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The Probe: Newsletter of the National Animal Damage Control Association

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## The Probe, Issue 86 - October 1988

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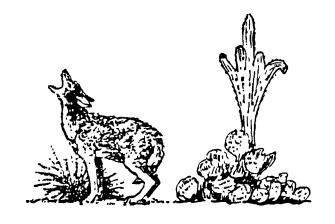


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# THE PROBE



## National Animal Damage Control Association

OCTOBER 1988 NUMBER 86

CONGRATULATIONS WLFA! The WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE FUND OF AMERICA celebrating its tenth year of protecting the rights of sportsmen to hunt, trap, and fish. The story of the WLFA goes back to an Ohio ballot in 1977 which would have banned all trapping in that State. Jim Glass, with the help of the American Fur Industry, put together an effective coalition of all interests affected by the trapping ban, including wildlife, agriculture, public health, farmers, trappers. hunters, church groups, organized labor, etc. Despite pre-election surveys predicting trapping would lose by a big margin, the campaign worked and the bill was defeated by a 2:1 margin.

With the bill defeated. Glass resumed his duties as an executive for Rockwell International and the others involved went back to their respective jobs. the telephone began to ring with calls for help from other States experiencing the same problem. It was that full-time apparent a organization was needed to cope with the challenge of the animal rights movement. staff under Jim Glass was assembled and WLFA was born in 1988. Funding came from national, state, and sportsmen's conservation sportsmen, organizations, individual corporations with a stake in the outdoor field, and philanthropic foundations. In the first year of incorporation, WLFA had been involved in legislative issues in 24 states and had made a difference for sportsmen in Georgia, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, California, etc.

By 1981 WLFA was recognized as the most formidable opponent of the anti-hunting forces America. In 1982 WLFA launched a national effort to secure banning harassment of hunters. fishermen, and trappers in the field by animal rights activists. To date states have passed such measures. the animal rightists perceive trapping the Achilles' heel of the hunting movement. WLFA has been particularly effective in combatting anti-trapping in several states. They have also vigilant in thwarting municipal, and county government efforts to ban hunting and trapping in the local jurisdictions as these are in violation State authority over resident  $\alpha f$ wildlife.

When the courts ordered a halt to the export of bobcat skins for the 1980-1 season over the advice of wildlife professionals, WLFA swung into action to get this rescinded. It reasoned rightly that if courts could make such decisions regarding bobcats they could do the same for any wildlife species on an emotional appeal. The Common Sense Amendments to the Endangered Species Act overturned the bobcat ruling and for the first time established a national sportsman lobby in Washington. Another victory has been the Convention on International Trade Endangered Species (CITES). Here the anti-hunting organizations were using this treaty to knock out valid uses of species. abundant wildlife CITES was considering a worldwide ban on hunting and trapping, but WLFA mounted a lobbying effort to defeat this measure. Right now they are gearing up for

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* semi-official\* \*"THE PROBE" is a NATIONAL ANIMAL\* \*publication of the \*DAMAGE CONTROL ASSN. published ten\* \*times annually. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL\* \*DECLARATION OF NADCA POLICY NOR A\* \*CONSENSUS OF NADCA MEMBERSHIP OPINION\* \*IN ALL INSTANCES. \* \*Editor: William D. Fitzwater \*Editorial Office: 3919 Altamonte NE\* Albuquerque, NM 87110\* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* \*NADCA Pres.: G.S.Rost, Cedar Crest, NM\* \*VP: Homer S. Ford, Ridgefield, WA \*Sec: W.D. Fitzwater, Albuquerque, NM \*Treas: W. R. Jones, Shell Lake, WI \* \*Regional Directors: \* \*#1 - Willard E. Nelson, Tilgard, OR \*#2 - Dr. Fred F. Knowlton, Logan, UT \*#3 - Guy Connolly, Twin Falls, ID \* \*#4 - Milton Caroline, San Antonio, TX \* \*#5 - Dr. Ron J. Johnson, Lincoln, NE \* \*#6 - James A. Winnat, Sun Prairie, WI \* \*=7 - C. E. Faulkner, Falls Church, VA \* \*#8 - Dr. Gary J. San Julian, Apex, NC \* \*#9 - Kenneth M. Garner, Nashville, TN \* \*DC - John C. Jones, Bethesda, MD \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* another fight that would ban hunting on While the Humane wildlife refuges. Society of the U.S. dropped a previous suit to achieve this, they have now taken the tactic of getting the law changed so this will be the stage for the next round. As America becomes more litigious-minded (after all we have to feed the voracious appetites of the hordes of law factory graduates), legal rather than moral or considerations become more and more economic will important in wildlife management than Aldo Leopold ever imagined. WLFA has been a good friend of ADC and we hope it will be around for many more decades.

