

charts indicating that there was ostensibly a breakdown in the budget negotiations. The budget negotiations, I submit, Mr. Speaker, are separate and apart from those negotiations that might occur or should be occurring with respect to the extension of the debt limit.

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I do not think they should be connected.

I have listened with care. I have listened with intensity today to the arguments being made. As you know, earlier today, in the absence of immediate legislative business, there was quite an extensive discussion of some hours' length on the floor by various Members with respect to the question of debt limitation, balancing of the budget, and the implications for tax credits or tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, you may recall that I finished a special order just the other day, if you will, paraphrasing the title of an editorial to which I was referring in the Washington Post, the title being "Who won the budget battle?" I finished by saying the real question, Mr. Speaker, was who might lose in the budget battle? That is what really counts.

We do not want anybody to lose in that budget battle, because we are talking about not only the future, which has been brought up many times by speakers on both sides of the aisle, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, who will pay, but, rather, what will be lost in terms of what has been referred to over and over again as the full faith and credit of the United States with respect to paying its debts.

Mr. Speaker, I submit there are two separate issues here that you and I, either individually, as Members of this body, or as representatives of positions in both caucuses can have, of fruitful discussion on this floor and in the context of the House of Representatives, institutionally speaking, as to what the best course of action is or should be with respect either to the budget or the debt limit.

But to argue or make the debt limit extension part of that discussion at the present time I think advances no one's agenda, Mr. Speaker. Not mine. I do not come down to the floor to try and make a political game, rhetorically or otherwise, over arguing this issue. It is much too important, bigger than you or I.

So I would hope that there would be consideration in the Republican Conference in the hours and immediate days to come, or, if we do leave without resolving the issue, that there would be a consideration that at least as far as the debt limit is concerned, that for now we set that aside as not being relevant to resolving the very real differences that may be between us politically or otherwise in terms of policy, and that we put the health and welfare literally of the Nation ahead of or at the top of all our priority lists, of all political parties concerned; that we separate that out, and that we have a

full and fair discussion, not about the credit standing of the United States, but what kind of credit we can bring to ourselves as Members of this body, and what kind of credibility we can bring to the arguments that we are able to make about the budget: How we balance it, what we do about that, what we do about tax credits, what we do about whether or not there should be tax cuts; and that we argue this thing in a manner and in a context that establishes for the people of the United States, our colleagues, and those who may be viewing or observing our deliberations, that we do it in such a manner and in a context that reflects well not just on us, but on the seriousness of the issues at hand.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I close by reiterating my plea that we do not utilize the debt limit extension as one of the fundamental blocks in the building of whatever political stance we may take with respect to balancing the budget or any other aspect of the political discussion that has been under way in these last days.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. CHRYSLER] at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 652, TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Mr. BLILEY submitted the following conference report and statement on the Senate bill (S. 652) to provide for a pro-competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes:

##### CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 104-458)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 652), to provide for a pro-competitive, deregulatory national policy framework designed to accelerate rapidly private sector deployment of advanced telecommunications and information technologies and services to all Americans by opening all telecommunications markets to competition, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House to the

text of the bill and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Telecommunications Act of 1996".

(b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

##### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

#### TITLE I—TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES

##### Subtitle A—Telecommunications Services

Sec. 101. Establishment of part II of title II.

##### "PART II—DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE MARKETS

"Sec. 251. Interconnection.

"Sec. 252. Procedures for negotiation, arbitration, and approval of agreements.

"Sec. 253. Removal of barriers to entry.

"Sec. 254. Universal service.

"Sec. 255. Access by persons with disabilities.

"Sec. 256. Coordination for interconnectivity.

"Sec. 257. Market entry barriers proceeding.

"Sec. 258. Illegal changes in subscriber carrier selections.

"Sec. 259. Infrastructure sharing.

"Sec. 260. Provision of telemessaging service.

"Sec. 261. Effect on other requirements."

Sec. 102. Eligible telecommunications carriers.

Sec. 103. Exempt telecommunications companies.

Sec. 104. Nondiscrimination principle.

##### Subtitle B—Special Provisions Concerning Bell Operating Companies

Sec. 151. Bell operating company provisions.

##### "PART III—SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING BELL OPERATING COMPANIES

"Sec. 271. Bell operating company entry into interLATA services.

"Sec. 272. Separate affiliate; safeguards.

"Sec. 273. Manufacturing by Bell operating companies.

"Sec. 274. Electronic publishing by Bell operating companies.

"Sec. 275. Alarm monitoring services.

"Sec. 276. Provision of payphone service."

##### TITLE II—BROADCAST SERVICES

Sec. 201. Broadcast spectrum flexibility.

"Sec. 336. Broadcast spectrum flexibility."

Sec. 202. Broadcast ownership.

Sec. 203. Term of licenses.

Sec. 204. Broadcast license renewal procedures.

Sec. 205. Direct broadcast satellite service.

Sec. 206. Automated ship distress and safety systems.

"Sec. 365. Automated ship distress and safety systems."

Sec. 207. Restrictions on over-the-air reception devices.

##### TITLE III—CABLE SERVICES

Sec. 301. Cable Act reform.

Sec. 302. Cable service provided by telephone companies.

##### "PART V—VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICES PROVIDED BY TELEPHONE COMPANIES

"Sec. 651. Regulatory treatment of video programming services.

"Sec. 652. Prohibition on buy outs.