

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 376) have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report. (The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of today, March 2, 2000.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I extend my sincere appreciation to Senate Commerce Committee Chairman MCCAIN, Senator HOLLINGS, House Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY, Representative MARKEY, and all of the other Members of the Senate-House conference for working together in a bi-partisan manner on satellite reform legislation. Through the dedication of the conference, and in particular Chairman BLILEY, the 106th Congress can now present President Clinton with the opportunity to sign into law a meaningful bill that will enhance market competition and benefit consumers everywhere.

When I undertook the challenge of guiding legislation through the Senate that would encourage genuine competition in the rapidly evolving international satellite communications industry through deregulation, I declared five basic principles that would serve as the foundation for my effort.

(1) The legislation must enhance competition in the global satellite communications market;

(2) The legislation must be consistent with the United States' existing treaty obligations;

(3) The legislation must enhance global satellite connectivity to all areas, including remote and rural;

(4) The legislation must ultimately increase consumers' choices, enable technological innovation and lower costs; and

(5) The legislation cannot impose any unnecessary new regulatory schemes on this vibrant global industry.

These principles were incorporated into The Open Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act, known as ORBIT, S. 376 which the Senate swiftly and unanimously passed. I am very pleased to note that the conference agreement now before the Senate retains the core principles reflected in ORBIT while accommodating the concerns articulated by Chairman BLILEY and his House colleagues.

This compromise legislation represents the desire of Congress to inject more competition and more privatization into the international satellite communications market. Specifically, the conference agreement achieves these important objectives by:

Establishing definite and reasonable criteria and dates certain for the privatization of INTELSAT and Inmarsat.

Calling for an IPO of the privatized INTELSAT of October 1, 2001, but pru-

dently recognizing that market conditions must be taken into account and therefore, allowing the IPO date to be extended to no later than December 31, 2002.

Eliminating INTELSAT's and COMSAT's privileges and immunities while protecting COMSAT for action taken in response to instructions of the U.S. Government in carrying out its responsibilities as the U.S. signatory.

Eliminating upon enactment the antiquated ownership and board restrictions on the U.S. signatory to INTELSAT, thereby allowing Lockheed Martin to complete its acquisition of COMSAT upon enactment of this bill without conditions.

Creating a competitive, level playing field in the satellite industry.

Removing the intrusive role of government in the commercial satellite industry.

Using access to the U.S. market as a strong incentive to keep INTELSAT's privatization effort moving forward without delay.

I am especially pleased that the conference agreement rejects any notion that the government should be interfering in the contractual arrangements between COMSAT and either its customers or INTELSAT. The government should not be permitting, let alone encouraging, abrogation or modification of any such arrangement. Among my serious concerns, I concluded long ago that this would be contrary to the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. The bill before us is very clear on this point. This legislation in no way directs the FCC to take any action that would impair private contracts or agreements.

On a related point, the conference agreement also flatly rejects "Level IV direct access" in any form. Permitting or requiring Level IV direct access would have unfairly forced a divestiture of COMSAT's INTELSAT assets. I am pleased that the conference agreement flatly rejects Level IV direct access.

Let me also commend Senator STEVENS and our good friend, Mr. DINGELL, in the other body for improving this bill in conference with the addition of language to preserve our national security interests. The conference has produced an agreement that will encourage expeditious privatization of INTELSAT and Inmarsat and allow Lockheed Martin to reinvigorate COMSAT as a competitor in the international satellite marketplace.

At the end of the day, the conference agreement will lead to enhanced competition in telecommunications services, resulting in real consumer benefits of more choices, lower prices and new services. For this, we should all be very proud. I strongly urge my colleagues to adopt this conference report.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference

report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The conference report was agreed to.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 5 be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REESTABLISHMENT OF ITS INDEPENDENCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 91 introduced earlier today by Senators DURBIN, GORTON, LOTT, HELMS, and others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 91) congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, March 11 will mark the 10th anniversary of the declaration of independence of Lithuania from the domination of the Soviet Union. Lithuania led the way for other Soviet Republics to throw off the yolk of Soviet Communist imperialism, resulting in the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

This declaration was not without cost—in January 1991, Soviet paratroopers stormed the Press House in Vilnius, injuring four people. Barricades were set up in front of the Lithuanian Parliament, the Seimas. Soviet forces attacked the television station and tower in Vilnius, killing 13 Lithuanians. One woman was killed when she tried to block a Soviet armored personnel carrier.