If I had a little bit of humility, I'd be perfect.

APHIS ACTIVITY REPT. The following are abstracted from the weekly activity reports of APHIS-ADC and newsletters like the TEXAS TRAPLINE, THE TRAPPER'S JAW, etc. for the benefit of non-APHIS readers. This is not a publication source. Only names of NADCA members are used in situations in which they are involved.

(TX) ADC responding to a ARMADILIO: gophers in a yard, complaint about the damage as armadillo. diagnosed While the homeowner was sure it was gophers. they tried trapping the armadillo with no luck. Then MARTIN MENDOZA recommended BEACH's BOB armadillo bait - boiled macaroni. credibility with the homeowner Their dropped even lower, but shortly afterwards they caught the wildest armadillo they had ever seen.

BEAVER: (OK) Beaver flooded a construction site along Hwv. resulting in a \$10,000 two-week delay on project. the The highway agency` determined it would cost the State an additional \$10,000 if the beaver were permitted to remain. ADC personnel took 4 beaver and stopped the damage.

COYOTES: (WY) Wyoming sheep producers lost 88,600 sheep and lambs to all causes in 1987. Predation by coyotes accounted for 38.8% of the loss while the losses to all other predators was 13.7% - a total loss to predation of 52.5%

- (UT) A sheepman put 300 ewes in a pasture that had not been used for years. When an ADC specialist visited the camp he found only 12 lambs left alive. Bodies of 50 others killed by coyotes were found. The trapper took three adults and eight pups from the area.
- (CA) An orchardist blamed coyotes for chewing off 100 plus tee-joints on the main line of his irrigation system and several hundred feet of feeder lines had to be spliced or replaced.
- (OK) Two ranchers reported the loss of 22 calves valued at \$1,350 plus others injured. Fifty-four coyotes were taken from the area with aerial hunting.
- (TX) GARY MCEWEN reported a cattle rancher splitting his 3,500-acre ranch into three pastures. On the two having coyote control he had a 93% calf crop while the one without control had only a 70% crop.

(CO) GLYNN RILEY, JOHN DORSETT, and their wives after vacationing in Crested Butte (CO) were returning home. GLYNN said, "Well, it's back to the sheep and goats in Texas." At that instant a coyote loped across the road in front of them and JOHN said, "All you have to do is mention sheep and goats and the coyotes show up!"

From Wyoming weekly report: Approximately one year after they were in guarding dogs place. were regarded favorably by the ranchers, 33 dogs being placed with 26 cooperators. One camp tender reported seeing a guard dog catch and kill a coyote while his sheep were being trailed to a new area. Another cooperator reported very few losses neighbor whereas a, was having considerable loss. "He attributes the reduction in losses to a combination of efforts -- the guard dog, the ADCS who has taken six covotes from the area, and the herder who shot four coyotes and his neighbor." (Don't you think that last control measure was a little extreme?)

ECRETS: (CA) After losing 2,400 pounds of mosquito fish at an estimated loss of \$15,600, a Mosquito Abatement District requested assistance in setting up a scare device program.

FERAL HOGS: (TX) GARY MCEWEN had a complaint on feral hogs damaging rice, maize, and corn crops in Jackson County. They aerial hunted 40,000 acres using dogs to flush the pigs from the brush where they were hiding. Twenty-one hogs were taken.

FOX: (TX) ADC picked up a fox from a man who had set snares for the fox killing his cats. The man had watched a cat go through the snare but the female gray fox chasing it didn't make it. Her two pups had also been seen chasing cats.

