prodigious market power and immense profits to harm any firm that insists on pursuing initiatives that could intensify competition against one of its core products.”

According to the District Court, Microsoft “foreclosed an opportunity for PC makers to make Windows PC systems less confusing and more user-friendly as consumers desired.” The record included the testimony of numerous high tech entrepreneurs who felt the lash of Microsoft’s monopolistic wrath. From IBM’s inability to gain support for its OS/2/Warp operating system to Apple’s inability to effectively compete with Windows to threats to cut off Netscape’s “oxygen supply,” Microsoft engaged in a pernicious pattern of anticompetitive behavior, openly flaunting the rule of law. Perhaps the most damning of all was the evasive testimony of Microsoft founder William Gates.

It is, frankly, a record that is quite embarrassing to any one than show remorse. Microsoft has embarked on a vendetta to punish the outstanding group of Justice Department lawyers who bested its minions of high-paid lawyers and spin doctors.

So, Mr. President, let me take this opportunity to praise the Justice Department’s Antitrust Division and its leader Joel Klein. It is well known that I had my doubts about Mr. Klein, but I am pleased to say, and not too proud to admit, that I was misjudged him. He is doing an outstanding job.

In the long run, failure to promote competition and innovation will undermine our preeminence in the high tech arena.

THE CONSERVATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 1999

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to join the Senator from Louisiana in calling upon our colleagues in the Senate, as well as the Administration, to capitalize on the momentum provided by the House Resources Committee last week in passing the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999. We must not let this opportunity slip away to enact what may well be the most significant conservation effort of the century.

As part of any discussion into utilizing revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil drilling to fund conservation programs, I want to ensure that wildlife programs are kept among the priorities of the debate. Specifically, I want to comment upon the importance of funding for wildlife conservation, education, and restoration efforts as provided in both the House and Senate versions of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999. This funding would be administered as a permanent funding source through the successful Pittman-Robertson Act.

This program enjoys a great deal of support including a coalition of nearly 3,000 groups across the country known as the Teeming with Wildlife Coalition. Also, this funding would be provided without impeding. Funds will be allocated to all 50 states for wildlife conservation of non-game species, with the principal goal of preventing species from becoming endangered or listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In my home state of Arkansas, we have recognized the importance of funding conservation and management initiatives. The people of Arkansas were successful in passing a one-eighth cent sales tax to fund these types of programs. As I’m sure is true across this country, people don’t mind paying taxes for programs that promote good wildlife management and help keep species off of the Endangered Species List.

By taking steps now to prevent species from becoming endangered, we are not only able to conserve the significant cultural heritage of wildlife enjoyment for the people of this country, but also substantial costs associated with recovery for endangered species. In fact, all 50 states would benefit as a result of the important link between these wildlife education-based initiatives and the benefits of wildlife-related tourism.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to make this historic legislation a reality upon our return early next year.

FIRST YEAR IN THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the first session of the 106th Congress comes to an end, I cannot help but think of what amazing and exciting first year it has been for me in the United States Senate. The experience has been a wonderful one, to say the least. As my colleagues all well know from their first days in the Senate, setting up a Senate office is a daunting task, and setting one up right does not happen by accident. Many have helped make my transition from the House to the Senate a smooth one, and I would like to take a moment to thank, in particular, the dedicated and loyal employees of the Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senate Sergeant at Arms who played an integral role in making sure that my staff and I could serve the citizens of New York as effectively as possible.


Kim Brinkman, Timothy O’Keefe, John Trumble, and Timothy Wineman from the Office of the Secretary of the Senate deserve special recognition.

And, from the Senate Sergeant at Arms office, I would like to point out: Roosevelt Allen, Sterret Carter, Robert Croson, Val Fisher, Denise Gresham, Kenneth Lloyd, Michael Lussier, Stacy Norris, Theresa Peel, Dan Templeton, Jeanne Tessieri, and James Wentz.

The professionalism that each of these individuals displayed should be a source of great pride to their bosses, and if I wore a hat, I would tip it to them. But, for now, I hope they will accept my thanks and praise for a job well done.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the President’s Messages from the Senate referred to the Senate the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3063. An act to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah.

H.R. 3061. An act to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3257. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to assure the Congressional Budget Office with the scoring of State and local mandates.

H.R. 3373. An act to require the Secretary to mint coins in conjunction with the minting of coins by the President of the United States to commemorate the millennium of the discovery of the New World by Leif Ericson.

H.R. 2541. An act to adjust the boundaries of the Gulf Islands National Seashore to include Cat Island, Mississippi.

H.R. 2862. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange.

H.R. 2863. An act to amend the mineral leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes.

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The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:


H. Con. Res. 206. Concurrent resolution expressing grave concern regarding armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation which has resulted in civil casualties and externally displaced persons, and calling for all sides to pursue dialog for peaceful resolution of the conflict.

H. Con. Res. 211. Concurrent resolution expressing the strong support of the Congress for the recently concluded elections in the Republic of India and urging the President to travel to India.

H. Con. Res. 222. Concurrent resolution condemning the assassination of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian and other officials of the Armenian Government and expressing the sense of the Congress in mourning this tragic loss of the duly elected leadership of Armenia.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disapproving of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2116) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of extended care services for veterans and to make other improvements in health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2112) to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial, and to provide for Federal jurisdiction of certain multistate, multi-form civil actions, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disapproving of the amendments of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. HYDE, Mr. SENENBRENNER, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CONYERS, and Mr. BERMAN, as managers of the conference on the part of the House.

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 80. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-6181. A communication from the Acting Executive Director, Emergency Steel Guarantee Loan Board, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Steel Guarantee Loan Program" (RIN3004-ZA00), received November 9, 1999, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6182. A communication from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6183. A communication from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6184. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partnership Returns Electronic Media" (RIN1545-AW14) (TD 8843), received November 10, 1999, to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6185. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partnership Returns Electronic Media" (RIN1545–A199) (TD 8841), received November 10, 1999, to the Committee on Finance.