

committee the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH). I do not know if there could have been anyone else that could have executed this in the way that he has done.

As my colleague knows, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) is a highly respected Member of this House who has given leadership to that overall committee on many very important issues, none more important than this one. And it is because of his patience, it is because of the high esteem in which he is held in this House that he was able to work so well with all of these groups that make up Jubilee 2000.

So I would like to thank my colleague for the special recognition she has paid to him and to say on my behalf that the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) probably will mark this success that we are going to have as one of the highlights of his career.

I know that he has done many things and he has been involved in many complicated pieces of legislation that have had far-reaching effects. But this molding and shaping and moving of debt relief for the world and the countries that need it so desperately will go down in history as one the most important efforts that he has made.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague in saluting the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH). I do not know where he is on total debt forgiveness, but I know that he is a champion of debt relief. I do not want to speak for him to associate him here with the Jubilee 2000. But he certainly has taken us a long way down the road.

Those of us who are concerned about this issue, as my colleagues knows, are very blessed to have him in this position that he is in because he understands financial institutions, international financial institutions, but he is also an expert on foreign policy and what is in the national interest of our country. So his two main committee assignments converge on this issue and his understanding of that will serve the poor people of the world well.

And the ranking member on the committee the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) has a very clear understanding of the foreign policy implications. He understands the financial institutions. But he also understands the domestic situation in the United States. That is why I was so pleased that he joined the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH) and others of us to meet with representatives of the IMF, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Treasury Department to impress upon them how important the alleviation of poverty is to Congress in a bipartisan fashion.

I was very pleased with the comments that the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) made that day, which the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) the ranking member made that day and the gentleman from

Iowa (Chairman LEACH) to the representatives of the banks so that they knew that this thrust that we had about alleviating poverty and providing for the humanitarian needs should be the thrust of the actions of the international financial institutions in addition to the debt forgiveness.

This effort is bipartisan. It is bicameral. We have champions in the Senate, as well. And it now has the added benefit of the President of the United States weighing in very heavily on this issue, again speaking to the international financial institutions last week when they were in Washington.

It is also an international effort. It is ecumenical. All of the religions are joining in and working together. I cannot think of another issue that had such consensus across the board among so many divergent groups.

So where there is a will there is, hopefully, a way for us to do this; and in doing so, we will make a very serious difference.

Let us hear it. Bravo for Jubilee 2000 to use this landmark, this milestone, this date of the year 2000 for us to say, okay, we have talked about it a long time. We have nipped at the edges about it for a number of years. Now let us just put it behind us so that we and these countries can go into the next year, the next century, the next millennium with a chance of doing the right thing by the people and especially the children.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) who really has been working on this for a long time, he preceded me and once was the chair of the subcommittee and he has been working very closely with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) working at some very important details of shaping and forming the final legislation in this effort. So I want to say bravo to them.

Once again, let me just conclude my remarks by saying bravo to my colleague for all the time and effort that she has spent even until tonight staying late to take this issue up. And, of course, she certainly did not have to add one more hour to her schedule.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for that. I am glad that she mentioned the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) because he is a champion on this.

There are many champions on the House on both sides of the aisle on this issue, and we are going to have to have another special order so that they can speak to the issue and, if not, that we can speak to their efforts. We are grateful to all of them for what they have done.

I thank the gentlewoman for joining me here this evening.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of ecumenism, of bipartisanship, and in help-

ing the poor people of the world, as we help ourselves, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

AMERICA'S DIGITAL FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I do not often do special orders, but something recently occurred that has caused me to come to the floor of the House today and to announce a very special project that will occur on Monday in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at Louisiana State University.

And many of the Members of the House have recently seen copies of this map published in the local newspaper, The Hill, and the local newspaper, the Congress Daily and others in this area, and it is a map that indicates the U.S. Internet POPs, the points of presence of broadband hubs in America.

What is interesting about the map is that an awful lot of our country does not have the presence of an Internet, a broadband high-speed hub, located on their map. The map becomes more interesting when it is compared to a report that was recently published on the new economy index, an attempt by the Democratic Leadership Council to identify the States of our country where the high technology or digital economy has really arrived and is achieving great results for its citizens and the places around our country where the high technology economy, the digital economy, the Internet economy, however you want to call it, has yet to arrive and may be very slow in arriving.

