

years ago, in the summer months of 1787, the Federal Convention met in Philadelphia and drafted the U.S. Constitution, the most enduring charter in the history of government. Following the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, and continuing through 1788, the States held conventions to debate the ratification of the new plan of government. Thus, during the term of the 100th Congress, we will have ample opportunity to observe the anniversary of many events associated with our Constitution.

When the 101st Congress convenes in January 1989, it will mark the Bicentennial of the First Congress, and the inauguration of the Federal Government. This Congress, the 100th, is special in its own way but does not mark any anniversary for the House of Representatives. It is merely the beginning of the 198th year of Congress. For example, if James Madison had been successful in his proposal for a 3-year term of Congress, the bicentennial of the House would have fallen in the 67th Congress.

Beginning with this 100th Congress, the House of Representatives and Senate will observe a series of bicentennial events culminating in March 1989, when the Congress will celebrate its 200th anniversary. The Commission on the U.S. House of Representatives Bicentennial, established in 1985, has issued a report on current bicentennial projects and recommendations concerning the proper observances of the bicentennial years. I commend this report to your interest. In addition, the other body established its own Bicentennial Commission last year to develop plans for commemorative projects and ceremonies.

Foremost among the plans for 1987 is a proposed joint meeting of Congress in Philadelphia. The proposed meeting on July 16 will commemorate the 200th anniversary of the "Great Compromise" that settled the Constitutional Convention's debate on Congress. On that date, the delegates agreed to establish a popularly elected House of Representatives with proportional representation and a Senate with equal representation for all States and with its Members elected by State legislatures.

This compromise ended the conflict between large and small States that threatened to bring the convention to an impasse. At the meeting in Philadelphia, it is proposed that the House and State meet separately to mark the distinctive character of each body and then meet jointly to commemorate the founding of Congress.

Later on, on September 17, Members of Congress will join representatives of the executive and judicial branches of the Government in a ceremony in Philadelphia to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution.

As we begin this bicentennial era, I urge my colleagues to use the opportunities that may arise to inform the people of America of the essential role that our Constitution, and the Congress, have played in this history of our country and continue to play in the day-to-day life of the Republic.

Thank you.

## THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARTER 77 IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 1987

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, what we often take for granted here in the United States becomes an act of courage in many nations. And so it was 10 years ago, when some 250 Czechoslovak citizens issued the Charter 77 Manifesto, a declaration of their commitment to defend human rights in their country.

On that day, a brave coalition of Charter 77 signatories announced, "everyone bears his share of responsibility \* \* \* for the observance of legally enshrined agreements, binding upon all citizens as well as upon governments."

However, Mr. Speaker, when the chartists attempted to present the document to the Czechoslovak Government officials, some were arrested and imprisoned.

Charter signatories have suffered imprisonment, interrogation, and increasing harassment. But alone in Eastern Europe, charter 77 has operated without interruption for 10 years. During those years, the group affirmed that they were not interested in setting up a group in opposition to the government. Nor did they seek to advance any set of dogmas. Rather, they sought to create a mechanism for constructive dialog between a State and its citizens.

That dialog was expended to include interlocutors in the East and in the West, and in so doing the chartists captured the imagination of independent-minded groups in Eastern Europe. The reasoned voice and carefully celebrated arguments of the chartists have found a sympathetic audience in other parts of Europe. That message is that peace and human rights are inseparable.

In the "Prague Appeal" of May 1985, Charter 77 articulated the common East European aspiration of overcoming the division of Europe. The solution it presented was not to redraw the borders of Europe, but rather make such redrawing unnecessary: "The freedom and dignity of individual citizens are the key to the freedom and self-determination of nations. And only sovereign nations can transform Europe into a community of equal partners which would not pose the threat of a global nuclear war. But instead, serve as an example of real peaceful coexistence."

That appeal is even more relevant today as we start the new year. It is an appeal based upon the common aspirations of those nations that pledged 11 years ago at Helsinki, Finland, to lower the boundaries that divide Europe. It is an appeal to all the representatives of those nations who are meeting in Vienna to aspire to those principles which guide relations between states and their citizens. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms lies at the core of true peace.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I am introducing a resolution to commend the Charter 77 human rights organization of the 10th anniversary of its establishment, and for its contributions to

the achievements of the aims of the Helsinki final act.

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of an independent front, such as Charter 77, in Eastern Europe deserves our attention and our hopes. Ten years after the birth of Charter 77, the quiet, relentless push for dialog has found partners—in likeminded movements throughout eastern Europe. I urge my colleagues to join me in strong support of this resolution and recognition of these outstanding and courageous individuals.

## INTRODUCTION OF CAPULIN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL MONUMENT BILL

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 1987

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues my introduction of a bill that would transfer 17.5 acres of public land to the Capulin National Monument. The bill is noncontroversial and would basically include land in the monument area in Northeastern New Mexico to serve as a buffer zone to the westerly side of this environmentally unique area.

Capulin Mountain, a recent extinct volcano, erupted three times over an estimated 2,000 year period—the last eruption occurred approximately 10,000 years ago. The existing monument boundary contains approximately 0.5 square miles of the 25 square miles of lava flows. The second lava flow from the mountain formed an outstanding lava dike.

Mr. Speaker, the National Park Service in 1984 outlined the many benefits to be derived from a bill that would include the transfer of the 17.5 acres of public land in question. If the tract is included within the boundary it would contain the only portion of the outstanding collapsed lava tube formation within the monument area. That remnant of volcanic lava flow would be in plain view from the entrance road to the monument; provide an opportunity for on-site interpretation of the geologic formation; and prevent the removal of lava rock.

The acquisition of all lands within the authorized boundary of Capulin Mountain was completed 14 years ago when 95 acres were acquired from the State of New Mexico. This land was then transferred to the National Park Service in a land exchange between the State of New Mexico and the Bureau of Land Management. As a part of the exchange the State relinquished title to 17.5 acres of land that lie outside and adjacent to the western boundary of the monument and north of the entrance road.

On November 27, 1972, the National Park Service filed a request for the withdrawal of the 17.5 acres in question for the expressed purpose of adding the property to the Capulin Mountain National Monument.

Mr. Speaker, back in January of 1975, a notice of proposed withdrawal was published in the Federal Register by the Bureau of Land Management. The notice stated that the BLM would undertake an investigation to examine