GEESE, CANADA: (OH) APHIS research used alpha chloralose (A-C) in four operations to take some 18 geese. A-C was mixed im margarine and spread on bread baits at the rate of 25-125 mg per bait. A goose consuming 75-150 mg of A-C is immobilized within 0.5-1.5 hours and recovers 4-18 hours later. They

concluded the technique to be effective, safe, and acceptable to the public.

MOUNTAIN LION: (CA) Using a homemade, elevated shooting tower and night vision equipment, an ADC specialist took a male mountain lion that had killed eight sheep the week before.

(CA) A rancher lost one breeding animal to mountain lions at a value of \$6.000.

(TX) The Parks & Wildlife Dept. reported 20 of the original 36 and at least six of another band of 25 bighorn sheep have been lost to lions.

(NM) A lion killed a ewe and two lambs the day before a lion permit expired. It was renewed and the lion taken 14 days later. This animal had killed 14 lambs the first time it preyed on this ranch.

office complaining about screech owls ckeeping her awake at night. DWIGHT LEBOEUF after explaining the many benefits screech owls may provide finally had to recommend pyrotechnics to haze the owls. As there were horses being kept near the owls' roost, this method couldn't be used either.

PRAIRIE DOGS: (NM) This species has caused considerable damage in the northeast section of the State. The biggest loss, estimated at \$17,312, was to rangelands, but crops, pastures, dikes, and other property suffered some damage.

RATS, (TX) JOHN DORSETT in response to the request of a San Angelo animal shelter recommended a single dose anticoagulant. They had killed about 50 rats when the Humane Society who helps run the shelter wanted them to stop using the poison and install semic devices.

ROCK SQUIRRELS: (NM) These rodents built a grass nest on an automobile engine causing it to burn up and requiring replacement of the vehicle.

SKUNKS: (ND) Skunks caused a \$1,500 loss to an apiary. They destroyed the insulation on the hives and killed bees which had been stored for the winter.

Everyone is like a carpet tack - he can't go any farther than his head will let him

#### BEAVER FEVER

Diarrhea has recently become acceptable in Rocky Mountain cocktail parties as a status symbol. Now you can raise your status as an outdoorsman by attesting to the severity of your infection with Giardia lamblia. This little protozoan that intestinal causes a severe case of diarrhea is becoming a lives world-wide pest as it and reproduces in the intestines of many mammals including man and beaver. resistant cyst stage is passed in the feces of an infected mammal. This stage can remain viable for over two months in cold water, so those "cold, pristine mountain waters" you may drink may not be all that "pure". Virtually any in this country today can drainage contain infective cysts of this parasite don't tempt fate - don't drink running water in the woods unless it has been properly disinfected. Cysts can be killed by boiling for 2-5 minutes (the longer times at higher elevations) or by with chemical disinfectants treatment like chlorine/iodine tablets or household bleach.

The worst thing about the younger generation is that we're not in it.

#### READIN'

MUSKRAT TRAPPER'S GUIDE by Mitchell S. Ricketts paperback 182pp ill. \$13.95. ELK RIVER PRESS, POB 488, Independence, KS 67301

This new entry in a trapper's guide published by our member organization, ELK RIVER PRESS, is a good companion to the previously published BOBCAT TRAPPER'S GUIDE (see flyer). illustrated and researched, it appears to be a definitive text on muskrat trapping. After an excellent description of muskrat habitats, it goes background more on muskrat populations, movements, diseases, predation concepts, environmental

and reproductive biology emergencies. other books I have read most. written for the fur taker, besides the usual detailed instructions on trapping techniques and marketing the catch. While he includes a most comprehensive and updated bibliography, the text is not keyed to the bibliography. makes for a much more readable work in general as his writing is clear and concise but it annoys the researcher in able to check his not to be statements with their sources.

The second flyer in this issue is for of a recent NADCA publications member, THOMPSON PUBLICATIONS. of a more general pest control nature, but he also lists two books by member, WALTER WEBER (DISEASES TRANSMITTED BY RATS AND MICE and HEALTH PIGEONS, STARLINGS AND HAZARDS FROM ENGLISH SPARROWS) which were reviewed in THE PROBE when they first appeared as being worthy additions to the ADC library.

