

back under Austrian control. As a result, Hungary's independence was short-lived because in June, 1849, a joint Austrian-Russian offensive overwhelmed the valiant Hungarian defenders. On August 13, Gorgeys' forces laid down their arms before the Russians at Vilagos. Kossuth was forced to flee his beloved homeland and would live the rest of his life traveling the world to gain support for Hungary's cause. In a speech made prior to his departure, Kossuth said, "My principle were those of George Washington. I love you, Europe's most loyal nation."

It is fitting that within this building—this house of democracy—sits a statue of Louis Kossuth. This is only right and appropriate.

Although, the Hungarian revolution of 1848 did not end in prolonged independence for Hungary, it did result in at least one very noble achievement. The revolution prevented the Austrian government from revoking the emancipation of the peasants and all other unfree persons in the Habsburg's empire. For this historic accomplishment and for striving towards the ideal of the American Revolution, Hungarian and Americans of Hungarian descent should always be proud. I join with the strong Hungarian-American population in the downriver communities to celebrate the Hungarian revolution of 1848, truly an important turning point in the history of the Hungarian nation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE Y2K STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ACT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, our contemporary world is ever more dependent upon computers to assist with and manage our daily lives. From the ATM Machine to the desktop PC, to the pacemaker to air traffic control systems—computers and their myriad of programs all work in concert to make our lives better and more productive. On my home island of Guam, computers have improved mass communication with the mainland and overseas areas in all facets of life—law, business, government, commerce, military, trade, transportation and perhaps most important: staying in touch with our families. Because our lives are so intertwined with computers, the Year 2000 or Y2K problem may pose quite a crippling problem to many communities. The Y2K problem was created by a programming oversight. As a result of an archaic, two-digit dating system in computer software and hardware, vital systems may be knocked off-line on January 1, 2000 creating cyber-havoc for many. This concern has led the General Accounting Office to elect the Y2K problem to the top of the "High Risk" list for every federal agency.

There exists a Congressional Research Service (CRS) report, requested at the behest of Senator DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN over three years ago, detailing the implication of the Y2K problem. The report states, among other things, that the Year 2000 problem is a serious problem and the cost of rectifying it will indeed be rather high.

The Federal Government has become rather proficient in getting its agencies and departments to comply with the inevitable re-programming that is required to fixing this bug. But not without some effort. The Senate and the House of Representatives have truly taken the lead on this pressing issue. Under the gentle prodding of Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT, and DODD as well as Congressman STEVE HORN, the President appointed a Y2K Council to get the government focused on this issue. They have done well enough that many citizens do not fear the year's end despite the rhetoric of many doomsayers. That said, to paraphrase Robert Frost, we have many miles to go before we sleep.

Up until today, states, territories and local authorities have been left to their own devices in terms of fixing the Year 2000 problem. While most of the Federal Government's critical services may be Y2K compliant by January 1, 2000, many of the states and local jurisdictions will not be. This includes the territories. In Guam, for example, the local Office of the Public Auditor released a study outlining the territorial Y2K problem. While some of GovGuam's departments are Y2K compliant ahead of schedule many are not. Guam's Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Health and Social Services—both lifeblood agencies for both Guam's public infrastructure and poor and handicapped—do not have enough money or are behind schedule in performing Y2K conversions. And the story is the same throughout the country in the many cities, counties, towns and territories: time is running out or the money has already ran out.

This bill, which I am introducing today will establish a program that will allow states and territories to apply for funding to initiate Y2K conversions of state computer systems, which distribute federal money for vital welfare programs such as Medicaid, Food Stamps, the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, Child Support Enforcement, Child Care and Child Welfare and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Through the application of Y2K technical assistance funds for these programs, we can insure that the lifeblood of many of the poorest Americans will not be disrupted by the turn of the calendar.

This vital legislation is the house companion bill to the Moynihan-Bennett-Dodd bill (S. 174) as introduced in the Senate. We have modified the original Senate vehicle to insure that the territories and the District of Columbia will not be excluded from this important program—an apparent and accidental oversight of the Senate version. I urge all my colleagues to support this bi-partisan, fiscally responsible and necessary legislation. I would like to thank my colleagues Ms. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ and Mr. FALEOMAEVEGA for lending their support as the representatives from the territories of the U.S. Finally, I want to especially thank Representative HORN and Senators MOYNIHAN, BENNETT, and DODD for taking the lead on educating all Americans on the Y2K problem as well as legislating wise solutions to ameliorate its potentially harmful effects.

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES CENTER

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the people of the Poudre School District Support Services Center in Colorado for their efforts to help the needy during the holidays. I commend the faculty as well as all the students, parents, and individuals who contributed to their benefit. Their selfless dedication has provided warmth, comfort, and happiness to families in Colorado. That the center produced presents for 75 needy boys and girls is testament to the true meaning of the spirit of Christmas and Hanukkah. Let us remember, as these good people have, that the holiday season is one of giving, one of joy, and one of hope. Let their example during the holidays be a beacon to us all throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PROMPT COMPENSATION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 1999

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, all of us have heard from constituents in our districts who are frustrated with the process by which the federal government provides compensation to landowners for the private property it acquires through condemnation proceedings. As you know, federal agencies obtain property for all types of reasons, from community and infrastructure development to environmental concerns. Unfortunately, the problem is that this procedure often takes years to complete. Though legally the property owner may develop their property during this process, realistically they are discouraged from doing so. It is for this reason that I am introducing The Prompt Compensation Act.

Currently, the federal government has two available procedures to obtain private property. The first is "straight condemnation", wherein a federal agency requests that the Justice Department file a "complaint in compensation" with a district court. It is the court's responsibility to ascertain the value of the land, utilizing testimony from the federal agency, the property owners and the appropriate appraisers. Once the court has come to a decision, the federal government has the option of compensating the property owner with the adjudicated price, or moving for a dismissal. The landowner is compensated only if the federal government accepts the adjudicated price. Though the federal government forfeits its interest in the property if it moves for a dismissal, the property owner has been deprived of time, revenue and, in some cases, overall value in their land. It is important to remember that not until a judgment is rendered does the United States obtain title and possession of the property.

The second and more expeditious procedure is commonly referred to as "quick take." This is utilized in instances where waiting for a court decision before taking possession of