

Information Age beginning by branding its nation-wide fiber-optic network and developing connections into Mexico, intercontinental cable to Europe and transpacific submarine capacity to the Pacific Rim. The Company's services provide a full range of leading-edge data, voice, video, e-commerce, web-hosting and related services to consumers and business customers, including a variety of multimillion dollar government contracts recently awarded to Qwest, such as the Treasury Department and DOE's Energy Sciences Network.

Qwest has positioned itself for the new Information Age economy by combining its strengths and forming numerous strategic alliances, partnerships and evolving its next-generation infrastructure through a variety of acquisitions.

About one year ago Qwest and U.S. WEST announced their intent to merge. On Friday, June 30 that merger became reality.

I applaud the FCC, the states and other appropriate agencies for reviewing and approving this complementary merger in a respectable timeframe and in accordance with the 1996 Telecommunications Act. This now allows the "new" Qwest to bring a different competitive dynamic to the global marketplace.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in commending the regulatory bodies for enhancing the process of this merger and to the Companies' merger review team, led by Drake Tempest and Steve Davis, as well as other Company officials. In closing, I extend my best wishes for continued success to Qwest and its Chairman and CEO, Joe Nacchio. Mr. Nacchio will resume the leadership of the "new" Qwest to bring the benefits of this global Company to all of our constituents.●

RECOGNITION OF THE YOUTH INVESTMENT PROGRAM OF THE TUKWILA SCHOOL DISTRICT

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, in February of 1999, I awarded my first Innovation in Education Award to the Tukwila School District for their "Friends and Family Program." Now, over a year later, I am standing on the Senate floor again to recognize an innovative program in this same district, the Youth Investment Program at Cascade View Elementary. As both these awards indicate, great things are coming out of the Tukwila School District and this innovative summer school program is no exception.

Teachers and educators at Cascade View Elementary realized that many of their students were in need of additional help to be ready for their upcoming school year. Cascade Valley wanted to take advantage of the summer months to target students who need extra help in reading, math, and writ-

ing skills. Thus, the Youth Investment Program was created. Last week, I visited with teachers and students from this program and witnessed first-hand the tremendous impact that it has on its students.

In classes where approximately 22-percent of the students speak English as a second language and skill levels range across the board, these teachers have produced spectacular results in their students' academic achievements and social development.

Michael Silver, Superintendent of the Tukwila District, says "There is a high percentage of kids from different ethnic groups who are at different skill levels. Our program has been able to streamline their learning to catch them up for their new grade level."

The Youth Investment Program is also preparing students to succeed in the 21st century by incorporating computer training into many of the traditional academic subjects. The computer skills of each child are monitored throughout program. Teachers have also used computers to teach non-traditional courses such as drama and music which has enabled students and teachers to bring new meaning to the classroom. I am positive that these students will return to school in the fall not only equipped with renewed confidence but also with the skills and knowledge demanded by the new technology age.

After spending a time with the students and teachers involved in the Youth Investment Program, it was not hard for me to see why the efforts of the Tukwila School District continue to stand out among local education in Washington State. Mr. President, the Youth Investment Program demonstrates once again that our local educators know how to meet the needs of their students. I applaud the work of the staff and teachers at Cascade View and I am pleased to present my 44th Innovation in Education Award to the Youth Investment Program.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 148. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

The bill 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-9598. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled "Equitable Relief Granted By The Secretary Of Veterans Affairs In Calendar Year 1999"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-9599. A communication from the Vice-Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election Cycle Reporting by Authorized Committees", received on July 6, 2000; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-9600. A communication from the Director of Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Jurisdictional change for the Los Angeles and San Francisco asylum offices" (RIN1115-AF18 (INS No. 1949-98)) received on June 27, 2000; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9601. A communication from the Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the United States Parole Commission; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9602. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office of Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education for Calendar Year 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9603. A communication from the Associate Deputy Attorney General and White House Liaison, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-9604. A communication from the Legislative Liaison of the Trade and Development Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to funding obligations dated June 22, 2000; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-9605. A communication from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of all expenditures during the period October 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-9606. A communication from the Assistant Legal Advisor for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts of international agreements, other than treaties, and background statements; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-9607. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to