Issues Brief: The Environment

PRESIDENT BUSH'S OBJECTIVE: STOP POLLUTION, NOT GROWTH

President Bush is a world leader in protecting the global environment while maintaining economic growth. The keys to the President's approach? Enforcement and incentives.

- This year the U.S. has spent over $130 billion to protect our environment – more than any other country in the world.

America's water supply is purer today, thanks to President Bush.

- President Bush halted offshore drilling for oil and gas development until the next century to protect the coastlines of California, southern Florida, Washington state, Oregon and New England.

- President Bush has set a goal of "no net loss" of wetlands and has more than doubled the funding for wetlands protection.

We all breathe a little easier, too, thanks to President Bush. He has pioneered new approaches to reduce air pollution.

- President Bush proposed and got passage of the first major rewrite of the Clean Air Act in 13 years. The Clean Air Act reduces emissions that cause acid rain, smog, and air pollution.

- Just-released Environmental Protection Agency statistics for 1990 show an 11-percent decrease in toxic materials emitted into the air, ground and water.

President Bush follows Teddy Roosevelt's respected philosophy of conservation through sound stewardship.

- President Bush launched the "America the Beautiful" initiative to plant a billion new trees a year.

- President Bush has redoubled efforts to make sure that "the polluters pay" for environmental damage.
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NEWS IN BRIEF  continued

PRESIDENT IN L.A. cont'd: The President spoke firmly as he said, "The first lesson of LA...is a simple one, the primary duty of government is to protect the safety of lives and property and there can be no opportunity, no hope in a community where decent citizens are held hostage to gangs of criminals."

President Bush spoke of family values to inner-city kids at the Lynwood Sheriff's Station sports league. To those attending an Asian-Pacific American Heritage dinner, the President hailed the Asian community's commitment to family values: "Everyone could learn from the Asian culture with its emphasis on hard work and family...like you, we should live by an inner moral compass that stresses not entitlement, but personal responsibility."

In Fresno, the President received thanks from farmers for standing tough with the European Community on trade, for his wetlands reserve program and for adding jobs to the environmental equation. "I want to thank you...for pushing so hard for the successful conclusion of GATT as well as NAFTA," a Fresno dairyman and farmer told the President. (5/29, 5/30)

GOP THE PARTY OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND FEMALE CANDIDATES "Since 1980, Republicans have nominated more women to run for the Senate than have the Democrats," says Minority Leader Senator Bob Dole [R-KS]. He emphasizes that it was Republican congressmen who first introduced "comprehensive women's rights legislation, including the first-ever monetary remedies for sexual harassment in the workplace, specific provisions to fight violence against women and the first proposal dealing with corporate discrimination against women." (Washington Post, 5/31)

Republicans also have been very active in supporting women for federal judgeships. President Bush has nominated 36 women to the federal bench. (U.S. News & World Report, 6/8)

FORTUNE FINDS PEROT WITHOUT ANSWERS Fortune magazine, which conducted a two-hour interview with Ross Perot, reports that "when it came to politics and political philosophy, the range of what [Perot] hadn't thought about was, well, striking." For example, in response to a question about the preferable size and role of the federal government, Perot answered, "Interesting question. Never thought about it. Have to think about it." Fortune also interviewed this nation's top CEOs about Perot. "I haven't met anybody who doesn't think Perot would be an absolute disaster as president," said one retired CEO currently on the boards of five Fortune 500 companies. (Fortune, 6/15)

STATEWATCH

ARIZONA GOP BIG FOR BUSH President Bush "buried" challenger Pat Buchanan on Saturday, winning 35 of Arizona's 37 delegates to the Republican National Convention, according to The Arizona Republic. "We got 35, they got two," beamed Burt Kruglick, state chairman of the Bush/Quayle campaign. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp represented Bush at the convention. "We have had our debate, now it's time to unite," Kemp said. (The Arizona Republic, Tempe Daily News Tribune, 5/31)

ECONOMYWATCH

TRADE, ECONOMY IMPROVING The Commerce Department reports that the merchandise trade deficit fell to $17.5 billion in the first quarter of 1992, the second-best showing in nine years. This good economic news follows last week's report that the first quarter gross domestic product was 2.4 percent. "This is a very positive set of signs that recovery is really here," said Allen Sinai of the Boston Co., speaking about the GDP rate. (Washington Post, 5/30, AP, 6/1)

CONGRESSWATCH

SPENDING RUN AMOK "If the liberals who control Congress are unwilling to put a lid on their own operations, how can we expect them to get control of a budget process that has run amok? I find it insane...that there are 53 committees and subcommittees in the House -- and 21 in the Senate -- with jurisdiction over one aspect or another of national drug policy. Is this the best possible use of our tax dollars? I think not," Congressman Harold Rogers [R-KY] (6/1)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Our strategy right now is to get the president out there...talking about change and about reform and where he wants to take this country and how we're going to get there." MARY MATALIN, Bush/Quayle Deputy Campaign Manager for Political (CNN's Inside Politics, 5/29)

"When I heard what Dan Quayle said in his San Francisco speech about Murphy Brown's bearing an illegitimate baby, I thought, 'Good for him!'...I commend decisions of single women to choose life, but to glamorize the situation is wrong." LETTER FROM READER, Indianapolis Star, 5/29

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