

the fatal link between heart disease and the high level of fat in their diets, and I commend each of these students for bringing this message of good health to the first State.●

THE TRAIL OF TEARS

HON. LAMAR GUDGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 1979

● Mr. GUDGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the House a bill I have introduced today. This bill would amend the National Trails Systems Act of 1968, which provides for a national system of scenic, historic, and recreation trails, by authorizing a suitability feasibility study of the Cherokee "Trail of Tears" and for its designation as a national historic trail. The study would include the identification of associated forts and other structures.

The forcible eviction of the Cherokee people from their lands east of the Mississippi has been described as "one of the greatest blots in American history." I would like to briefly summarize the events leading up to the occurrence.

The Cherokee Nation of Indian Tribes held title to land in the States of North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. The Cherokees had lived in peace with their white neighbors for several generations. Commerce and trade flourished between the two races and intermarriages were common. Many of the Cherokees enjoyed a lifestyle similar to that of their white neighbors. The most prosperous Cherokees were on equal terms economically and socially with their white counterparts. They lived in roomy houses of brick, frame, and stone. They wore clothes purchased in the East and rode in fine carriages. They sent their sons and daughters to schools in neighboring communities.

However, the increasing white population and the concomitant westward expansion caused the white settlers to covet the Cherokee's lands. This desire was further increased when gold was discovered in Dahlonega, Ga., in the late 1820's. In an effort to force them to move, the Cherokees were subjected to official harassment from the various States and the Federal Government. Cherokee property was confiscated, plantations were raided and burned, and livestock was run off the land.

Finally, the Federal Government signed the Treaty of New Echota with the Cherokees in 1835. In this treaty, the Cherokee people agreed to relinquish their lands east of the Mississippi in return for western lands and monetary compensation. Immediately, the Cherokee people cried fraud and denounced the treaty as being illegal and claimed that it had been signed by persons unauthorized by the tribe. Over 15,000 Cherokees, out of a population of 17,000, signed a petition of protest. The tribal council voted unanimously to condemn the treaty. Despite the Indian protest, the treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Since the Cherokee people did not

sanction the treaty, they made no move to give up their lands. As a result, the United States Army was called in to forcibly evict them from their ancestral homeland. Families at dinner were interrupted by the intrusion of armed men. Children were taken from play and men were seized in the fields. A lawless rabble followed the soldiers, pillaging and looting.

This eviction of a proud native people produced some of the most poignant scenes ever recorded in the history of man. One woman insisted on washing and drying her clothes, and then proceeded to place them carefully in the cupboard before leaving. Another woman fed her chickens then, while weeping, put on her bonnet and led her children away, never to return. One Georgia volunteer commented, "I fought through the Civil War and have seen men shot to pieces and slaughtered by the thousands, but the Cherokee removal was the cruelest work I ever knew."

The Cherokees were interned in military forts, and then were transported west to the Indian territory in Oklahoma. The main overland trail used by the Cherokees for the long trek westward passed through Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. This trail was dotted with Indian graves, as over 4,000 Cherokees—almost one-fourth of their total population—were estimated to have died in transit while making the strenuous march or while awaiting deportation. These heartsick people, bereaved for the loss of their homes and loved ones, arrived in Oklahoma, penniless and bereft of personal possessions, homeless and broken hearted, strangers in a strange land, obligated under cruel and awesome conditions to begin life anew.

This tragic episode referred to as the "Trail of Tears" presents a shameful, but important, chapter in the intertwining and contiguous history of these native Americans and the United States. If for no other reason, a record of this sorrowful exodus needs to be made in order to remind each of us of man's inhumanity to man; the fragility of our delicate code of civilization; and, the potential danger of any government transgressing upon the dignity and basic rights of its citizenry. This record proves such oppression and destruction can occur toward one's neighbor, even in times of comparative enlightenment and among a free and God-fearing people. I am firmly convinced that it is imperative that such a study be conducted quickly before time and man's encroachments obliterate the few remaining landmarks and memorials along the route of the "Trail of Tears" which bear mute testimony to this tragic saga.●

THE 1979 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

HON. JONATHAN B. BINGHAM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 24, 1979

● Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the results of my annual poll have just been

compiled, and I think my might find some of the results. A total of 3,300 registered the 22d Congressional District, Bronx, N.Y., completed the poll, which is a total sample of 2.5 percent of the registered voters, though we all know that our polls cannot be described as particularly precise, I feel this one representative of the views of my constituents.

Sixty-six percent of the voters favored bringing back the registration for the draft, while 34 percent were opposed to both. Surprised by the strength of the opposition, especially since the House of Representatives earlier this year defeated a bill to resume registration for the draft by a vote of 155 to 259. I also found of interest that 62 percent favored young people to choose, while 38 percent were in favor of military service, nonmilitary service, such as the Peace Corps or similar, to take their chances on their own. I have advocated such an alternative service approach for

I was also struck by the results of the questions I asked my constituents regarding energy. There was the expected support for increasing solar energy, but enacting a windfall profits tax, capping carpooling, and doing away with standby gasoline rationing. My opinion was very closely divided on other proposals. Narrowly favored keeping price controls on oil, nationalizing the oil companies, and speeding the construction of new powerplants. By a 50- to 39-1 margin, these voters favored alternative powerplants to use electricity which may cause more pollution. I thought building temperature restrictions made sense to control

One of the most difficult questions I asked voters to answer was whether the Senate should ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Soviet Union. Only 46 percent of the voters considered the treaty, with 31 percent having no opinion, and 23 percent having difficulty many people have standing this complex issue.

I was not surprised, but I was pleased by the strong support shown for mandatory price controls, a full program of health insurance, and public works for House and Senate elections. Of these proposals have had the most support in the Congress for years. Responses show an unrelenting support for energy which may yet push them to the front on the national agenda.

1979 BINGHAM QUESTIONNAIRE

1. A number of proposals have been introduced in recent months aimed at controlling energy and reducing American dependence on foreign sources of oil. Please indicate whether you are in favor of, or opposed to, the following proposals:

Decontrol the price of domestic oil.

Favor
Oppose
No opinion

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1. Route alternatives - develop

- A. King / Cherokee
- B. Historical
- C. State / local, etc.

2. Workbook : (Scoping)

- ~~1.~~ 1. Introduction
2. Route alternatives
3. Related historic sites
4. Route commemoration
(Missouri, TN)

Decisions -

1. opinions historical
2. Scoping

3. Scope of work