

FCC will not occur until 6 years later—in 2007. The proposal then allows broadcasters to continue to operate on their analog channels if the FCC grants waivers. Think about that—that's the equivalent of asking business and entrepreneurs to pony up money today for airwave rights they won't see until 2003 and then in 2003 a determination may be made to extend that indefinitely. Who is going to bid anything for these frequencies?

At the subcommittee and committee markup on the legislation, I offered an amendment to try to achieve greater certainty to the broadcasters, the spectrum bidders, and to consumers. The amendment would have required that after 2001, when the so-called returned analog spectrum has been auctioned, that all TV's sold in the United States must be dual use capable. In other words, they have to be able to pick up and display both analog and digital signals. This will make the transition in the consumer market to digital technology more rapid. This in turn, would increase the likelihood that bidders in 2001 would get the airwaves they won at auction sometime during their lifetimes.

The legislation also contains policy changes that promote media concentration at the local level. As many of my colleagues know, during consideration of the Telecommunications Act, I battled the mass media concentration provisions of the bill and successfully amended the bill on the House floor to help protect localism and diversity. The budget provisions will allow local broadcasters to bid on the spectrum that is returned even if this returned spectrum were to be reallocated for broadcast use.

During consideration of the Telecommunications Act, Congress rejected repeal of the TV duopoly rule, which had been part of the House-passed legislation. The conference committee on the Telecommunications Act refused to accede to repeal of the duopoly rule because of concern from many members and the administration about the very real threat to localism and diversity posed by deregulating in this manner. This concern, incidentally, has been borne out by the experience in the radio market in the aftermath of the sweeping deregulation of radio ownership rules contained in the Telecommunications Act. The NTIA has noted that adverse effects on minority ownership, and diversity in general, that has resulted from the radio ownership provisions.

I strongly oppose the provisions in the budget agreement that would allow stations in the top markets to bid on returned spectrum reallocated for broadcasting. The budget agreement waives the duopoly rule to allow broadcasters to bid on spectrum and thereby own two TV stations in a local market. It is important to note however, as the FCC considers regulatory rules governing local TV ownership, the intent of Congress in this area. First, the conference committee on the Telecommunications Act duly considered and rejected repeal of the TV duopoly rule just over a year ago. Second, the budget's telecommunications provisions only permit a waiver of the TV duopoly prohibition at a point 4 or 5 years from now, and then, only in the largest TV markets. Moreover, this future waiver of the rule is quite limited in that it reflect's Congress' intent to only allow such limited waivers in the largest markets when we are adding outlets to the market. Even so it represents, in my opinion, unfortunate telecommunications policymaking.

Finally, the budgetary legerdemain entailed by tampering with the universal service system

to cynically pretend to balance the budget is terrible policy and precedent. This will directly affect telephone ratepayers around the country adversely. The universal service system was created to ensure that affordable telephone service would be available to all Americans. It has successfully resulted in achieving a 93-percent phone penetration rate in the Nation—the highest in the world. I strongly oppose this unprecedented gimmick of utilizing the universal service system as a budgetary gap-filler.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVID F. "BUD" WILSON ON HIS INSTALLATION AS PRESIDENT OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF AMERICA

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a fellow California and good friend, David F. "Bud" Wilson of Chula Vista, CA, who will be installed as president of the Nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents of America [IIAA], next month in Hawaii. Bud is chairman of the board of Wilson Insurance Agency, Inc., an independent insurance agency located in Chula Vista.

Bud's career as an independent insurance agent has been marked with outstanding dedication to his clients, his community, IIAA, the State association, the Insurance Brokers and Agents of the West [IBA West], his colleagues, and his profession.

On the State level, Bud served IBA West on various committees and as president in 1981. From 1983 to 1986 he served as the IIABC representative on IIAA's Board of State National Directors. In 1987, Bud received the P.S.W. Ramsden Memorial Award, the highest honor bestowed by the California State association.

Bud's love of politics and legislative affairs served him well during four highly successful years as chairman of IIAA's Government Affairs Committee. In recognition of his outstanding work on behalf of all independent agents as Government Affairs Committee chairman, Bud was bestowed IIAA's Sydney O. Smith Legislative Award in 1994.

Bud was elected to IIAA's Executive Committee in 1994. In the time since, he has exhibited a spirit of dedication and concern for his 300,000 independent agent colleagues around the country.

Bud's selfless attitude also extends to his involvement in Chula Vista-area community activities. He is past-president of the Chula Vista Rotary, the Chula Vista Rotary, the Chula Vista Jaycees, the Chula Vista Community Hospital Board of Trustees, and the Chula Vista Salvation Army. He also has been involved in numerous other Chula Vista community projects.

I have complete confidence that Bud will serve with distinction and provide strong leadership as president of the Independent Insurance Agents of America over the next year. I wish him and his lovely wife, Sandra, all the best as IIAA president and first lady.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY L. GARLITZ

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a courageous Pennsylvanian, Holly L. Garlitz, a 22-year-old resident of Pittsburgh.

On September 17, 1996, Ms. Garlitz, then a student at Penn State University, placed herself in extreme danger to protect fellow student, Nicholas K. Mensah, who had been seriously injured by a woman who had opened fire on Penn State campus while students were walking to and from their classes.

Mr. Mensah was seriously wounded when he was struck by a bullet fired by the sniper. After being struck, Mensah fell to the ground. Ms. Garlitz, who had been walking on the same path when the shots were fired, took cover behind a tree. However, seeing that Mr. Mensah remained vulnerable while laying on the ground, Ms. Garlitz left her cover and came to the aid of Mr. Mensah. Ms. Garlitz grabbed the young man by the arm and dragged him to safety while they were both in clear view of the sniper.

For her brave and heroic actions, Ms. Garlitz has been awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. This bronze medal is awarded to citizens who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

I am greatly pleased to see such an act of bravery and humanity on the part of Ms. Holly L. Garlitz, who is one of my constituents. Her action to help a fellow human being is one that we all can be proud of and should commend.

A TRIBUTE TO WALTER D. WHITE

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, on July 25, 1997, Walter D. White retired after 20 years with the U.S. Capitol Police. Over the years, I had the privilege of knowing this fine man. He was an outstanding member of the Capitol police force and he worked hard to create a safe environment for Members, staff, and all visitors to the Hill. With a smile always on his face and in his voice, he would never hesitate to go out of his way to assist members of my staff or to give my constituents impromptu tours of the Capitol building. I can remember many occasions when he would make special arrangements to accommodate groups of handicapped schoolchildren from my district. It was important to him that their tour be as exciting and memorable as possible. He would do all of this and never ask for anything in return. Walter was one of those wonderful people who derived great pleasure simply from helping others. Seeing the smile on a young child's face was reward enough for his efforts.

Walter's kindness and dedication will not soon be forgotten. While he will certainly be missed, I am glad that he is now going to take time to relax and enjoy himself. He deserves nothing but the best and I wish him luck in all of his future pursuits. May God bless Walter D. White in the years to come.