THE BIG GAME OF THE WORLD by Werner Trense. 400pp ill. \$160 IR Publ. Ltd., 150 E. 27th St., New York, NY 10016 is a classic revision of a German-language worldwide listing of big game species. There is a slight and a "collectors edition" reduction with a prepublication order before the end of the year. In case you are interested you can write the publishers directly.

TRANSLOCATION OF WILD ANIMALS edited by Leon Nielsen and Robert D. Brown. Paperback ill. 353pp \$19.50 IR publ. 150 E. 27th St., Suite 1A, New York, NY 10016.

There two sections to are collection of papers. The first is on principles and guidelines of translocation of wild animals and the last part on selected case studies. Translocation is discussed as a complicated, costly, and "often overrated wildlife management technique". "While translocations appear to have great public and political appeal, they are best limited to situations where the purpose is justified and benefits...clearly outweigh the difficulties and expense..." Method of

capturing, processing, and transporting the animals is discussed. The selected case studies deal mostly with exotic species. In this country (with the exception of Alaska) only translocation of wolves and various ungulate species are mentioned. None of these efforts appeared economically or biologically outstanding successes.

When the metric system takes over, what'll we call 'pound cake'?

#### MEETIN'S

THIRD NATIONAL MOUNTAIN LION WORKSHOP, Dec. 5-8, 1988 at Prescott (AZ). Sessions on current research/management of population monitoring, harvesting, and law enforcement. Contact: Harley Shaw, POB 370, Chino Valley, AZ 86323

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SHORT COURSE IN VERTEBRATE PEST PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, Aug. 14-27, 1989 at Colorado State University. Contact: Dr. Julius Nagy, Dept. Fish. & Wildl.. Biol., CSU, Ft.Collins, CO 80523.

The nice thing about trivia is it keeps us from worrying about important problems.

#### PERSONNEL

W. K. BIRCHFIELD retired August 31st after 32 years of service. He has been invaluable to the Texas ADC program and will be badly missed! Good luck in your retirement.

I have an incurable disease. I'm lazy.

#### LETTERS TO YE ED

DR. HARRY D. PRATT, rtd. USPHS, Atlanta, GA:

"westerners" Thought you might interested in these of interest to us "easterners" (see ALL THE NEWS...). Many "endangered species" seem to be making a comeback: alligators, deer, In the way of larger black bear, etc. birds, the brown pelican seems to be regaining its numbers and Georgia now has American eagles and osprey nesting in secluded, unidentified places. Keep up your good work which we all enjoy and look forward to.

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WALTER WEBER, Pesticide Consultant, Indianapolis, IN:

I am writing to ask a favor and I'm not even running for vicepresident on the Republican ticket. I hope you will continue those clever one liners along with all the latest information just as in the past. It is so important that we have you as a source of up-to-date ADC information. After God created the world, he made man and woman, then to keep the whole thing from falling apart, Don't let anyone he invented humor. talk you out ofthose important smile-makers.

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Old pineapple growers never die. They just go on Dole.

## THE LABEL THAT NEVER RETURNED!!

We submitted a label for our new material

To the boys in the EPA.

Now for months we have been waiting, Just to hear what they would say.

Did it ever return?
No it never returned;
And its fate is vet unlearned.
It may hide forever 'neath a pile of paper,

We gathered data from a hundred trials From across the USA.

We put them together, with our brand new label

And sent them to the EPA.

Our label may never return.

#### Chorus

When we finally heard about our label, We thought our waiting days were o'er. They said, "We like so well the data you sent us.

Please go out and get some more!"

#### Chorus

To comply with the rules for a new registration
Is hard to be arranged.
When we finally get the job completed,
They say, "We're sorry but the rules have changed."

Chorus

(Thanx to GLENN HOOD (rtd. APHIS, Denver, CO) and GUY CONNOLLY (NADCA RD III, APHIS, Twin Falls, ID)

The most conceited man in the world? He calls Dial-A-Prayer to see if there are any messages.

