divorce rate, highest drug rate, highest alcoholism rate, highest unemployment rate, highest social diseasesbecause the people have been trained through 100 years of government oppression to look to the government as the creator, as the provider, as the supplier, and they've not been trained to use the initiative to integrate into the American system.

We have terrible schools on the Indian reservations and we've tried to change that. Congress won't. The liberal eastern idea is that.... I'll support the Indian people and they drive out to my home state of Wyoming in August for (a) two-week vacation, buy an Indian bead necklace, and think they have done their thing for Indian America. Terrible socialism. We ought to give them freedom, we ought to give them liberty, we ought to give them their rights, but we treat them as incompetent wards. I'm their trustee. They can't make a decision on the reservations about their water, their lands, they can't own land on the reservations.

Q: Is that the basis of much of the legitimate anger of many of the Indian leaders, forgetting the radicals for a moment (who) are using the Indian issues...the fact that they literally live on a plantation?

WATT: That's correct with big Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior controlling their rights. Now there are some benefits to that.

Q: Sure. Isn't it true that some of the established Indian leaders have a strong personal stake in the present policy and oppose what they call termination?

WATT: In the Great Society, we came in with all these legal aides and all these programs and made federal funds available to fund Indian Governments. So if you're the chief or the chairman, you're interested in keeping this group of people assembled on a desert environment where there are no jobs, no agriculture potential, no water, because if the Indians were allowed to be liberated, they'd go and get a job and that guy wouldn't have his government handout as a government Indian paid official.

.Q: They've become Ward Bosses. I've heard Senator Goldwater in Arizona talk about the impact of federal legal services programs in taking an Indian community that was once very conservative in its values, radicalizing it politically, and then turning it out on a reliable basis for liberal candidates.

WATT: In too many instances. Now they're ... fortunately there are some great American Indian people that want to bring freedom to their people. They want their people have jobs and take their social place and we've been working with them and so it's very discouraging with the limitations that Congress gives us with the laws. It's very encouraging when you work with a few of the Indian people because they are electing some good people. There is hope if we'll let our people go. We ought to have ... if we had treated the black people in America like we are now treating Indians or the Chinese or any of these other minority groups there would be a social revolution that would tear the country up. But Congress tolerates the abusive government actions on Indians and I try to liberate them and get squashed by the liberal Democrats in the House of Representatives.

GOOD MORNING, AMERICA

THURS., JAN. 20, 1983

STATION OR NETWORK:

ABC TELEVISION NETWORK

TIME:

7:00 AM, EST

SECRETARY WATT RESPONDS TO INDIAN CALLS FOR RESIGNATION

STEVE BELL: The leaders of 154 American Indian tribes are meeting here in Washington next Monday to issue a formal response to what they call anti-Indian rhetoric by Interior Secretary Watt. Joe Spencer reports the response has been bitter so far.

(FILM SHOWN)

JOE SPENCER: As word of Secretary Watt's statements spread throughout Indian reservations across the country, reaction was swift and angry.

BILL HOULE (CHIPPEWA CHAIRMAN): Secretary Watt should immediately submit his resignation.

PAM CHIBITTY (OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN COUNCIL): It's very obvious that he's not knowledgeable of the federal trust relationship between the federal government and the Indian people.

SPENCER: However, there were Indian leaders who agreed with Watt's assessment that a wide range of social problems does exist on the reservations.

JERRY SHAW (MID AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER): We're hearing on some reservations the alcoholism rate is as high as 50 percent. I know; I just got back from the Navajo country. Unemployment out there is 75 percent. No doubt there's a lot of serious problems in Indian country.

SPENCER: Although Watt and the White House would like to see the controversy surrounding his statements forgotten, it appears some Indian leaders are not about to forget, or forgive.

NOAH BILLIE (SEMINOLE INDIAN): I don't know why he should make such a hard statement. To me, that's a direct attack

on my own land. And if he wants war, then we'll go to war. I feel that strongly about it.

Joe Spencer, ABC News.

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DAVID HARTMAN: In a television interview aired yesterday, James Watt, the Secretary of the Interior, said that Indian reservations in America represent, to quote him, "the failure of socialism."

Now, many Indian leaders have protested his remarks, accusing the Secretary of racism. There have also been many calls for the Secretary's resignation.

And James Watt is in Washington this morning, and Steve Bell, of course, is joining us as well. Good morning, Mr. Secretary.

JAMES WATT: Good to be with you, David.

HARTMAN: Thank you very much. Let me quote you: "If you want an example of the failure of socialism, don't go to Russia come to America and go to the Indian reservations." Also, you said that Indians on the reservations have "the highest divorce rate, highest drug rate, highest alcoholism rate, highest unemployment rate, and the highest social diseases in the country."

One tribal chairman from the state of Washington said quote, "That's the kind of racism talk the country doesn't need from the Secretary of the Interior." And another tribal leader is saying, "That's the most racial (sic) slur that they've heard from a government official." unquote.

How do you respond, Mr. Watt?

WATT: I've been trying for two years to draw attention to the terrible plight of the American Indian. The American Indian has been abused for years and years. And for too many years politicians have simply been trying to sweep it under the rug, acting like it's not there. They deserve better. The federal government is abusive to them. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has not done a good job.

We need to help these people overcome their problems. As I've travelled, and been on the reservations with these Indians -- they're tremendously talented people, they have good governments. If we'll let their government function, and get the federal government off their backs.

HARTMAN: If that's been your attitude, Mr. Secretary, how do you account for this tremendous outpouring of reaction from the entire Indian community, or from most of the Indian community?

WATT: Yes, I think you need to point out, it's a very small segment of the Indian community, and any day of the week you can get some of those people calling for my resignation. I think that's healthy. We need to have this issue debated. I have trust responsibilities. I have legal and treaty responsibilities that I must live up to. So I don't have the option of doing very much about these problems.

We've focused our attention on a few issues. We've tried to bring some help to the Indian reservations but most of the debate has to be carried out between the Indians and Congress. And I've tried for two years to focus attention on this terrible plight of the American Indian. And hopefully we'll get some attention and coverage out.

STEVE BELL: Mr. Secretary, just for the record, 154 tribal representatives are going to be meeting here Monday to draft a formal response to what they consider slurs from you. How do you have this communications gap, if you will?

WATT: We don't know what that 154 are going to do. We've talked to most of them. I've been telling the Indians that -- this is not new rhetoric, I've been saying this for two years to the Indians, to every news conference I've had, to groups around. The American Indian needs help. They have too much unemployment. All these social problems are symptoms of the basic cause. Let's address causes instead of just addressing the symptoms.

BELL: What do you mean that it's an example of socialism failed?

WATT: Good. Let's start with some examples. Education. The American Indian deserves a good education. I believe in public education where the local public government will manage their own schools. We have government schools. The Washington bureaucrats that I'm responsible -- I'm a bureaucrat in a sense. I run the local school systems for the Indians. Obviously that education system is not good enough for the Indian. They are not employed, they're not having the opportunities that other Americans are. We ought to give it to them. The education system is wrong because it's a government system run out of Washington rather than a public school run by the Indians.

HARTMAN: And yet, Mr. Secretary, John Echohawk, who is of native American Nations (?) Fund says, quote, "The Indians need tribal self-government. If that's what Mr. Watt calls socialism,

then he doesn't know what he's talking about. That's good old American democracy."

WATT: O.K. What we really want is tribal self-government not government from Washington by the BIA officials, the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The tribal governments, the elected people, are good people. I've been meeting with them. I've been on the reservations more than other past secretaries. And the tribal governments are good. Give them a chance. Get Washington off their backs. That's the problem: Washington, not the governments. The Indian governments are good. The Washington government is oppressive. That's what needs to be reduced.

