

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been four years since the Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to open local markets to competition. While many of us hoped competition would not take this long, it is now beginning to take root. Since passage of the Act, over \$30 billion has been invested by CLECs alone in new networks and there are more than 300 facilities based competitors now versus only 30 in 1995.

The ILECs have also invested tremendously since passage of the Act. Just last month, the FCC approved Bell Atlantic's application to offer long distance service in New York State. This was a landmark decision. I want to congratulate Bell Atlantic for doing what was necessary to open its local markets. The consumers of New York State are the winners. We are already seeing new choices in services and for the first time, competitive choices in local service. Mr. Speaker, the Act is working and it has worked first in New York State.

I want to congratulate many people for the work that they did to give consumers in New York State a choice in local service. First, I want to congratulate the New York Commission that tirelessly worked with all the concerned parties to make sure that the process and the outcome was fair. This process allowed all parties to work through the technical challenges of opening up the local network. Second, I want to congratulate Competitive Local Exchange Carriers that went into New York State a year ago and began offering local residential service on a statewide basis.

Mr. Speaker we are in the beginning of a technology revolution that is sweeping across this country. Since the 1996 Telecom Act, hundreds of new competitive telecommunications carriers have been formed and thousands of new Internet Service Providers are in existence today. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is a great success and consumers are just now beginning to reap its benefits. I'm proud that New York has led the way, and I look forward to the day when the rest of this country's citizens enjoy the same freedom of choice.

HONORING AMY FINCH, OUT-
STANDING YOUNG HUMANI-
TARIAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Colorado student from my district who has achieved na-

tional recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Amy Finch from Vail has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Amy, a senior at Battle Mountain High School, is an avid community volunteer who has helped raise money for victims of violence, knitted clothes and blankets for refugees, served as a buddy to elementary school children, served soup to the homeless, and volunteered with Special Olympics.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Amy should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Amy for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of Amy Finch. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN
PROSECUTION ACT OF 2000

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Illegal Alien Prosecution Act of 2000. The bill prohibits INS officials from deporting illegal immigrants accused of violent state crimes upon the request of local officials. Additionally, the bill would facilitate the apprehension and prosecution in the United States of criminal illegal aliens who attempt to re-enter the United States.

The United States has become a consequence-free zone for criminal aliens. Flawed deportation policy, less than perfect communication between the INS and county prosecutors, and misguided efforts on the part of local prosecutors and judges to secure adequate

bonds have created a climate where criminal aliens can engage in lawless behavior without the fear of prosecution or incarceration.

The revolving door of illegal criminal aliens committing serious state crimes, being deported, then returning to the United States to commit even more serious crimes is the result of a loophole in the INS' voluntary deportation program. The program is intended to reduce administrative burden on the INS and the courts by expediting the deportation of aliens whose only offense is illegal entry into the United States. Unfortunately, illegal aliens charged with much more serious state crimes such as armed robbery, manslaughter, and drug trafficking are also being deported by this same process, often before they have even faced trial. After they have been returned to their native land these illegal aliens almost never face prosecution or incarceration.

The scope of this epidemic was detailed in a report by the East Valley Tribune which revealed that from October 31, 1998, to July 31, 1999, the INS deported 3,361 illegal immigrants who either made bail or were released before trial. To make matters worse, many of these alien criminals illegally return to the United States and only face prosecution if they commit additional, even more serious crimes.

The effect of this flawed policy has been devastating. In the last two years, two illegal immigrants have shot police officers in the Pacific Northwest after slipping through our immigration system. In one incident, an illegal alien with a vast criminal and deportation history killed an officer in Washington after being released from prison and deported to Mexico 5 months earlier. My home state of Arizona has experienced similar carnage. A deported defendant came back across the border illegally and is one of three men suspected of killing a Phoenix police officer.

And let's not forget the high profile case of Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, the railroad serial killer. INS officers detained him as he attempted to cross the border illegally. But, within 24 hours, they quickly deported him back to Mexico even though the FBI suspected him of being involved in four murders.

As the previously mentioned incidents clearly illustrate, the INS must improve their communication with state authorities. In 1998, the Inspector General notified the INS that only 41 percent of deported illegal aliens were being processed by INS' new border patrol database system. In a letter to INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, he told her that "this results in previously deported aliens (including aggravated felons) being released from INS custody when subsequently apprehended because INS is unaware of their immigration or criminal histories."

Some progress has already been achieved in remedying this breakdown of our criminal justice system. As a result of several meetings that Senator KYL and I have held with local prosecutors, magistrates, and INS officials, actions have been taken in my State to address this situation. Our meetings also prompted Judge Reinstein, the Associate Presiding

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Judge of Maricopa County, to issue a memo to his judges that directed them when determining bond to "consider the factor whether the accused is an illegal alien and that they have a hold placed on them." He continued that "if you don't give these factors consideration you are practically guaranteeing they will not appear in the future."

Additionally, the INS and Maricopa County Attorney's office have agreed to change their procedures and communicate more regularly and efficiently so that, among other things, the county attorney's office will be armed with greater information when they fight for appropriate bail. More importantly, the new procedures should help ensure that no illegal immigrant (who commits a felony) is deported without the knowledge of all parties.

These significant advances should help reduce the number of illegal aliens charged with violent crimes from being deported without facing justice. I commend all of the state, local, and federal officials I met with for implementing important changes on their own accord. However, legislative language is still necessary to close the loophole in current law which allows INS to deport criminal illegal aliens before they face justice.

Under the Salmon bill, local or federal officials may request that INS not remove an individual accused of a state crime. And if the crime is a serious, violent felony as defined by 18 U.S.C. 3559, the Attorney General must detain the accused. For all other crimes, the Attorney General has the final say. The bill would only apply to individuals who have entered the United States illegally. This change in law will protect us all when, for whatever reason, an illegal alien accused of a serious state crime succeeds in posting bond. It is our safety net.

