

Freedom Act that he introduced. It will not only reverse the FCC regulations pertaining to noncommercial religious broadcasters, but also require public comments, just a simple thing, require public comments before handing down any future changes to non-commercial licensing regulations.

This is extremely important, for there are still those at the FCC, judging from the comments of some of the commissioners after they reversed this, in which they said it was a sad and shameful day to reverse this decision. They said that the FCC capitulated to organized campaigns of distortion, and all we did is got on the House floor a couple of times, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) got all these cosponsors, and they accused us of distortion simply because we wanted to allow the idea of religious broadcasting to be cultural and educational; and we wish, after 30 years it has been on television, we wish that to continue.

There are still many people, Mr. Speaker, at the FCC that want to go back and continue with the decision they did in the dead of the night December 28. Fortunately, they will not be able to do that. That is why I think it is extremely important that we continue our fight here on the House floor to continue to try and get this bill passed, because if we do not, from what I see from the FCC comments of those who dissented after they reversed their decision, they are still going to be working hard to change the size and scope of the programming in television.

That is why I encourage in a larger sense this reform of the FCC, because they do not get the message. Without reform, and reauthorization with this reform, we will not be able to control this agency, control it in the sense that it better represents the citizens of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to congratulate the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY) for what he did for the betterment of this country, for television, and I think for the long-term survival of the country, that we can have and understand on television that religion is educational and it is part of our cultural heritage.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would again thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) for their strong leadership on this issue.

In closing, I would only point out, Mr. Speaker, that I have had two discussions with the distinguished majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who is a cosponsor, and he has indicated his strong desire to move this bill through normal procedures and through the Committee on Commerce and on to the floor of the House. So we are pleased that we have a powerful ally in the majority leader, and he feels as we do, that we cannot

let this issue die, but must move forward.

We are indeed the duly-elected representatives of the people, not an independent agency. We make policy, they follow the policy. When they do not follow the policy, we make certain that the laws are clear as to how they will proceed.

I again thank everyone for their attention and for their good work on this issue.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BAIRD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of an unavoidable family matter.

Mr. BISHOP (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business in the district relating to the tornado disaster.

Mrs. CAPPS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. COOKSEY (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of being a pall bearer at a funeral.

Mr. EVERETT (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 1:30 p.m. on account of illness in the family.

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. FILNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. RADANOVICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SHIMKUS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on this day present to the President, for his approval, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1451. To establish the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

ADJOURNMENT TO TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 80, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). Pursuant to the provisions of Senate Concurrent Resolution 80 of the 106th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, for morning hour debates.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 80, the House adjourned until Tuesday, February 29, 2000, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

6227. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the fiscal year 1999 annual report on operations of the National Defense Stockpile, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 98h-5; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6228. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting a report covering the administration of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) during calendar year 1999, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1143(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6229. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Community Service Block Grant Program for Fiscal Year 1998; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6230. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Aluminum in Large and Small Volume Parenterals Used in Total Parenteral Nutrition [Docket No. 90N-0056] (RIN: 0910-AA74) received January 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

6231. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting text of agreements in which the American Institute in Taiwan is a party between January 1 and December 31, 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3311(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6232. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions and Deletions—received February 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6233. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of Inspector General covering the period ending September 30, 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 8G(h)(2); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6234. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting the Semiannual