HARTMAN: If you have been clear -- in making yourself clear -- that this is your attitude, Mr. Secretary, why has the Governor of New Mexico, Governor Hayes, called for your resignation?

WATT: I've not met the Governor. I imagine it's good old partisan American politics. I think that's healthy. That doesn't bother me a bit.

BELL: You just said the Indian governments are good, yet you're quoted as having said on that television interview, that some tribal Indian leaders are interested in keeping their people, quote, "assembled on a desert environment where there are no jobs, no agriculture potential, no water, because if the Indians were allowed to be liberated, they would go and get a job and he, the tribal leader wouldn't have his government handout as a paid government Indian official."

WATT: Well, we've seen that problem too but the -- pluralism in the Indian community, in the Indian country, is strong. There's some powerfully good leaders. And they're wanting what I'm talking about, as your news program called earlier. They're saying Jim Watt is correct. Let's address the cause and not the symptoms.

BELL: One of the specific criticisms in one of our reports from an Indian was: "He's trying to drive us off the reservations, our only land."

WATT: It is their land. I want them to be able to run their land and not a bunch of bureaucrats like Jim Watt and others dictating from Washington how they should handle their land. It's theirs, let them have it, not a bunch of bureaucrats here in Washington running it. They're better able than we are.

HARTMAN: Mr. Secretary, do you think you ought to resign?

WATT: If I can draw attention to this Indian issue and get that solved, I will have made a significant contribution to

America, and particularly to the American Indian who deserves so much better attention than the government has given him for 100 years. It's a problem we cannot afford to sweep under the rug. Let's address it, let's solve it. Let's don't just throw money at symptoms. Let's help those people help themselves rather than abuse them like the government has done in the past 100 years. It's a shameful thing we've done.

HARTMAN: Secretary James Watt, thank you for joining us this morning.

WATT: Great, good to be with you.

PROGRAM: ABC NEWS NIGHTLINE	DATE: WED., JAN. 19, 1983
STATION OR NETWORK: ABC TELEVISION NETWORK	TIME: 11:30 PM, EST

REACTION TO WATT'S REMARKS ABOUT INDIANS

JAMES WATT (SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR): If you want an example of the failures of socialism, don't go to Russia; come to the United States and go to the Indian reservation.

TED KOPPEL: American Indians have long suspected that James Watt is anything but their best friend in Washington. And when a television interview was released today in which Secretary Watt cited the high rate of Indian alcoholism, drug addiction and venereal disease, that made things even worse.

But then Watt was quoted -- inaccurately -- as calling for the abolition of Indian reservations, and the fat was really in the fire. Calls for his resignation have swept through almost all the tribal councils. Tonight we'll look at what James Watt really said and at what Indian leaders thought he meant.

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Good evening. The television program on which Interior Secretary James Watt was interviewed -- and the interview actually took place last Thursday and was broadcast this evening -- that program is called "Conservative Counterpoint." It is hosted by a conservative columnist and the national director of the Conservative Caucus. It is produced by the most successful conservative fund raiser in the country, Richard Viguerie.

It was Mr. Viguerie who put out a press release following the interview with James Watt claiming that Watt had called for the abolition of all Indian reservations. UPI, the wire service, ran that story, and the heat was on. Indian leaders, responding to press reports, called for Watt's immediate resignation -- except that Watt never said what he was quoted as saying. What he did say, however, was controversial enough.

WATT: We have tremendous problems on the Indian reservation. I frequently talk about it by telling people, if you want an example of the failures of socialism, don't go to Russia; come to America and go to the Indian reservation.

We have 50 million acres of Indian reservations, 1.4 million American Indians, and every social problem is exaggerated because of socialistic government policies on the Indian reservation: highest divorce rate, highest drug rate, highest alcoholism rate, highest unemployment rate, highest social diseases -- because the people have been trained through a hundred years of government oppression to look to the government as the creator, as the provider, as the supplier. And they've not been trained to use the initiative to integrate into the American system.

JAMES BILLIE (SEMINOLE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN): To single out just one group of people and say that we're all -- what are we -- I've seen one particular part where he says the reservations are plagued by drugs and alcohol abuse, unemployment, divorce and venereal disease. I can guarantee I can go off my reservation right now into the Broward County system and show you the same thing. The United States is plagued -- I could keep on going.

ELMER SAVILLA (NATIONAL TRIBAL CHAIRMANS ASSN.): The National Tribal Chairmans Association is appalled and dismayed at the distortions and misinformation about conditions on the reservation that Secretary Watt made at an interview broadcast today -- being broadcast today on the Satellite Program Network.

PAM IRON (TULSA INDIAN AFFAIRS CHAIRMAN): True, there are a lot of alcoholism; there is a lot of social problems that do exist. But in the last ten years, the Indian people have been determining their own policies. When the self-determination act went into effect, this is when the Indian tribes had the right to determine their fate instead of social policy set by the government always being the one that made the decisions on how the Indians should live.

WATT: We came in with all these legal aid and all these programs and made federal funds available to fund Indian governments. So if you're the chief or the chairman, you're interested in keeping this group of people assembled on a desert environment, where there are no jobs, no agricultural potential, no water, because if the Indians were allowed to be liberated, they'd go and get a job and that guy wouldn't have his government handout.

CHIEF BUFFALO TIGER (MICCOSUKEE TRIBE): Our reservation lands are good land for the oil and coal and -- what do you call it? -- the resources, natural resources. I'm sure that the government is interested in taking some of this land and make something out of it, and the Indian have to be sitting on that (sic).

SAVILLA: We charge that Secretary Watt has breached his duties deliberately, and we ask that President Reagan immediately investigate Mr. Watt's actions as the principal trustee for Indian affairs.

QUESTIONER: Mr. Watt, are you suggesting that we do away in any way with the reservations?

WATT: No. The government should not force anything on the Indian community. The Indian country needs to make their own decisions, and bureaucrats in Washington shouldn't be dictating how the Indians handle and manage their lands, their schools, their jobs, their opportunities. That should be their privilege, not the government dictating one thing or another.

PAM CHIBITTY (NATIVE AMERICAN COALITION): I think that Secretary Watt's background is extremely limited when it comes to Indian people. He does not -- you know, it's very obvious from his statements today, it's very obvious that he's not knowledgeable of the federal trust relationship between the federal government and the Indian people. He doesn't realize why he's singling out native Americans in regard to being in a dependency. There is all other kinds of people; there's businesses. Look at Chrysler: you know, they're dependent on the federal government. So I can't understand why he would single out the native American, especially when it's a totally different type of relationship.

KOPPEL: When we return, we'll talk with four Indian leaders about Secretary Watt's remarks, about the furor they've ignited and about the very real problems confronting American Indian communities.

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KOPPEL: There are more than 260 Indian reservations scattered across the country. Tonight we'll talk to the leaders of three. The Navajo tribe is the nation's largest, and its 25,000 acre reservation spreads from Arizona into New Mexico and Utah. Joining us from Albuquerque, New Mexico, is Peterson Zah, Chairman of the Navajo Nation. The Rosebud Sioux Reservation is located in south central South Dakota. Rosebud Sioux President Carl Wain joins us from our Denver affiliate, KBTV. From the Florida Everglades is the reservation of the Seminole Tribe. Joining us from our Miami affiliate, WPLG, is Seminole Chairman James Billie. And with us here in Washington is Ron Andrade, Executive Director of the National Congress of American Indians.

Mr. Billie, I'd like to begin with you, because at one point today you called for the resignation of Chairman Watt -- not Chairman Watt, of Secretary Watt. Since then you've had occasion to change your mind. Why?

