

and Ranking member HOLLINGS, both agreed on the record that my understanding was correct.

Despite that clarification in the formal proceedings, Ameritech disregarded Congressional intent. Soon after passage of the bill, Ameritech went out and purchased the customer accounts and assets of Circuit City's alarm monitoring division.

When the alarm industry challenged Ameritech's action, a divided FCC Committee supported Ameritech. For reasons I don't understand, all the commissioners—except for Susan Ness in a vehement dissent—said that purchasing the customer accounts and assets was permissible so long as Ameritech did not purchase any of the stock.

This opened the flood gate. During the next 16 months, Ameritech purchased over 550,000 customers by acquiring the assets and customer accounts of: Republic Industries alarm division, the 7th largest company in the alarm industry; Rollins, the 10th largest company in the industry; Masada, the 20th largest company in the industry; Central Control and Alarm, the 40th largest company in the industry; and Norman, the 46th largest company in the industry.

This acquisition binge was exactly what Congress wanted to avoid when it created the five year transitional waiting period. The industry's fears of market domination by those companies which control the local telephone exchanges—the alarm industry's life-line—have proven to be justified.

In the late 1980's and early 1990's, just before Congress embarked on its effort to transform the telecommunications industry, there were approximately 13,000 alarm companies in this country employing over 120,000 workers. By 1997, that number had dropped dramatically to 10,750 companies and 90,000 workers—according to an industry source, Freeman & Associates.

At the same time, there was significant consolidation among the top 100 alarm companies. Most industry experts agree that several top 100 companies have concluded that they would have to consolidate to compete with the rapidly expanding Ameritech. This hastened the demise of many small alarm companies, driven out of business by having to compete with the new giants in the industry, especially Ameritech.

At the same time that small companies were being driven out of business, there have been dramatic layoffs in the companies Ameritech acquired. Just last year, Ameritech's SecurityLink alarm division announced layoffs of over 1,500 workers out of a workforce of 8,000.

One example of this can be found in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. About 20 years ago, my friend Patrick Egan started his own small alarm company, Commonwealth Security Systems, Inc. He built his company into a significant regional player with 11 offices and a

central monitoring station in Lancaster. He employed over 200 people in Lancaster alone.

In January of 1997, believing that he had won the battle against Ameritech purchasing alarm monitoring companies, Patrick sold his business to Republic Industries. He sold with the understanding that all of his employees would be retained, monitoring would continue in Lancaster, and he would remain on as President of Republic Industries' Mid-Atlantic operations. During the short period Republic owned Commonwealth Security Systems, they significantly expanded operations and doubled the size of its workforce from 200 to 400.

However, thirty four weeks later, Ameritech's SecurityLink came in and purchased all the customer accounts and assets of Republic's alarm division. That day, Ameritech chose to let Patrick go. Then, it proceeded to layoff nearly 100 of the Lancaster-based employees. More layoffs are expected as SecurityLink eliminates its Lancaster monitoring station as well as 22 others across North America. Not only are jobs lost, but also the industry is convinced that safety is compromised.

Last December 30, however, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit stepped in and vacated the FCC's ruling that precipitated the buying binge in the first place.

In its ruling, the Court said, "When the purported (by the Commission) 'plain meaning' of a statute's word or phrase happens to render the statute senseless, we encountering ambiguity rather than clarity. . . . So [it is] here." The Court continued: "The Commission's interpretation means that although Section 275 (a) (2) precluded Ameritech from acquiring even one share of Circuit City's stock, Ameritech was free to acquire the company's entire alarm monitoring services division—lock, stock, and barrel. We asked the Commission counsel at oral argument what possible rationale Congress could have had in mind if this is what it intended." The FCC's counsel has not provided a cogent answer to the court's question.

I share the court's confusion. I know what we meant when we adopted Section 275 and Ameritech certainly knew what we meant. But that did not stop Ameritech's management. It has been their intention all along to push as far and as hard as they could while they had their unique advantage over the other Bells. They would hope that either the FCC or the courts would sustain their position. They have deep financial pockets which they have relied upon in the hope that they could drive the alarm industry into submission.