But these courageous Lithuanians did not suffer and die in vain. Lithuania has now become a vibrant democracy. It has established a free-market economy and the rule of law. Lithuania wants to be fully integrated into Europe, and is seeking membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO.

This year we also celebrate the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Congress' insistence that Soviet domination of the

Baltic states would not be recognized by the United States. The logic then and the logic now is that the United States will only recognize a free and independent Lithuania. What we celebrate this year is what we must help preserve next year and the year after that. We must carry on that principle today by being sure that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are admitted into NATO as an unequivocal statement that we will never tolerate domination of the Baltic states again.

I support admitting the Baltic states into NATO and I hope my colleagues here in the Senate will support their entry also in the next round of NATO expansion.

That debate we will save for another day, but I am sure all my colleagues can agree on the importance of Lithuania's contribution to freedom and independence for the former Soviet Republics and will join me in congratulating Lithuania in celebrating ten years of that precious freedom and independence.

I am honored that my mother was born in a tiny Lithuanian village many years ago; that she came to this country proud of her heritage, but determined to be an American citizen. This Senator, the son of that proud Lithuanian mother, now serves in this great body and takes pride in being able to rise and salute the courageous people of Lithuania on this the occasion of the tenth anniversary of their independence from Soviet domination.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Res. 91) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 91

Whereas the United States had never recognized the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the former Soviet Union;

Whereas the declaration on March 11, 1990, of the reestablishment of full sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Lithuania led to the disintegration of the former Soviet Union;

Whereas Lithuania since then has successfully built democracy, ensured human and minority rights, the rule of law, developed a free market economy, implemented exemplary relations with neighboring countries, and consistently pursued a course of integration into the community of free and democratic nations by seeking membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; and

Whereas Lithuania, as a result of the progress of its political and economic reforms, has made, and continues to make, a significant contribution toward the maintenance of international peace and stability

by, among other actions, its participation in NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress hereby—

(1) congratulates Lithuania on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence and the leading role it played in the disintegration of the former Soviet Union; and

(2) commends Lithuania for its success in implementing political and economic reforms, which may further speed the process of that country's integration into European and Western institutions.

ARTS EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 128 and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 128) designating March 2000 as "Arts Education Month."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and, finally, that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 128) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble is as follows:

S. RES. 128

Whereas arts literacy is a fundamental purpose of schooling for all students;

Whereas arts education stimulates, develops and refines many cognitive and creative skills, critical thinking and nimbleness in judgment, creativity and imagination, cooperative decisionmaking, leadership, high-level literacy and communication, and the capacity for problem posing and problem-solving;

Whereas arts education contributes significantly to the creation of flexible, adaptable, and knowledgeable workers who will be needed in the 21st century economy;

Whereas arts education improves teaching and learning;

Whereas when parents and families, artists, arts organizations, businesses, local civic and cultural leaders, and institutions are actively engaged in instructional programs, arts education is more successful;

Whereas effective teachers of the arts should be encouraged to continue to learn and grow in mastery of their art form as well as in their teaching competence;

Whereas the 1999 study, entitled "Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts that Value Arts Education", found that the literacy, education, programs,

learning and growth described in the preceding clauses contribute to successful districtwide arts education;

Whereas the 1997 National Assessment of Educational Progress reported that students lack sufficient opportunity for participatory learning in the arts;

Whereas educators, schools, students, and other community members recognize the importance of arts education; and

Whereas arts programs, arts curriculum, and other arts activities in schools across the Nation should be encouraged and publicly recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF ARTS EDUCATION MONTH.

The Senate—

(1) designates March 2000, as "Arts Education Month"; and

(2) encourages schools, students, educators, parents, and other community members to engage in activities designed to—

(A) celebrate the positive impact and public benefits of the arts;

(B) encourage all schools to integrate the arts into the school curriculum;

(C) spotlight the relationship between the arts and student learning;

(D) demonstrate how community involvement in the creation and implementation of arts policies enriches schools;

(E) recognize school administrators and faculty who provide quality arts education to students;

(F) provide professional development opportunities in the arts for teachers;

(G) create opportunities for students to experience the relationship between participation in the arts and developing the life skills necessary for future personal and professional success;

(H) increase, encourage, and ensure comprehensive, sequential arts learning for all students;

(I) honor individual, class, and student group achievement in the arts; and

(J) increase awareness and accessibility to live performances, and original works of art.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, March 6. I further ask consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator DURBIN, or his designee, 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Senator THOMAS, or his designee, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene at 12 noon on Monday, March 6, and will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate may begin consideration of the Export Administration