JAMES BILLIE (SEMINOLE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN): About two hours ago I had a -- I was listening to one of the conversations that he had. I think it was an interview somewhere in Tulsa. And before I heard this, the news media approached me and told me

the different type situation that Secretary Watt had said. But as it turned out, when I saw the interview it appeared to me that his conversation was taken out of context. And some of the things that Secretary Watt had indicated there is existing on the reservations.

KOPPEL: Such as?

BILLIE: Such as high unemployment. Like in my particular reservation there's approximately 47 percent. We have a different type of illnesses that's on the reservation; it's probably higher than anyplace else. He was talking about alcoholism; we do have our share of problems with it. The other things that he was talking about, they all fall into place.

KOPPEL: All right. He reached certain conclusions about that; I'm wondering whether you agree with those conclusions. He found that to be the result of a form of socialism, where the American government is doing certain things for the Indian nations which he seems to believe they ought to be doing for themselves.

BILLIE: I don't understand the entire question, what you're saying, but I believe there's a certain amount of problems that we have on the reservations that somewhere down the line the bureaucratic system has failed to help us or help each other get into this modern day and age. And I know that somewhere -- like socialism that he was talking about -- we've confined ourselves to the reservations, where we should be going out and integrating a little bit more but maintaining our culture at the same time.

KOPPEL: All right. Let's jump around the country quickly, and let's go first of all to Peterson Zah, who represents the Navajo Nation. Do you agree, first of all, with what you've heard so far? State your own opinion, Mr. Zah, would you please?

PETERSON ZAH (NAVAJO TRIBE CHAIRMAN): Well, I was really disturbed at what the Secretary has said, quite disturbed because it comes from a federal official, a federal administrator, who has a big huge responsibility in looking after the Indian people in this country. And as Secretary of Interior he is charged by law to look after our resources, the people, our water routes and our land. And I was --

KOPPEL: All right. Let me just -- let me interrupt you for a moment to find out what it is that he said that upset you. Do you take issue with some of the problems he claims exist on many of the reservations?

ZAH: I think mainly the attitude more than anything else -- attitude because I think there is certain interest group

that he is pushing this administration in terminating many of the Indian reservation that has been in dispute for several years. And we're disturbed because there seems to be some attitude that's taking a similar role as what it has in the past.

KOPPEL: All right. Now, we're in agreement, aren't we, Mr. Zah, that he didn't actually call for the abolition of the reservations. But do you see anything in what he did say that leads you to believe that's what he wants?

ZAH: Yes, I do.

KOPPEL: What?

ZAH: If you look at the text of his speech, or the interview, he alludes to some degree of trust responsibility, where he is essentially saying that perhaps the federal government should not be -- or should not have a role in having such a tremendous role on the reservation, as far as the trust responsibility is concerned.

KOPPEL: All right. I just want to keep on going around. Let me go to Carl Waln of the Rosebud Sioux. Pick up with what we've covered so far. With what do you agree, with what do you disagree?

CARL WALN (ROSEBUD SIOUX NATION PRES.): Okay, Ted, I'd like to begin by thanking ABC News and the American public for allowing the tribal Indian governments to have their perspective aired and their voice heard.

We had a tribal council meeting today on our reservation, and one of the things that some of the elders have brought out was the fact that when Watt talks about the social problems and the diseases and the health problems he cited that these were not here before 1492, and a lot of these things we have inherited from the dominant culture. I see this statement and this release as a political ploy type thing on the part of the Secretary.

KOPPEL: To do what?

WALN: Well, I think it's another move toward termination; I think it's a move that concerns environmental issues, concerns our land, concerns our resources. And I think this is the underlying meaning behind this.

KOPPEL: Ron Andrade, you're the executive director of the National Congress of American Indians. Interpret all of that for me. Why would it be to the advantage of the Reagan administration, or why would they think it to be to their advantage, if somehow reservations were disbanded?

RON ANDRADE (CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS): Well, of course most of the tribes are concerned that if they were disbanded the land would automatically come up for sale. Tribes could never -- or the individual member could never pay the tax rates, the other kind of costs that would happen once the tribe lands were dispersed to individual members.

Additionally, the oil companies and mineral interests would immediately go in and start to buy up the individual lots from the individual members. This is a part of our history from the 1800s, and so many of the tribes are very fearful that the breakup of the land and the breakup of the governments would mean total loss of the lands and, as a result, the loss of our culture.

KOPPEL: All right. I should interject at this point that we invited Secretary Watt, indeed we invited someone from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to come join us on our program this evening. We can only regret that they chose not to.

Let me come back to you, though, Mr. Andrade. He didn't say that, did he? I mean, he didn't call for the breakup of the reservations -- I mean Secretary Watt. Do you believe that that, however, is either policy or the intended policy of this administration?

ANDRADE: No, I don't think we've been able to pinpoint anything, other than maybe feelings on parts of some of the people. The recent announcements made by the President on January 14 we felt were beginning to strengthen our relationship with the federal government. We didn't see anything particular in the interview with Mr. Watt, at least from his side, that seemed to be an indication. I would not hold the same feeling for Mr. Howard Phillips; he seemed to be more interested in seeing a breakup of the reservations.

KOPPEL: He's the Chairman of the Conservative Caucus, who was conducting the interview.

ANDRADE: Yes, and he seemed to be -- and his questions seemed to be very loaded to try to get an answer from Mr. Watt that would lead to a statement saying, we should break up the reservations and get rid of the socialistic programs.

KOPPEL: Was there anything, indeed, in that interview that offended you?

ANDRADE: If anything was, I believe it was the -- our feeling was the attitude of Mr. Phillips and the other interviewers. Those kind of statements we believe were an attempt to try to draw out a statement, and maybe seen as a trial balloon by the conservatives, to see whether or not -- how many Americans

would buy these kind of answers, would buy this kind of questioning, against Indians. I think their attitude is the most offensive thing I think we got from this interview.

KOPPEL: Mr. Zah, do you -- what did you find most offensive?

ZAH: Well, we're more concerned about the lack of policy on the part of this administration. In other words, there is no Reagan policy on American Indians or native Americans in this country. And in absence of a clear-cut policy in terms of how they're going to deal with these programs, you have somebody like a secretary saying and doing all these things. And we have been quite concerned about that.

KOPPEL: Well, I mean, what kind of a policy do you think Secretary Watt is trying to impose, if indeed he is? Some of the things he said sounded, on the face of it, to be quite sympathetic to problems faced by many of the Indian nations.

ZAH: Well, I think many of those things that he is saying right now -- for example, the social program that he indicated -- there are some problems on the reservation. This administration had a chance to see if they can help us with some of those problems, but instead -- for example, he mentions the unemployment. On the Navajo Reservation the Reagan administration has saw fit to pull back \$152 million during the year 1982, and at the same time they're complaining that there is such a high unemployment rate and that the tribal government ought to do something about it.

KOPPEL: What is the unemployment rate on your reservation?

ZAH: About 75 percent unemployment rate now.

KOPPEL: --And what about -- let's take a look at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation. What's the unemployment rate there?

WALN: The last figures that came out of our planning office, Ted, were around 80 percent.

KOPPEL: And the Seminoles?

BILLIE: Forty-seven percent.

KOPPEL: And Mr. Andrade, on a national basis, are you able to put a number to it?

ANDRADE: Well, the Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates approximately about a 55 percent unemployment rate.

KOPPEL: And does that have to do largely with the fact that Indians choose to stay on reservations or are clannish, as some people would suggest? Or does it have to do with the fact that you have a very difficult time getting off the reservations and finding jobs? Any one of you can pick up on that.

ANDRADE: Well, Ted, we don't think it's because we choose to stay on the reservations, that it's anything of that nature. After 200 years with bureau domination, there's no industry, no private sector industry; there's not sufficient jobs on the reservation that they could have created, helped create with the tribes. They've not given tribal support -- the tribes the support they needed to create jobs on the reservation, and as a result, we have a high unemployment rate.