#### PRESERVE 'POSSUMS

LYLE CROSBY (APHIS, Casper, WY) sent an (R.L.Hill - FUR AGE WEEKLY, article regarding the paying for a 6/27/88) "spotted owl coordinator" who is to check that species' presence in Oregon with the purpose of preserving habitat at the expense of local industry. He suggests other animals are more at risk than the owls. (1) Dead opossums litter (Boy! highways. Can litter!) He suggests they prohibit driving anywhere in the State where there is a chance of running over a opossum (98% of the State) or fitting them out with Nikes so they can move (2) Many gardeners kill slugs cindiscriminately because they leave a trail\_of\_slimerebuteas\_Hadd\_points\_oute cso-do-many-IV-evangelists-and-we-don't -kidd them (3) It was a traumatic shock when his daughter found out people eat real bunnies besides chocolate ones. As rabbit may be passed off as chicken by some unscrupulous butchers, he suggests banning of all meat eating in the Oregon. (4) As many deer are killed by hunters annually and this would be difficult politically, to stop suggests rifles be banned and hunters permitted to use only rocks. The NRA would have to change its name to the NATIONAL ROCK ASSN. and hunters would have to file Geologic Impact Statements. (5) The high death rate of mice is blamed on entrepreneurs trying to build better mouse traps even though it has already been invented under the trademark C-A-T. He suggests all jailed entrepreneurs would be and until they agree to become tortured CPAs, all journalists using "build a better mousetrap" would be executed, and all cats sold to medical laboratories. Of course they would have to shoot all spotted owls to keep them from getting out of hand.

Hardly anything is as upsetting as picking up a lunch check for someone who is too rich to carry money.

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S PRINT TO FIT The UC Hopland Field Station (Hopland, reports that predator depredations are interfering with the important sheep research activities of that facility. During 1987, there were 202 confirmed predator kills on the Station's flocks (143 by coyotes, 31 by mountain lions. dogs, and 3 by foxes). addition 175 were found dead but could not be positively identified as predator kills and another 214 were listed as With a base flock of 1,500 missing. adult sheep this represents a serious BOB TIMM loss ofresearch data. (Station Superintendent) is reported to said, "It is easy to see why ranchers in this county have abandoned sheep production. If the field station had to rely on the sale of lamb and wool to fund our operations, coyotes would have put us out of business a long time ago." Sheep raised in Mendocino County have dropped from 48,800 head in 1967 to 14,835 in 1987. BOB said, "Increased livestock use of our rangelands would improve our local economy, reduce fire

Roy McBride, manufacturer of the 1080 toxic collar, at a talk to the Texas Sheep & Cattle Raisers Assn., reported that ranchers in Wyoming can't use the collar as EPA has ruled the proposed Wyoming label doesn't warn the user that dye marker is a suspected red"As if you really need to carcinogen. worry about getting cancer 20 years down the road from a poison that is going to kill you right away." (Typical EPA philosophy - swallow a camel and gag on a gnat.) LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 7/21/88

danger, and enhance wildlife habitat."

UKIAH DAILY JOURNAL 8/3/88

The USFWS is still unable to come to a. conclusion on why duck production is so low- A study on hatch success on the Union Slough NWR showing only 10% success due mainly to predation has lead to the conclusion, "Future research will focus on evaluating a predator management program whereby predators will be removed by humane methods, followed by another estimation of nest success." (Our old agency not only likes to reinvent the wheel, but they deflate the tireso itlooks They also found in a different.)

study of wood duck nesting success in the Yazoo NWR that contaminants they were blaming were not the problem but rather predation by bobcats. FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS (USDI), May-July, 1988.

Stoneham (MA) has an increasing problem with Canada geese. The gaggle that gags has risen from a "handful" ten years ago to about 650 today. The problem is due to people who started feeding migrant geese who were just passing through and found this to be a sucker handout. Now residents are complaining about the noisy night parties, traffic jams, destruction of lawns, increased bacteria count in the local water supply, and the tons ofrecycled food products. TIMES-NEWS (Twin Falls, ID) 8/2/88

California zookeepers are in a twitter over a condor egg. Every so often, they strike the egg with a thin steel rod supposedly resembles a mother condor pecking to encourage the chick to emerge. As soon as the chick gets out, there will be one more ugly vulture in the world. It works better if you hit the egg with a thick steel rod, like a crowbar - here, let me show you... (Some real animal lovers out there!) Column in (Butte) MONTANA STANDARD 5/2/88.