But that's not going to happen. The Court has signaled that an interpretation of Section 275 which circumvents the prohibition on purchases by specifying the method of purchase does not adhere with what Congress intended. The Court has directed the FCC to

issue an interpretation of Section 275 which makes sense. It is my hope that the Commission in its next ruling will send a clear and unambiguous message to Ameritech that it must cease and desist from flaunting the law and should be ordered to divest itself of any customer accounts or assets it acquired after the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Congress clearly intended to prohibit Ameritech from acquiring all or any part of an alarm monitoring company in any form. It's time for Ameritech to realize that. The only way they will, though, is if the FCC forces them to follow the law.●

#### TRIBUTE TO FIRST LADY OF VIRGINIA ROXANNE GILMORE

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the First Lady of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Mrs. Roxanne Gilmore. I had the distinct pleasure of joining Mrs. Gilmore for a luncheon honoring her prior to the Governor's Inauguration. Mrs. Gilmore is a remarkable woman of uncommon character and an accomplished education professional. She is setting a wonderful example for all Virginians and bringing tremendous talent, energy, and leadership to the position of First Lady.

Mr. President, I ask that First Lady Gilmore's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

#### REMARKS OF MRS. ROXANNE GILMORE

I want to thank each of you for being here today, especially with the weather having taken a turn for the worse. It means a lot to Jim and me that you all would choose to be a part of our inaugural festivities—we wanted to share this experience with as many Virginians as possible. That's why we have traveled to so many wonderful places in the Commonwealth this week—to revisit the beautiful places that we saw during the campaign, and most importantly, to see so many of our friends who sustained us over the last several months.

It's with many differing emotions that I address you this afternoon. I am deeply honored that a man of the stature of Senator John Warner would host this event today. He is truly one of Virginia's finest sons, and his service and commitment to the people of Virginia overshadows what small service I hope to give the people over the next four years.

I am thankful that so many of our close friends and family are here and that they were able to weather the roads to make it to Richmond today. You all have understood when we had to say No, we can't come this time, and you sustained us during the rough times. I particularly want to thank Bessie Scott of the VFRW for their tireless efforts on our part during this campaign. There was not a time when they refused to help, and I am proud that I can claim a long-standing membership in such a worthwhile group. I also want to thank the Mills E. Godwin High School Chorus for providing special music for our enjoyment. Our son, Jay, has enjoyed being a "Godwin Eagle" this year, and I appreciate the warmth that the Godwin student body has extended to us all.

Then, indeed, I am somewhat terrified of giving this speech since I see some of my

UVA professors and my RMC colleagues in the audience. I hope they left their grade books at home, and focus instead on how much I appreciate their support here today.

I have often thought it appropriate that as Jim and I embarked on this course in the political world, that a large part of my teaching at RMC included epic poetry—the Odyssey of Homer, and the Aeneid of Virgil. For our course has surely been an Odyssey. On my journey I have seen rosy fingered Dawn on early morning campaign trips—I have seen the wine-dark sea of the Chesapeake Bay—and even some of the political meetings were reminiscent of the great quarrel between Achilles and Agamemnon.

But just as the journey of Odysseus didn't really end when he reached Ithaca, nor the journey of Aeneas end with his arrival in Italy, our journey is not over, but just beginning. The work of accomplishment will start this Saturday. And while Jim has the legacy of Virginia's great Governors to follow and well-defined Constitutional responsibility to uphold, there are no guidebooks or defined rules to mark the path of a First Lady. Today I want to share with you some of my plans for the next four years.

Much news has been made of the fact that I will continue to work part-time as a professor of classics. The attention has quite frankly surprised me. During our 20 years of marriage, I have worked full-time, sometimes not at all, and part-time. I now work part-time and will continue to teach while Jim is Governor.

I never viewed the fact that I would teach as a decision. To both Jim and me, my continuing to teach was never a question. He realizes that teaching is not really a job to me, it is my passion. It is an important part of my life, and Jim's understanding this and supporting it have meant much to me over these past years.

We of course will continue to be partners in our responsibilities of parenthood. On many occasions Jim has been the one who got up early and prepared Jay and Ashton for school as I traveled or left for school early. We support each other in our goals. And in doing this we are just a typical Virginia family, and we will continue on this path. We will approach life in the Governor's mansion in the same manner we have approached life throughout our marriage. We will draw strength from each other and put a priority on time to spend with Jay and Ashton.

But I also approach this new period in my life as an opportunity. A First Lady has a public platform that can put the spotlight on ideas and efforts deserving greater awareness. Many Virginians are engaged in innovative approaches to problems and their successes go unnoticed. As First Lady I can help bring attention to these innovations and share these ideas with the rest of Virginia.

But my roll will not be that of making policy. Jim has that burden on his shoulders. My time and energy outside of being a wife, mother, part-time teacher will be focused on education, history, and tourism.