KOPPEL: And yet the way Secretary Watt puts it, he's suggesting that the very fact that the government has intruded too much over the last few years into Indian life has brought the state of affairs to where it is today.

ANDRADE: Well, I don't think the tribes have been asking for a handout; they've been asking for a hand. They said, help us develop the jobs, help us develop the industry. Instead the government has usually held back the tribes from doing that because of no assistance. And I think if the tribes had the proper assistance from the federal government we would have had many, many more jobs on the reservation.

KOPPEL: In a word, then, what is it you would like to see from the Reagan administration? Let's -- we have only about a minute left. I'd like to whip around very quickly. Mr. Zah, what would you like to say?

ZAH: Probably more funding to the Indian reservation, with less strings attached to those dollars.

KOPPEL: Mr. Waln?

WALN: One thing the Secretary has said, and the President also has stated, that they want to deal directly with tribal governments. It will be a government-to-government relationship. And we agree with this, and they have agreed with it. And we feel that the funds channeled directly to the tribal government, we would be able to develop our own resources and provide employment for the reservation.

KOPPEL: All right. We have time enough only for you, Mr. Billie.

BILLIE: I would like to go ahead and acquire some land near larger cities, where I can get my people out of the swamps and get to where the jobs are. And I've been quite successful in

some areas to this day -- and with some oppositions. And now, with the 47 percent unemployment, I think by going out closer to the city areas and putting my reservation there, I can slow down the unemployment rate.

KOPPEL: All right. Mr. Billie, Mr. Andrade, Mr. Waln, Mr. Zah, thank you all. When we return, we'll see what life is like at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation and how the people who live on it feel about Secretary Watt's remarks.

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KOPPEL: When reports of Secretary Watt's controversial interview first surfaced yesterday, the news spread through Indian communities like so much wildfire, and so did the anger and resentment. It's clear that many Indians agree with Watt on two points: that they should have a freer hand to govern themselves, and that they're plagued by serious social problems. Where they disagree with Secretary Watt is on where to place the blame. Jerry King reports from Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

(FILM SHOWN)

JERRY KING: He is a Sioux Indian; his name is Crazy Horse. His wife is a full-blooded niece of the legendary Indian chief. Together they, some of their 12 children and some of their grandchildren live just outside Pine Ridge, South Dakota. There is no running water in their trailer. It is not an easy life.

DAVID LONG (CRAZY HORSE): A lot of persons living in a small room, and not very much to eat. And now this alcoholics comes into the picture (sic). And I guess that is true all over the world, but as far as our Indian reservation, there is really nothing to do, especially the younger people.

G. WAYNE TAPIO (COUNCIL MEMBER): This is about the worst -- expert I ever seen, because Watt's never came here, he never asked anybody, he never listened.

KING: A special meeting of the Oglalo Sioux Tribal Council today interpreted Watt as pushing Indian integration with the rest of America, which they see as endangering their very existence as a Sioux nation.

JOHN STEELE (OGLALO SIOUX COUNCIL): Termination, as advocated by Secretary Watt, is genocide and, if continued or carried out against Indian people, makes President Reagan and the Secretary of Interior, James Watt, as guilty as Adolph Hitler in committing acts of genocide.

MARIO GONZALEZ (INDIAN ATTORNEY): We want to be left as a separate and distinct people, but yet we want to live and get along with everybody.

KING: Many on this reservation agree with Watt that alcoholism is rampant and so is drug abuse, that unemployment at 70 to 85 percent is horrendous, housing and medical facilities are terrible. But they feel these problems were exacerbated by Washington.

Sioux Indian leaders here on the Pine Ridge Reservation acknowledge the social problems prevalent among their tribe, but they say the fault is not with the system of reservations but rather with the way the reservations are administered by the federal government.

This is the Sioux Indians' national anthem. It is not a war chant, but there is certainly a feeling here that General Custer is alive and well in Washington. Jerry King, for Nightline, on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

(END FILM)

* * * * *

KOPPEL: That's our report on Nightline for tonight. For all of us here at ABC News, this is Ted Koppel in Washington. Good night.

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 19, 1983

Mr. Grant Dillman
Bureau Manager
United Press International
National Press Bldg., Rm 315
Washington, D. C. 20045

Dear Mr. Dillman:

We have been savaged by a non-issue generated by sloppy UPI journalism and I want to establish procedures whereby this will not happen again.

Last night your reporter Robert SanGeorge accepted from the commercial PR wire and ran without verification a story erroneously alleging that the Secretary of Interior wanted to scrap the Indian reservation system. UPI was apparently the only major news organization which took that unbelievable PR wire story and ran it without verification. AP, the Post, the LA Times, all the networks, and dozens of other papers and broadcasters called me to ask whether such an incredible statement could be true and accepted my explanation that the story was in error. Only UPI ran it by rote off the PR system, even though acknowledging its importance with the "URGENT" head.

We have been badly hurt, and needlessly so, by bad UPI journalism. The implausibility of the PR wire story was readily apparent to other journalists and could easily have been checked with us. I did not leave my desk from 7:30 a.m., Tuesday, until 1:00 a.m., Wednesday, and the evening was spent on this story. Verification would have been simple.

I am appalled that you would have such standards and I would like to hear from you as to how this situation can be corrected because this is not the first time we have been needlessly burned by UPI.

It took three phone calls to UPI to get a reasonably accurate revised story, such was the reluctance of your editors to acknowledge a mistake, and your wire stories still have not acknowledged the incorrectness of the major premise-- that Watt wants to close down Indian reservations.

Sincerely,

Douglas Baldwin
Assistant to the Secretary



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

January 20, 1983

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Public Affairs
White House

From: Assistant to the Secretary

Here is a summary of how the Indian controversy got started and where it seems to be heading.

The Secretary has long been critical of Federal meddling in reservation government procedures and the resultant problems for Indians. In his interview with Conservative Counterpoint the Secretary said what he has said to the press on other occasions--including his briefing 10 days ago on his Annual Report. The difference this time is that Conservative Counterpoint hyped the show with a release alleging that he had called for the closing down of the reservation system (copy attached). They hadn't checked the story with us--they simply issued it through the PR Wire. UPI picked it up without question and ran it almost verbatim.

The controversy continued with echo from Indian "leaders," but has begun to turn our way as we contact the tribes and inform them of what really was said. The Seminoles and the National Congress of American Indians have retracted their initial criticisms and now support the Secretary.

The Administration's position and the Secretary's strong personal views are that the reservation system must be maintained but with substantial improvements in educational opportunities, economic development, etc., occurring primarily through the initiatives of Tribal Governments. This was the point of his comment today on Good Morning America. ABC's Nightline Wednesday came across with a welcomed balance and a surprising amount of agreement that Watt had correctly diagnosed some serious Indian problems (he had never mentioned "venereal" diseases; that was a creation of the Conservative Counterpoint news release.)

We are counterattacking with several initiatives:

- We have strung together the positive videotape--Counterpoint's Indian section, Nightline, some Watt response footage--and are showing it to Indian leaders. Nearly a dozen have seen it thus far. Indian Assistant Secretary Ken Smith hosts the showing and puts it in context; response is favorable.

- The National Congress of American Indians has a regularly scheduled meeting here next Tuesday-Friday and we will have select members breakfast with the Secretary Monday. We think that they in turn will defuse the "emergency" meeting that the militant executive director of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association (NTCA) is setting up for later that day with its overlapping membership.

- We have compiled lengthy call lists of Indian leaders and Smith's people are phoning them to properly explain the issue. They are also meeting one-on-one with Indians as they come into town for next week's sessions.

- Ken Smith has done numerous interviews for Western TV and newspapers.