Of course, performing these new responsibilities likely will require additional resources for INS and the states. To that end, I will work to help secure the appropriate funding needed to carry out these duties. In the meantime, my legislation will provide the authority to act now.

It is an insult to victims and their families when an illegal alien accused of a violent crime in America is deported before he or she faces trial. The Illegal Alien Prosecution Act would close the loophole in current law which allows INS to remove illegal aliens accused of a serious state offense prior to trial. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor my bill.

TRIBUTE TO MACK WILLIE RHODES

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute once again to a pillar in my hometown, Mr. Mack Willie Rhodes of Sumter, SC. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Mr. Rhodes on his 102d birthday. An African-American great great-grandfather, Mr. Rhodes has been a champion in his community for many years. He is continually offering his assistance to neighbors, friends and family in many capacities. Mr. Rhodes is the oldest member of Melina Presbyterian Church, where he has worshipped since 1915. Mr. Rhodes is

an Elder in his church and was a Sunday School Superintendent for many years. He also taught Sunday school at the Goodwill Presbyterian Church and has been a member of Masonic Lodge Golden Gate No. 73 since 1948.

Mr. Rhodes was born in Sardinia, SC, on February 25, 1898, to Robert and Olivia Williams Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes is the second oldest of 15 children. Family, good values, and good living are Mr. Rhodes' most cherished possessions.

At an early age Mr. Rhodes married Annie Elizabeth Hammett Rhodes (deceased). They had 14 children: Calvin Oliver Rhodes, John Tillman Rhodes, Adranna Olivia Cooper, Susanna H. Hannibal, Annie Elizabeth Muldrow, Hattie Jane Burgess, Mack Willie Rhodes, Sam J. Rhodes, Daisy B. Sims, Willie Rhodes, Albert Rhodes, Viola Rhodes Montgomery, MacArthur Rhodes, and Paul Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes later married Mrs. Carrie Smith Rhodes (deceased), who brought two children to their union: Maggie and Johnny Smith. He is affectionately known as "Papa" by his 7 children (9 deceased), 41 grandchildren (5 deceased), 48 great-grandchildren (2 deceased) and 10 great great-grandchildren.

Mr. Rhodes' favorite pastime is reading the Bible, newspapers and magazines. He also enjoys watching baseball, the news, and news related programs on television. He still takes time to visit the sick in his community to offer any assistance he may be able to provide. His favorite Bible scripture is the 23rd Chapter of Psalms. Mr. Rhodes also lives by a motto, "Treat others as you would have them to treat you."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing Mr. Mack Willie Rhodes a prosperous and happy 102d birthday, and the best this year has to offer.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN B. ANTHONY

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, Susan B. Anthony is well recognized as a towering figure in the struggle for equal rights for women. Today, on her birthday, she will rightly be celebrated for her indispensable role in setting our nation on the course towards recognizing the full equality and dignity of women. All women and especially those of us who serve in this Congress are indebted to her pioneering work.

Susan B. Anthony's advocacy of women's rights included a concern for the rights of others as well. The same passion for justice that made her a fierce advocate for women also made her a fierce opponent of slavery. And inevitably, it led her to oppose abortion.

Today, abortion advocates equate their position with women's rights. But Susan B. Anthony knew better. She vigorously denounced abortion, calling it "child murder." For her, abortion was not evidence of women's rights, but just the opposite: it is evidence of the lack of such rights. Anthony wrote that women "in their inmost souls revolt from the dreadful deed" of abortion, but are nonetheless driven to it precisely because women could be treated as property and less than equal. Thus, An-

thony's opposition to abortion arose from her fight for equal rights for women, and she saw no cause to separate the two.

Without a doubt, if Susan B. Anthony were alive today, she would be fighting to reverse Roe vs. Wade. But more importantly, she would fight for true choice by supporting crisis pregnancy centers and other organizations that offer resources to help both the mother and the child. She would also be promoting advances in prenatal surgery and working to help families pay for these medical miracles. She would also work to eliminate barriers to adoption.

As we celebrate her birthday and the gains for all women that her legacy bestows, let us also honor her life's work by doing as she did and make pro-life inseparable from pro-woman.

HONORING DR. RICK HERRINGTON FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding commitment and years of service given to Carbondale, Colorado by Dr. Rick Herrington.

Dr. Herrington arrived in Carbondale in 1975, just out of residency and recruited by a leader of concerned citizens, Betty DeBeque. He was so excited to be in this small Colorado town that he donned cross country skis and took a night tour of the town. The town reciprocated the feeling of joy and embraced its new doctor.

True to any small town, when the clinic opened under Dr. Herrington, more townspeople came in to "check the doctor out" than because of illness. Dr. Herrington's staff included himself and a handful of volunteers to keep the clinic running. After two years of running the clinic as the only doctor, his wife, Sherry, told him that he had to find a partner or a new wife. In 1978 Dr. Gary Knaus became Dr. Herrington's partner. Today, the clinic is still serving the community with as much dedication as it did when it opened in 1975. The community of Carbondale will forever be grateful to a young man from Nebraska who came to help out a small town.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to offer this tribute in honor of Dr. Rick Herrington, celebrating 25 years of service.

MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY RELIEF ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most indefensible aspects of our current Tax Code is that 28 million working American couples—over 40 percent of married couples—pay more in taxes than they would if they were unmarried. Over 65,000 couples in my District suffer this penalty, which on average is \$1,400.

Just as indefensible as the marriage penalty is the notion that Congress should overturn