

that people can define and control their own lives, and live independent lives which is the essence of free men and women.

As we go forth, into this new century and millennium—we can have courage and confidence that we can fulfill our hopes and dash our fears, and we can control change, and make it our servant and that the ideals and lessons of our great past can light the way for the future in an even greater Virginia.

May God bless the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America. ●

### INCONGRESS

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to an article which appeared in the Washington Post on January 27, 1998 entitled "Web Venture Links Lobbies, Legislation." The article discusses

INCONGRESS (www.incongress.com), an exciting new Web site that promises to open up our legislative process and make it possible for our constituents to have access to the same documents that we receive from lobbyists.

INCONGRESS enables interest groups that lobby the Congress to put their policy statements and press releases—on issues and legislation before the Congress—on one single Web site in an organized and targeted manner. This information is maintained in the INCONGRESS data base so that it can be retrieved at any time by our staffs or any other user of the site, including our constituents.

Personal subscriptions to INCONGRESS are free for Members of Congress and their staffs, as well as for all other government employees, the media and members of the general public. The INCONGRESS Web site is supported entirely by the private sector lobbyists who pay an annual fee to transmit their data from personal computers in their offices right into the site.

INCONGRESS enables all of us, both here in Washington as well as our constituents back home, to see the position papers of lobbyists and interest groups at the same time. The information is retrievable seven days a week, 24 hours a day to any subscriber. This is a major step toward our goal of making the legislative process a more open and informed one.

My reasons for calling this matter to the attention of my colleagues are two-fold. First, INCONGRESS promises to make a great contribution in our access to information and differing viewpoints of pending legislation. It will enable all of us to see the same information at the same time—assuming the interest groups use it, and as the article mentions, several of them have apparently already begun to do so.

Secondly, I am proud to point out to my colleagues something which the Washington Post article did not mention. The INCONGRESS Web site was designed and constructed in my home state of Georgia by IBM Interactive Media in Atlanta. As many of you know, IBM is quickly emerging as the

leader in electronic business—or e-business as some refer to it—and I am proud that the men and women at IBM Interactive Media in Atlanta are playing such a major role in this effort.

In addition, I want to observe that two great Georgia companies, AFLAC, Inc. of Columbus and Bell South of Atlanta, were among the first companies to sign up as INCONGRESS Advocates and agree to put their public policy positions on this Web site for all to see. I commend both of these fine companies for being good corporate citizens and for setting an example which I hope all interest groups—including corporations, trade associations, and unions—will soon follow.

The text of the article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Jan. 27, 1998]

WEB VENTURE LINKS LOBBIES, LEGISLATION

(By Bill McAllister)

Some of Washington's biggest lobbyists are betting that the future of lobbying may lie on the Internet. They have invested in InCongress, a new Web site that its creators say may presage the electronic way to lobbying Capitol Hill.

The new site www.incongress.com has been under development for two years, but it will be getting its first full-scale test this week as Congress reconvenes. The site brings together the texts of proposed legislation and the policy positions that various interests have issued on the proposals, as well as links to congressional and governmental sites.

Although Congress and other groups have their own Web sites with some of the same information, InCongress developers say their operation is the only one that brings all the information together at a single site.

"Congress couldn't have created this site and turned it over to Gucci Gulch lobbyists," said developer DeLancy W. Davis, a vice president of the lobby shop Jolly/Rissler Inc. Davis and lobbyist Thomas R. Jolly, who started InCongress as a separate venture from Jolly/Rissler, said they have gotten a highly favorable response from hundreds of congressional aides who want a quick way to tell the boss where all the players stand on legislation.

A number of other online information services provide updated copies of pending legislation, and other groups are attempting to cash in on the move toward feeding Washington's booming special interest business electronically.

Jolly and Davis's InForum Group, which owns the site, already has signed up several interest groups eager to post their policy papers on the site and pay the reduced introductory fee of \$6,000 to be among InCongress's charter "advocates." Those charter advocates include lobbyists and other officials from Arco, AFLAC, BellSouth, IBM Corp., the Interstate Natural Gas Association, the Mortgage Bankers Association, the Career Colleges Association and the Reinsurance Association.

But perhaps as impressive as the first clients are the lobbyists who are financially backing the venture: William H. Cable, chairman of Timmons & Co.; Nicholas E. Calio of O'Brien Calio; Thomas J. Corcoran of O'Connor and Hannan; Patricia F. Rissler, president of Jolly/Rissler Inc.; Thomas M. Ryan of Oldaker, Ryan, Philips & Utrecht; and Craig G. Veith, managing director of American Strategies.

The public can get free access to the site by filling out a sign-up form, but lobbyists who wish to post their position papers have to pay. Jolly and Davis are betting that

there are enough of them to make their site profitable, although perhaps not in the first year.

The site is run by a contractor based in Schaumburg, Ill. InCongress's meat and potatoes, such as new legislation, is pulled down from government-operated sites. Lobbyists can post their views using a simple transfer mechanism.

"It's a great way to level the playing field," said Jolly, previously an aide to former Rep. Bill Ford (D-Mich.), who predicts the site could have strong appeal to small groups who often feel undermanned on Capitol Hill.

The online venture, along with others, is another step toward moving many aspects of lobbying and government onto the Internet to meet the changing nature of the process of government, Jolly and Davis said.

"Our profession is fundamentally changing. We're moving toward a much more anti-septic, more fact-based type of lobbying," Davis said. "The days of going to a chairman and cutting a deal are over." ●

### TRIBUTE TO THE CAMP FIRE BOYS AND GIRLS OF AMERICA

● Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Camp Fire Boys and Girls of America on the occasion of the 88th anniversary of its founding in March 1910.

The Camp Fire Girls, now the Camp Fire Boys and Girls since being incorporated in 1978 to include boys' programs, was started in 1910 by Dr. and Mrs. Luther Halsey Gulick of Sebago, Maine. The Gulicks founded this non-profit organization to encourage girls to reach beyond traditional limitations. Across the country, Camp Fire was integral in developing America's view of children as an investment in the future of our nation. Within two short years, the new organization of Camp Fire Girls, Inc. was organized in 42 states, one of which was my home state of Minnesota.

Camp Fire clubs grew quickly in Minnesota, making headlines when girls marched off to camp at Square Lake near Stillwater. With groups consisting primarily of high school and university students, nearly 400 girls were involved in Minneapolis Camp Fire. A 1912 article in the Ladies Home Journal inspired a group of girls from St. Paul to start their own chapter. Dr. F.S. Cone, pastor of the St. Anthony Park Methodist Church, agreed to sponsor this group of eight girls and their 21-year-old leader.

Currently serving approximately 670,000 participants annually, 45 percent of whom are male, Camp Fire Boys and Girls is organized in 42 states and the District of Columbia. In 1997, the Minnesota Lakes Council alone served 10,865 youth, aiming to provide them with the necessary tools to live their lives productively in an ever-changing environment.

The Camp Fire Boys and Girls is centered on three concepts: Work, Health and Love (WOHELO). The organization's objective is to provide opportunities for youth to realize their potential as caring, responsible and self-directed individuals. This objective is achieved