- We are calling Western editors in Indian country and sending them background such as the White House Fact Sheet. We need the full policy paper, however.

- We have worked through a call list of Eastern network and print reporters and editors to explain the issue--particularly the reality of life on the reservation and the distinction that many had missed in the Secretary's criticism, not of tribal government but of the imposition of a Federal dominance over elected tribal systems.

- Our Congressional Affairs people have explained the issue to Hill staffers and have provided information kits.

Enclosure

USA TODAY

OPINION

John Seigenthaler, Editorial Director
John J. Curley, Editor
Allen H. Neuharth, Chairman

JAMES WATT

Guest columnist

U.S. tries to build tribal self-sufficiency

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is strongly committed to strengthening tribal governments so we can bring lasting solutions to problems plaguing many reservations.

Persistent problems on reservations are not the fault of the Indians themselves. Indians are the victims of failed federal policies. Subjugation by the cavalry in the 19th century was replaced with suffocation by federal bureaucracy in the 20th century. Excessive regulation and self-perpetuating bureaucracy have stifled tribes, thwarted Indian control of reservation resources and promoted dependency.

Indian leaders want to take charge of their reservations and their destinies. We in the Reagan administration ardently want to help them achieve their goals. Tribes have a right to develop the human and natural resources of their reservations; the 735,000 Indians living on or near reservations are entitled to the opportunities guaranteed to all other Americans.

Our Indian policy calls for the conduct of federal-tribal relations on a government-to-government basis, just as with states and cities. We recognize a continued federal trust responsibility. With this is a commitment to build tribal self-sufficiency and to minimize federal interference on reser-

James Watt is secretary of the interior.

ervations. Tribes are encouraged to assume responsibility for law and order, education and other services.

President Reagan has established a commission to recommend actions to improve reservation economies. Meanwhile, we are working with new programs to attract private capital to reservations. Just one of these is a new law we supported that allows tribes to enter joint ventures with private corporations in ways which bring not only greater economic return to tribes but also develop Indian skills in business and management.

Some tribes have developed successful reservation enterprises despite past federal policy; we will make it easier for other tribes to follow these good examples.

America's need for energy and other resources will give many reservations opportunities to prosper. Our policy encourages tribes to take advantage of this need, while carefully protecting their culture, environment and sacred lands.

Once freed of this stifling bureaucracy, America's reservation Indians can and will solve many of their own problems, and will contribute significantly to the rebuilding of America.

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The Topic: AMERICA'S INDIANS

Each day, USA TODAY explores a major news issue. Today's page includes our opinion that another study won't solve the problems of native Americans, other views from the secretary of interior, Arizona, South Dakota and Washington, and voices from across the USA.

Restore the pride of first Americans

At some time during his term of office, every American president, starting with George Washington, has asked himself: "What am I going to do about the Indians?"

Different presidents, faced with different times and different pressures, found different answers. Andrew Jackson adopted a policy to brutalize them. Herbert Hoover picked an Oklahoma Kaw, Charles Curtis, to be his vice president.

Most presidents in this century have named committees to "study" problems of Indians. Many have resolved to "help" them. A few have truly tried to be sensitive to the plight of native Americans who are caught in a cultural vise of values in conflict. But, finally, almost every administration has given lip service to superficial solutions. And the country has continued to ignore tragic conditions that cause frustration and hopelessness among the majority of its 1.4 million Indians, 735,000 of whom live on reservations.

Tribes and individual Indians own more than 52 million acres held in trust by the U.S. government. But while the land is theirs and they cling to their cultural heritage, there is little in their daily lives to give them pride.

Life on most reservations is hellish. Unemployment has soared above 30 percent and on some reservations actually approaches 80 percent. Housing conditions are often substandard. Health services are inadequate. Lack of opportunity creates a despair that has produced phenomenally high rates of suicide and alcoholism.

Last week it was the Reagan administration's turn to address the question of what to do about the Indians. The president announced he will name a nine-member commission — co-chaired, of course, by a non-Indian and an Indian — to find ways to improve reservation economies.

The commission's charge is to discover how to develop stronger private sector investment in Indian reservation commerce and how to reduce federal funds and the "federal presence" in Indian affairs.

The Reagan answer to the Indian question would have gone virtually unnoticed had not Interior Secretary James Watt selected that moment to issue one of his cryptic assaults on liberalism, declaring that reservations represent "an example of the failures of socialism."

Some Indian leaders criticized the secretary for oversimplifying the historic complexity of Indians' suffering. Still, the timing of the secretary's remarks will force national attention on the tragedy afflicting the first Americans.

That, in and of itself, is a service. But another study group and another try at reservation free enterprise won't cure Indian ills. The cure won't come until all the people of this land share the Indians' sense of lost pride and determine at last and at least to give that back to them.

USA Today
1-24-83

8

RUSSELL MEANS

Guest columnist

Give Indians self-governing states

YELLOW THUNDER CAMP, S.D. — Secretary Watt's latest statement sounds like Hitler's propaganda minister, Goebbels, in the 1930s, when he began talking about a final solution.

Now Secretary Watt has come up with the final solution for American Indians: Get rid of us, get us out of the way. With a stroke of the pen we disappear and simply become members of the different slums of America.

Everyone should remember that the Indian people are the nation's second largest landholders, second only to the U.S. government. Sixty percent of the proven energy reserves of the United States are on our land. And we own most of the water rights out West.

What's happened to the American Indian is no different from what's happened to

many other indigenous peoples around the world — the aborigines in Australia and the Hmong in Laos.

The U.S. founding fathers believed that people of property here have a right to be materially well off. If that principle were working, then Indians would be among the richest people in America — instead, we are the poorest.

Many government agencies take millions in revenue from our land — the National Forest Service, the Park Service and the Bureau of Mines. State and local governments benefit, but not Indian peoples. We're living proof of the failure of the reservation system. We are out of sight, out of mind — we could be on another planet.

Imagine if the state and local governments of South Dakota were abolished. Imagine if every decision that affected South Dakotans were made in

Russell Means is a leader of the American Indian Movement.

Washington. The people would rise up in arms. It would be taxation without representation. Yet Indians remain government wards, totally colonized.

It took the U.S. government 100 years to get us into this condition. We could get out in 20 years, at no cost to taxpayers.

Each reservation should be changed to the status of an independent protectorate, much like the Vatican within Italy. If we were treated as self-governing states, we would have a voice in our affairs and be one of the heaviest contributors to society, from taxes.

It is true that you don't hear much about the fate of American Indians. The public would care if they heard about us, but they rarely do.

JOE DELA CRUZ

Guest columnist

Tribes deserve a role in decision-making

TAHOLAH, Wash. — When Indian tribes negotiated treaties with the United States 100 years ago to protect their rights, our ancestors never thought the resulting Indian-federal relationship would be interpreted to mean federal domination of tribal governments.

Today, we continue to struggle within the federal system against racism and greed, as we seek to protect our tribal rights.

We have found that each generation of tribal leaders must deal with ever-changing challenges if we are to continue to exist as Indian nations, a right we understood was ours when we signed the treaties.

The solicitor's office in the Department of Interior is responsible for protecting the legal rights of Indian people. In the past two years there has

been a noticeable decline in legal issues pursued by the solicitor on behalf of Indians. And some actual and proposed legal actions and opinions have been against tribal interests. This is clearly unethical.

Extensive reorganization of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) within Interior was proposed by the administration with minimal tribal participation. Tribal views were virtually ignored until friends in Congress demanded answers. To make major decisions affecting our lives without our participation is simply not fair.