The State new economy index ranked the States of America in terms of the high-technology connects, the connectivity of our people, of homes, of businesses, to the Internet and the presence of broadband capable structures that are going to allow those States and those economies to do well in the new millennium.

In that list of States are listed, of course, the real winners, the States where the high technology economy has really arrived and where high technology hook-ups, the connections to the Internet, the capacity of the systems are really very present. The top two States are Massachusetts and California. The lower States, the lower 25 States include Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Indiana, South Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Iowa, South Dakota, Alabama, North Dakota, Montana, my own State of Louisiana, West Virginia, Arkansas and Mississippi. We are

ranked 47th in Louisiana in high-technology connects.

Now why did I find that so alarming, and why this event in Baton Rouge next Monday?

I found it so alarming because, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade, and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Commerce, I have seen the high-technology economy at work in other parts of the country and around the world. I have seen how connecting to the Internet makes a difference in the education of children. I have seen how connecting to the Internet makes a business prosper or fail. I have seen the promise of the broadband technologies, in effect high-speed Internet connects, to an economy are going to make the difference between whether some economies succeed or fail.

And I have lived in the State of Louisiana that I love dearly and yet I know suffers from a high illiteracy rate and a need for children to be uplifted, an economy that desperately needs a connect to this high-technology economy; and yet I see these numbers that say we are 47th, and I see so many other States lingering near the bottom of this list.

And so on next Monday we have convened what might be the last big high-technology summit conference of this millennium where on October 11 in Baton Rouge we are going to feature such speakers as:

Bill Kennard, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Robert Pitofsky, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission,

Barry Diller, the chairman and CEO of USA Networks,

Charlie Ergen, chairman of Echostar Satellite Communications,

Bob Coonrod, chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting,

Greg Maffei, the Senior Vice President of Microsoft,

Afshin Monebbi, the President and CEO of Quest Communications,

Mike McCurry, former White House spokesman, now a cochairman with our own Susan Molinari of the broadband Coalition, an organization formed to try to make sure every part of America, not just the few States that have high-technology connects, but every part of America is brought together; that we do not have a digital divide in the new economy of the future; along with folks like Hal Krisbergh, chairman and CEO of Worldgate Communications, a company that is manufacturing equipment that can put every child in this country on the Internet on television without the necessity of a computer for about \$5 a month rental, technologies that mean the difference between children being left behind, and businesses being left behind and economies being left behind or being a part of the new fast economy that is being described as the new economy of the new millennium.

This summit conference will be available to all of America on the Internet, and I want to tell you how you can log in, how you can tune in. If you are interested in knowing how critical it is for your homes and your businesses to be connected to the Internet and to be, more importantly, connected to the high-speed Internet of the future, the broadband services that are going to combine all the new economies on the Internet with the high-speed visual and audio and data services that are going to be available on those services. If you are interested, you can tune in. It will be broadcast live on the Internet all day long next Monday, and you can find it at www.mobiletel.com.

That site is connected to other ISPs or Internet service providers.

You can tune in, you can get a sense of how your State can do what Louisiana, I hope, will do, and that is start a major effort to connect every family, every business to this new economy and to the high speed Internet. Join us at www.mobiletel.com on Monday all day at LSU and learn what the future looks like for your State.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. KAPTUR (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

Ms. GRANGER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 3:30 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TOWNS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. HILL of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TOWNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. RAMSTAD) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAUZIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NETHERCUTT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the

House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 8, 1999, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4710. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations: Winston Offshore Cup, San Juan, Puerto Rico [CGD07 99-056] (RIN: 2115-AE46) received October 4, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 748. A bill to amend the Act that established the Keweenaw National Historical Park to require the Secretary of the Interior to consider nominees of various local interests in appointing members of the Keweenaw National Historical Parks Advisory Commission; with amendments (Rept. 106-367). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1615. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment (Rept. 106-368). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2140. A bill to improve protection and management of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the State of Georgia; with an amendment (Rept. 106-369). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. PORTER: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 3037. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes (Rept. 106-370). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HANSEN:

H.R. 3035. A bill to designate certain lands in the State of Utah as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PETRI, and Mr. RAHALL):

H.R. 3036. A bill to provide for interim continuation of administration of motor carrier functions by the Federal Highway Administration; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ANDREWS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. OWENS):