A new genetically-altered rabies vaccine being tested on Eastern coastal islands by baiting for wild carnivores. Developed by the Wistar Inst., it is hoped this will successful in be immunizing wild animal populations against rabies. WASHINGTON (DC) POST HEALTH, 5/10/88.

A report on the predator symposium held Lubbock (TX) last April quoted Stephen Kellert (statistician) emphasizing the wide differences in predator control concepts between the public in general and producers directly concerned. He found age ("people, as they grow older, become more practical" and more favorable towards ADC), gender (women more staunchly opposed ADC than men), socioeconomic level and urban vs rural life style (lower income and rural groups are more in favor of predator control). "Only in rare circumstances of unequivocal support for the human

beneficiary of predator control and the protected animal, accompanied overwhelming hostility toward the predator as a species, will predator control be an uncontroversial issue. mentality' 'ostrich that seeks promote predator control in a social vacuum is increasingly vulnerable to political attack and confrontation ...Society more concerned is wildlife than ever before and yet has less contact with it than ever before." Shult (TX Extension Service) gave examples of ADC being "...merely a A friend who matter of priorities." was passionately concerned about killing depredating golden eagles as being federally protected, was out with a shotgun blasting away at hawks that were going after his pigeons. He was proud of his hawk score until it was pointed out these were federally protected too. In another case a distraught woman called about a fireplace full of birds. They were screened in but the flapping cwast\_scattering\_ashes\_around\_her\_living From She became so desperate she lit a claimed, "You could smell but fire but they burning feathers, wouldn't leave." This woman wouldn't dream of hurting an animal, but she will fully and knowingly set fire tora bird..." because it was causing a mess sin ther own living room LIVESTOCK WEEKLY 4/21/88.

Thank to GUY CONNOLLY, NADCA RD III, APHIS, Twin Falls, ID for all the above items.

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A USFWS sting operation ended in the arrest of 43 persons accused of poaching bear in the southern Appalachians. They confiscated 266 bear gallbladders, 385 bear claws. 77 feet live bear cub, 3 stolen shoes?). 1 gallon of moonshine, etc. vehicles, The gallbladders (considered a powerful Asian aphrodisiac) are worth \$1,000 on t.he Oriental market. Other wildlife parts, such as, swan testicles, camel and hyena/turtle penises, are humps, also believed to have the same powers. (Thank to Dr. HARRY PRATT, rtd. USPHS, Atlanta, GA and THE ATLANTA (GA) JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION, 8/24/88.

Along the same theme, Florida alligators have made a comeback since being placed on the endangered list in 1962. So much ten-foot bull alligator that a lurched out of a lake near Sarasota and dragged off a four-year old girl. It was caught six hours later with the girl's in body still its Overnight the offices of the Game & Freshwater-fish Comm. was inundated with calls demanding the annihilation of the alligator population. (just a matter of "priorities" and whose ox is being Thank to WALTER WEBER and TIME gored) 26/20/88. S

e The income tax is the fairest for all. It gives everybody an equal chance at poverty.

#### NOW HEAR THIS!

E.E.Littrell, WILD CARNIVORE DEATHS DUE TO ANTICOAGULANT INTOXICATION, Calif. Fish & Game, 74:183 (1988).

A raccoon and a mountain lion were found dead near a mountain stream. On

autopsy the raccoon and lion were found to have 55 ppm and 45 ppm diphacinone in the blood, respectively. The details of the poisoning are unknown but it points to exposure to illegally high dosages of this anticoagulant and its danger to non-rodent species. (Thank to REX MARSH, UC-DAVIS, CA).

They say you can't take it with you.

I just want it to last until I'm ready to go.

#### EDITORIAL COLUMN

This is coming a little earlier as I am trying to get things out of the way. I have a couple of meetings to go to here in New Mexico this month and I'll be out of the country most of October so the next one will be late.

YE ED William D. Fitzwater

Adios,

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