Rather than allow Indian tribes to develop according to their own priorities, the BIA has proposed changes that would give it more authority, and give the tribes less. Relations between tribal governments and the federal government are seriously strained. As

Joe DeLa Cruz, chairman of the Quinault tribe, is president of the National Congress of American Indians.

the private sector bids harder for our natural resources, a protectionist mentality is forming in Indian country.

The Indian-federal relationship can improve if the current administration would only apply its philosophy to Indian country — by eliminating federal intrusion.

Requiring meaningful consultation with tribal leaders on substantive issues would reduce tensions. The Reagan administration has an opportunity to create "a new beginning" for the next century of our relationship. We wait with growing impatience and mistrust, for a relationship requires recognition and dialogue ... and patience has its limits.

USA Today
1-24

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VINE DELORIA JR.

Guest columnist

Without U.S. help, Indians always suffer

TUCSON, Ariz. — Secretary James Watt's recent outburst against Indian socialism is indeed surprising in view of the history of Indians.

In 1885, Sen. Henry Dawes of Massachusetts visited the five civilized tribes, and then spoke to a white group interested in bringing justice to Indians by integrating them in the American mainstream, a position similar to Watt's.

Dawes reported that there were no paupers in these Indian nations. Each family owned its own home, the Indians had built their own schools. No Indian nation owed anyone anything; they were sovereign governments. Dawes thought the tribes had reached stagnation: "There is no selfishness, which is at the bottom of civilization."

With Dawes' enthusiastic support the government divided the reservations into farming tracts and charged the Interior Department with the task of leading Indians into the glories of the private property system of economics. By 1934, the Indians were destitute, dying by the thousands, prostrate by every conceivable measure. John Collier made a valiant effort to reconstitute tribalism and for a short period Indians revived sufficiently to begin cooperatives and tribal businesses.

In 1954, again at the urging

Vine Deloria Jr. is the author of Indian books, including God Is Red.

of devout free enterprise advocates, the government began to terminate the U.S.-Indian relationship. Again tribes plunged into poverty and despair.

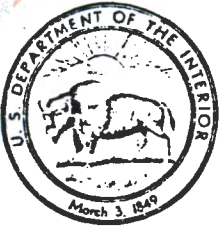
With Great Society programs in the '60s, Indians made a vigorous recovery. Again, people were fed, educated and employed. Some less fortunate tribal members began to achieve an economic level comparable to other rural Americans.

Then came Reaganomics. Badly needed development and training funds were radically reduced. Today the conditions Watt describes do abound on reservations; they've dramatically increased since his term began.

Americans should not be misled by Watt and Reagan and their description of socialism. They hold the idea that the only valid function of government is to purchase weapons — any other use of public funds is apparently a needless experiment in socialism. Indian poverty is a direct result of misguided efforts to make Indians as miserable as other Americans through the imposition of a fraudulent private enterprise system.

USA
Today
1-24

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THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

January 24, 1983

Mr. Joe Delacruz
President, National Congress
of American Indians
202 E Street N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Joe:

This will confirm the agreements we reached at our breakfast meeting. We have all recognized that there are severe problems on the reservations that need to be addressed. We also recognized that to solve those problems we must involve the elected tribal officials and the officials of the Reagan Administration. These officials must deal with the problems and not simply surrender them to the bureaucracies that tend to perpetuate problems rather than solve them.

I am asking, in accord with our agreements, that you appoint the appropriate people to work on the solutions under the budget and time constraints that exist. We cannot afford to sweep the problems under the rug or pretend they do not exist as Washington has frequently done for so many years.

Ken Smith and I will commit the time necessary to work with you and the appropriate Indian leaders to solve the problems that you have identified.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

James G. Watt

cc:
Secy Files
Secy RF (2)

IDENTICAL LETTER TO:

Mr. Phillip Martin
President, National Tribal
Chairmen's Association
1010 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Mr. Wilford Scott
President, Council of Energy
Resource Tribes
1140 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS OF KEN SMITH
ASSISTANT SECRETARY - INDIAN AFFAIRS
BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
OF THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 25, 1983

Introduction

Good morning. I will try to be brief this morning in my remarks because I want to spend more time listening than talking. I want to hear your suggestions and comments on where you want to go in the next two years and what we can do to help you get there.

* * *

I. Secretary Watt

For a beginning, I want to say something about Secretary Watt's much-publicized remarks of last week. I want to point out, first of all, that the Secretary in no way recommended abolishing Indian reservations. That was misinformation put out in a news release and widely circulated. It was not true.

Beyond that I simply want you to hear part of what Secretary Watt told David Hartman on ABC Television last Thursday. He said, and I am quoting: "I've been trying for two years to draw attention to the terrible plight of the American Indian. The American Indian has been abused for years and years. And for too many years politicians have simply been trying to sweep it under the rug, acting like it's not there. They deserve better . . . The Bureau of Indian Affairs has not done a good job . . . If I can draw attention to this Indian issue and get that solved, I will have made a significant contribution to America, and particularly to the American Indian who deserves so much better attention than the government has given him for 100 years. It's a problem we cannot afford to sweep under the rug. Let's address it, let's solve it." Unquote.

Those are the words and the thoughts of Secretary Watt.

* * *

II. The Indian Policy

While Secretary Watt's off-hand remarks were receiving so much attention last week, a major statement on Indian policy, issued by the White House, received comparatively little notice.

This Presidential expression of Indian policy, the first since President Nixon's enunciation of the self-determination policy, clearly voices the determination of this Administration to support and strengthen Indian tribal governments as a first step toward solving the persistent economic problems on Indian reservations.

This policy, which received Secretary Watt's strong support at the White House, makes the clearest affirmation possible of the unique government-to-government relationship of the United States and American Indian tribes.

It reaffirms the United States' backing of Indian self-determination and promises to remove obstacles to self-government. It says that the Federal government, through its bureaucracy and excessive regulations, will no longer stifle tribal decisionmaking, thwart Indian control of reservation resources and promote dependency rather than self-sufficiency.

The policy calls for an express repudiation of House Concurrent Resolution 108 and any lingering traces of the old U.S. termination policy. It transfers the business of Indian tribes with the White House from the Office of Public Liaison, which deals with interest groups, to the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, which deals with governments. It also directs that the tribes be eligible for direct funding -- not through the states -- for Title XX social services block grant funding.

The policy also asks Congress to include a representative of Indian tribal governments on the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

To implement another part of the policy, the President has already signed the executive order establishing a Presidential Commission on Indian Reservation Economies. Establishing this Commission will not automatically turn reservation economies around. We all know that. But, it will help and it does signify the concern and the importance the President attaches to this issue. The recommendations of this Commission will receive attention and support in the White House, on Capitol Hill and, I hope, on Indian reservations.

I think we need to recognize in this Presidential statement, first, the intrinsic value of the policy positions and, second, the significant values of having the President formally voice his concern, interest and support for American Indians.

This policy statement is a major achievement for American Indians.

* * *

III. Some Other Achievements

Let me mention a few other things which I consider substantial achievements for Indian people.

Pessimists always talk about the terrible budget cuts in Indian programs.

We all know that cutting Federal expenditures has been one of the prime goals of the Reagan Administration -- and I think that the vast majority of the people in this country support this goal. They know we have to stop spending more than we have or we will bankrupt the entire country.

Now, all of us here would like these budget cuts to come in programs other than the Indian programs -- but if we are realistic and reasonable we have to expect to share in some of the cuts.

However, the Bureau of Indian Affairs funding for the operation of Indian programs has continued to rise. I realize there has been inflation -- but the fact remains clear to me that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has received very favorable treatment by this Administration -- where it counts most, in the budget. There have been significant budget reductions in other departments and in other Bureaus and agencies in Interior, but not in the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In the BIA's 1983 appropriation, incidentally, we did receive funding for two new initiatives which we will be implementing immediately. I mailed letters to all tribal leaders last week informing them that we would begin processing applications for these two grant programs. They are designed to help small tribes develop and maintain basic managerial competencies and to provide seed money for profit-making reservation business ventures.