As a teacher it will not surprise anyone that I have many ideas about ways to enhance education in Virginia. For example, I would like to encourage schools to utilize the incredible knowledge and experience that our experienced professionals can share with our young people. We have many Virginians who travel the nation and the world sharing their life experiences with various audiences. These same Virginians would gladly spend time in Virginia classrooms where their practical, real-world knowledge would give an added dimension to the educational experience of our youth. I hope to inspire our schools of higher education and our Virginia professional workforce to join in partnership with our secondary schools

for the benefit of young people across the state. Programs of cooperation similar to that I witnessed at Randolph-Macon where students from Hanover schools who perhaps had no experience with a college or higher education, were invited to RMC to visit classrooms and laboratories and the cafeteria to see fist hand activities that some of us take for granted. As we enter the 21st century inspiring our youth to reach their full potential should be our first goal.

Though my degrees are in ancient history, I have always had a fascination and love of Virginia's rich history, and both Jim and I believe that the unmatched historic offerings of Virginia should be the cornerstone of promoting tourism in Virginia. While many states try to compete with Virginia's incredible beaches, golf courses, mountains and parks, no other state can rival the historic jewels that the Commonwealth offers. Studies show that parents try to plan vacations that are both educational and fun—what better place to visit than Virginia where both abound. We should also encourage more Virginians to vacation in Virginia, and then, as they travel outside of the Commonwealth, they can be ambassadors for our own unique treasures.

These are just a few of the plans that I have considered for our ongoing Odyssey. But I know also from my studies that life brings unexpected adventures and opportunities, and I hope that I can use these unexpected opportunities to serve all Virginians.

Jim and I will work hard for the families of Virginia and will continue to recognize the honor that it is to serve the people of Virginia. We have the same hopes and dreams that you have for your children. It is our dream that this Odyssey will bring them a Virginia even better than it is today.

Thank you.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BELLA ABZUG

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to sadly acknowledge the passing of a friend, former colleague, and one of the most passionate, committed, and colorful individuals that the Congress and this country has ever known: Bella Abzug.

Many people view 1920 as one of the most important years in the history of women in America, not only because it was the year that women finally gained the right to vote, but also because it's the year that Bella Abzug was born.

When we think of the struggle for women's equality in this country, one of the first images that comes to mind is that of Bella Abzug's wide-brimmed hat bobbing up and down at some march or rally. Through her flamboyant personality, she truly became an icon and a giant in the American and worldwide political landscape.

Bella Abzug was a trailblazer. She graduated from law school at a time when only 2 percent of all lawyers were women. She was the first Jewish woman ever elected to Congress and one of only 12 women in the House when she was elected.

She helped pave the way for other women in Congress and in all walks of life. In fact, just the other day, my good friend and colleague from Connecticut, BARBARA KENNELLY, spoke on the House floor about how Bella Abzug inspired her to run for Congress. One can only imagine how many other

women took a chance and sought to achieve great things because they were inspired by Bella Abzug.

An important thing to note about Bella is that her work was by no means limited to the cause of women's equality. Her titles ranged from civil rights lawyer to anti-war activist, just to name a few. Just three years out of law school, she went to Mississippi and weathered threats from white-supremacist groups to defend a black man in a highly contentious trial. In the 1950s, she shouted down former Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist witch hunts. On her first day as a Congresswoman, she introduced a resolution to withdraw all U.S. troops from Southeast Asia. In 1975, she introduced legislation in Congress to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals. Bella Abzug was committed to eradicating all forms of injustice in this country and around the world. Hers was not solely the cause of women; hers was the cause she believed to be right and believed to be just.

I was fortunate to see a side of Bella Abzug that most people never saw. I served in the House with Bella during her last term, and I came to know her as a person of great kindness. Beneath the persona of a blustery and irascible New York City politician was a woman of great decency and warmth. While we only served together for one term, I have had numerous occasions over the years to visit with Bella, and I truly appreciated her kindness and her friendship. Bella Abzug was truly one of a kind, and she will be dearly missed by friends, family, and those whose causes she championed over the years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO EMORY L. MELTON

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, on Sunday, April 19, 1998, a new math, science and business classroom building on the campus of Southwest Missouri State University-West Plains campus (SMSU), will be dedicated to former State Senator Emory L. Melton. Emory, a long time friend, has done much to help my home State of Missouri.

Elected to the State Senate in 1972, Emory had no opposition five of the six times he ran, which is a State record. Originally, he involved himself in politics because of a strong feeling that the State government was growing much too quickly. As a Senator, he was known for reading every bill that came to the Senate floor and could point out even the slightest of errors. Many of his colleagues felt him to be one of the truest fiscal conservatives ever to serve in the Senate. I had the pleasure of witnessing his great leadership while serving my two terms as Governor.

Before his service to the State Senate, Emory was the Barry County prosecuting attorney and a newspaper publisher in Cassville, Missouri. He served as Missouri Tourism Commission chair for many years. Emory received the St. Louis Globe-Democrat award for public