Agencies and areas offices will be providing technical assistance and orientation about both of these programs so we can begin using these funds as soon as possible.

I want to make clear, also, that these are not one-year programs. As the President's policy statement indicates, we expect to be requesting continued funding for these programs in 1984.

Another letter to tribal leaders, signed last week, announces our intentions to keep self-determination programs under contracts and not grants.

This is what you asked for in your comments on the proposed revision of the 638 regulations. I have asked the Solicitor to find means by which we could continue to operate the self-determination programs under contract. If necessary, we will seek legislation.

Another favorable action for Indian tribes was the provision of \$375 million for reservation road construction under the Highway Improvement Act of 1982. This legislation, initiated by President Reagan, gives the BIA \$75 million dollars in 1983 for reservation road construction and \$100 million dollars in each of the next three years.

This money will help reservations build roads that are badly needed and we believe it will provide approximately 10,000 new jobs on the reservations. The \$75 million to be received by the BIA in 1983 is over and above its regular roads appropriation of \$43 million.

Two other new laws, mentioned in the President's policy statement, are the Tribal Government Tax Status Act of 1982 and the Indian Minerals Non-Lease Development Act.

The Tax Status Act gives tribal governments the same tax advantages and exemptions as states and other local governments. It acknowledges the governmental authority of the tribes and it provides certain financial benefits.

The minerals act frees the tribes from the restraints of the 1983 Indian minerals leasing act which permitted the development of Indian mineral resources only through straight lease agreements. The new act permits tribes to have a management and entrepreneurial role in the development of these resources. They can now enter into joint ventures and other types of agreements for the development of their resources.

* * *

IV. A Look Ahead

I hope that I will get some ideas from you today of some of the things we should be doing within the next two years of my term in office. I have jotted down some ideas that I am going to relate to you, but I also want to hear from you on your ideas and thoughts. Here are some of the things I believe we should be looking at and that I will be working on:

-- Amend the Indian Financing Act so that an individual Indian entrepreneur can take advantage of our new economic development grant initiative. As it now stands, only tribes and tribal organizations can receive those grants and I would like to include the individual Indian. And we will be implementing the recommendations we will be getting from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Reservation Economies.

-- I will be looking for more ideas from you on ways we can strengthen tribal governments. I particularly want to hear from you on ways that you will recommend that we do that. The new initiative we have in our budget to help strengthen the small tribes will be a big help, but I know we need to find more ways. If you think we need legislation or some other means to do that, I want to hear from you.

-- Contract support funds. We want to change the formula that we have in effect on the amount of monies you get from indirect costs in your government contracts. We want to make the formula more equitable.

-- And I will continue to look for ways to foster self-determination through increased tribal operation of Bureau programs. I keep hearing from many of you that you want control on your reservations. I want you to have it. But you have to be willing to step out front and contract more programs so that you will have the direct control.

* * *

V. Conclusion

There is more I could say about what has been done, but I am going to stop.

There is so much more to be done. We need to look back occasionally. I think we have much to be encouraged by in the past two years. But I am more concerned about looking to the future and what we want to do in the next two years.

The President's policy, the legislation that has been passed, the funding that is being provided are all tools to be used for future accomplishments.

As Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, responsible for working with you -- with Indian people and leaders -- I see the future as a challenge and an opportunity.

I think we can and will accomplish great things. I hope you share this attitude.

Thank you.

#

2-28-82

'Indian Business' Fast Becoming a Force to Reckon With

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico — For decades, dealing with questions of Indian life, land and economics — "the Indian business" as its practitioners call it — has been a highly profitable endeavor. It has been highly profitable to lawyers, consultants, western landowners, utility and energy companies, sociologists, anthropologists and roadside turquoise vendors.

Today there are signs that the Indian business is undergoing a major change — that it might even be turning profitable for Indians.

Economically, American Indians are the least among us, the poorest group in the land. On some reservations today, the unemployment rate is running beyond 80 percent. On all the reservations, federal cuts in social programs have been deep and traumatic. On virtually none of the reservations have economic times ever been very good.

But despite all that, there is optimistic talk abroad in Indian lands, because in ways that might overshadow the economics and politics of the moment, the great tribes of the West, shunted onto reservations and out of the broader public mind a century ago, are beginning to emerge as forces to be reckoned with.

There are three main reasons.

First, beneath some of the 52 million acres of Indian reservation land lie significant deposits of undeveloped energy resources, including 15 percent of the nation's coal reserves. Those resources promise to be tremendously valuable in years to come.

Water Rights Issue

Second, many of the tribes are on their way to acquiring rights to a great deal of water, as pressure mounts from Indians and other interests to resolve long-standing, Supreme Court-endorsed Indian water claims, at a time when water has never been more precious to Indian and non-Indian visions of a prosperous future.

And third, in matters of water and energy development, western Indians are steadily gaining the kind of expertise and sophistication that is essential if they are to sidestep history and avoid once again losing what they have.

For Indians and everyone else in the West, those three commodities

— energy, water and the savvy to deal with them — are the prime requisites of a healthy future, the economic makers or breakers of people, businesses, governments and Indian reservations in more than a dozen western states.

The details of Indian progress in matters of water and energy might seem a bit basic — developments like this year's U.S. Supreme Court approval of an energy severance tax for the Jicarilla Apaches of New Mexico, congressionally guaranteed water and water development money for the Papagos of southern Arizona, a proposed bill freeing Indian tribes from the outdated and costly restrictions in the standard mineral lease agreement whose use is required by the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Prosaic as those changes may appear, they need to be understood in the context of recent conditions on the reservations; the Indians are coming from far behind.

Levying taxes, pinning down rights to water for use or resale, making better deals with companies interested in reservation resources — all these pursuits are intended to mean new income and new possibilities for the reservations.

Magnanimous Treaties

But if the 1980s indeed bring major Indian economic progress, many of those advances will be most traceable to decisions made in the 1800s, when federal officials repeatedly endorsed blithely magnanimous treaties and policies that the U.S. government then spent the next century treating as little more than a documentary collection of ethnic jokes.

JOHN LAKE (alt)
12-28-82

They aren't jokes any more. John Echobawk, an Oklahoma Pawnee and executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, the most important Indian legal arm, has been pressing in court for treaty-guaranteed tribal rights for more than a decade.

He says, "When we first started doing this, a lot of these interests — states and businesses — didn't know what we were doing. They said, 'What do you mean, "treaties"?' That was all over a century ago."

"Now they find themselves in a situation where they have to deal with us."

That late-coming affirmation of reservation rights would seem to have the makings of one of the great ironic reversals of American history, were it not for uncertainties raised by the tawdry record of federal-Indian relations and the fact that most of the dozens of Indian groups anxious to prosper from their water and underground resources still are a long way from turning their claims into productive wealth.

For as the tribes press for more equitable treatment in matters of water and other resources, they are putting themselves and their potential holdings at risk during a period when resource decisions are being made that could affect the nation, the West and the Indians for generations to come.

Sam DeLoria is a Hunkpapa Sioux from South Dakota, the head of the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque and bearer of a half-humorous fatalism nurtured by a lifetime watching Indians try to cope with the white world around them.

"A set of bad decisions," DeLoria says, "could have ultimate repercussions. A set of good decisions could at least delay a new round of bad decisions, or it could put us on the road to some plateau.... The kinds of uses to which Indian resources can be put now are not as reversible as, say, cancelling a (grazing) lease and chasing the rancher off your land."

In short, the deals Indians make over energy and water now could be with them for decades. And as the tribes press for more independence, faster development and larger roles in resource exploitation, they will severely test their own skills and the ability of the overseeing Bureau of Indian Affairs at matching wits with energy companies and water-hungry state governments.

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DeLoria has another worry as — that the appearance of success will create the same sort of public misconception that has recurred from the 1920s heydays of the oil-rich, Cadillac-driving Osage Indians of Oklahoma to the more recent years of Indian land-claim settlements, when tribes were being awarded sums of money that seemed huge, even though they often represented only pennies per acre for land taken from them in times past.

What DeLoria fears is a backlash, based on the assumption that Indians everywhere are getting rich.

"The stereotype is that Indians are poor and kind of klutzy and are talking to eagles all the time," DeLoria says. "When they don't behave that way, society says, 'Why should we help you? You're the same as us!'"

DeLoria sees in that attitude the potential for Indians to lose precious political support outside the Indian community, and hence the government financial support that is all

that stands between some reservations and utter destitution.

He recalls the reaction of one New Mexico politician after the Supreme Court's Jicarilla severance tax decision: "He said, 'If these guys have the power to tax, then I don't know why we have all these (Indian) social programs.' Of course, every other body with the power to tax has social programs...."

Robert Nordhaus, the non-Indian lawyer who won the case allowing the Jicarilla tax, shares some of DeLoria's concern about people who jump to the conclusion that severance taxes, for instance, are suddenly going to bring prosperity to the tribes. (The taxes are paid to resource holders by those who remove the resources — coal mining companies, for instance.)

"That's an unrealistic position," Nordhaus says. "Take an Indian tax of a couple million dollars a year and divide it up among a couple thousand Indians, and that's a thousand dollars a year. But these tribes also have to provide many services — police protection, road maintenance and construction...."

"The average person looks at the Indians like they should be relegated to the poverty level. He says they're rich because they have a couple thousand coming in, and the guy talking is making \$60,000 or \$70,000."

For the record, an average white male worker in 1970 (the latest cen-

sus data available) earned \$6,772 a year, a Hispanic male earned \$5,210, a black man earned \$4,067, an Indian earned \$3,509. That relative order hasn't changed in the 1980s.

And in a time of economic slump, low energy demand and low energy prices, reservation resources are not particularly valuable right now. Further, a big question exists about what Indian reservations are going to do with guaranteed water rights if they have no funds to build facilities, so the water can be used for irrigation and other purposes.

Numerous tribes with firmly established water rights are simply watching that water run downstream to other users, because they have no means of capitalizing on it.

Almost certainly, the federal government is not going to be spending much money soon for Indian water development. The Reagan administration has not shown any special concern for Indians (earlier this month it proposed eliminating a \$29 million Indian health program for reservation residents without access to hospitals), and after decades of federal dam and irrigation construction in the West, no new major U.S. water project of any kind has been launched for a half-dozen years.

Cost-sharing is the key to water development now, and the tribes have very little money with which to share costs.

In that, DeLoria sees yet another twist of the knife for Indians: "It's like the post office at Christmas, when you get to the window just as they close it. Now that everybody else has an irrigation project, let's start keeping score and see what's fair...."

But Echohawk of the Native American Rights Fund sees some reason for optimism, especially because of this year's Papago water settlement in Arizona. In exchange for dropping its water claims in court, the tribe received a congressional guarantee of specific amounts of Colorado River water, to be delivered when the Central Arizona Water Project is completed around 1990, and a \$15 million trust fund for development.

After President Reagan vetoed a bill that would have financed the fund solely with federal money, the Reagan administration agreed to contribute \$5.25 million, half of the fund's principal amount (which is expected to earn enough in interest to produce that \$15 million by the time Central Arizona Project water reaches the reservation).

The administration insisted that the other half be paid by the state and some private interests — in the words of one Indian advocate, "by the people who've been stealing it for so long."

Echohawk says, "Other tribes may be in a position, given the water rights they hold, to demand that sort of thing."

Partly because of the Papago experience and partly because of the strength of Indian water arguments in court (the Supreme Court in 1908 ruled that every reservation was entitled to its own water), substantial impetus has built this year to define Indian water rights all over the West.

Groups involved include not only Indian tribes and national organizations, but also the energy, mining and power companies that comprise the Western Regional Council and most western state governors.

The reason for their common interest is this: Before any of them can do accurate water planning, they all need to know what specific amounts of water Indians will be entitled to.

And they would prefer to arrive at those figures by negotiation rather than litigation, not only because it is quicker, but because non-Indian interests fear severe court decisions. (For instance, the head of the Arizona Water Department has said that if all Indian water claims in his state were legally recognized, there literally would be no water for anyone else.) Right now, more than 50 tribes are in various courts fighting for resolution of water rights.

Just last week, Interior Secretary James Watt told water-interested parties that the federal government would provide assistance and dollars — \$4 million for research in 1983 — to get those water questions resolved.

USA Today
1-11-83
Kickapoos become eligible for citizenship
EAGLE PASS Terms — The 800 Kickapoo Indians who live in cardboard huts under the International Bridge here, will be eligible for citizenship and federal aid under legislation signed Monday by President Reagan. The tribe may also get a reservation of its own.
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NY Times 1/25/83

REAGAN OUTLINES POLICY ON TRIBES

He Calls for Less Government Control on Reservations — Indians Assail Plans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (UPI) — President Reagan today outlined a policy to encourage self-government among Indian tribes and to create a "favorable environment" to make reservations more economically self-sufficient.

The announcement came less than a week after Interior Secretary James G. Watt angered Indian leaders by calling Federal reservations "an example of the failures of socialism."

Mr. Reagan said the principle of self-government had been set forth in a 1976 law and was a "good starting point," but since then, he said, "there has been more rhetoric than action."

"Instead of fostering and encouraging self-government," the President said, "Federal policies have by and large inhibited the political and economic development of the tribes."

Spelling out a policy certain to be opposed by leaders of the 1.4 million Indians now living on reservations, Mr. Reagan proposed that the Federal Government move away from its "surrogate role" regarding Indian tribes and that the tribes reduce their dependence on Federal funds. The Indians, he said, would still be eligible for block grants for social services.

Discusses Mineral Wealth

The President also called for greater involvement of private industry in developing the economies of the Indian lands and said that both the country and the Indian tribes "stand to gain from the prudent development and management of the vast coal, oil, gas, uranium and other resources found on Indian lands."

However, he said his Administration would not expect change overnight and would "pursue the policy of self-government for Indian tribes without threatening termination."

A White House aide said the new policy statement was developed with recommendations from the Interior Department.

Several Indian leaders from around the country called for Mr. Watt's resignation last week in response to a broadcast interview Jan. 20 in which the Interior Secretary said: "If you want an example of the failures of socialism, don't go to Russia. Come to America, and see the American Indian reservations."

Mr. Watt then said that some tribal leaders "are interested in keeping this group of people assembled on a desert environment where there are no jobs, no agricultural potential, no water, because if Indians were allowed to be liberated, they'd go and get a job and that guy wouldn't have his handout as a paid government Indian official."

In his statement today, Mr. Reagan said, "This Administration intends to restore tribal governments to their rightful place among the governments of this nation and to enable tribal governments, along with state and local governments, to resume control over their own affairs."

The policy statement reflected Mr. Reagan's philosophy that many responsibilities and resources now handled by the Federal Government should be under the jurisdiction of the state and local governments.

Opposition From Indians

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24 (AP) — Indian groups, who got a look at a draft of the Reagan Administration's policy earlier this month, had branded it as an empty gesture.

"The words sound lovely, but the real Indian policy of this Administration was set in the first budget the President sent to Congress, which proposed to cut one third of the total budget for Indians," said Suzan Harjo of the Native American Rights Fund, which represents Indian tribes before Congress.