

Beauty Pageant. Bobbi has been employed as a Flight Attendant for Trans World Airlines for thirty years and has traveled extensively throughout the world.

James Frederick Buescher was born on June 6, 1945, the son of the late Fred M. Buescher and Elizabeth Buescher (nee Patterson). Reared in Ferguson and later Washington, Missouri, Jim was educated at Ferguson Elementary School and Ferguson High School, where he was elected by his classmates as President of the Student Council. Jim graduated from Ferguson High School in 1963.

A serious and accomplished student, Jim attended MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Illinois and transferred to the University of Kansas where he earned his Bachelors Degree in Business Administration in 1968. While at KU, Jim was an Active member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Following his studies at KU, Jim moved to Southern California where he assumed the position of Vice President of Hazel of California, a specialty goods manufacturing company based in Santa Fe Springs. There he rose to prominence in business and community affairs.

Within a relatively short period of time, Jim Buescher was elevated to President and Chief Operating Officer of Hazel of California. At this point, he was invited to join the very prestigious Young President's Organization, where he served a term as President. He was also active as a member of the Board of Directors of the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce and Industrial League. Jim was elected President of the Chamber in 1984.

Following his illustrious career at Hazel/Jostens, Jim assumed a partnership investment in Giff-O-Rama, a giftware supplier based in Cerritos, California. A recognized leader in the specialty goods industry, Jim reentered the business as Chief Operating Officer of Idea Man Incorporated, based in Los Angeles. He continues in his leadership position under the new ownership of Ha-Lo Industries, Incorporated, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Together Jim and Bobbi have celebrated twenty-five years of marriage, enjoy world travel and life at the beach in sunny Southern California. They will be joined by many family members and friends at a Surprise Silver Wedding Anniversary Reception, at the Museum of Flying—Santa Monica Airport, on Sunday, May 20, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to extend to them, on behalf of my husband Frank and my family, our heartfelt congratulations to Jim and Bobbi Buescher on this very happy occasion and to wish them every possible happiness and many more years together.

INTERNET ACCESS CHARGE
PROHIBITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 2000

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1291, the Internet Access Charge

Prohibition Act. The expansion of the Internet has been a source of incredible growth in our economy. I do not think anyone wishes to slow down this incredible growth engine by allowing multiple or discriminatory taxes. This is one of the reasons there is so much support for H.R. 1291. By the same token, Internet telephone service has the potential to grow exponentially, but only if it is not subjected to per-minute charges.

The way Internet telephony is taxed will dictate the extent to which millions of Americans will have access to this new and innovative service. It is important that consumers have a range of choices when it comes to telephone services, which is why it is incumbent upon Congress to preserve competition in this industry.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should carefully consider the issue of the appropriate way to regulate new Internet applications in a way that promotes growth and provides competition to consumers. Additionally, the FCC should also study the issue of whether or not an appropriate charge needs to be imposed on Internet providers in the future for the sake of preserving universal service. The bottom line should be to make sure that all Americans have access to affordable telecommunications services.

IN HONOR OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED
DNESTR MOLDAVIAN
REPUBLIC (DMR)

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on behalf of the people of the self-proclaimed Dnestr Moldavian Republic (DMR).

Moldova, inhabited by a Romanian majority, declared its independence of the USSR in 1992. However, Moscow did not recognize their independence. Consequently, a conflict has ensued between the ethnic Russian minority and the Romanian majority, resulting in the arrest of six Romanians who have been jailed every since.

The case of the "Tiraspol Six," as they came to be known, was taken up by many international organizations. According to a 1998 Amnesty International Report, "Their trial has apparently failed to meet international standards of fairness, and the men had allegedly been prosecuted for political reasons, because of their membership of the Christian Democratic Popular Front, a Moldovan party favoring reunification with Romania." While two of the men have been released, four others remain in jail, suffering inhumane living conditions, denial of medical treatment and of visits by international organizations. I cannot make a formal judgement on the merits of the Tiraspol Six case, but I will defer to the findings of international human rights and pro-Democracy organizations. Amnesty International urged the authorities to "conduct prompt, impartial and effective investigations into all allegations of ill-treatment by police and to bring those responsible to justice."

These four men remain in jail today awaiting a fair and open day in court and a right to de-

fend themselves against the charges made against them. The United States should help to promote freedom and democracy in region, by advocating just and fair treatment in court of the people of Moldova.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 183. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Con. Res. 326—the Sense of the House Resolution on the Responsibility of the Federal Government concerning the Los Alamos fire.

FAIRNESS IN ASBESTOS
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, today I am in opposition of H.R. 1283, the Fairness in Asbestos Compensation Act, which was recently reported out of the House Judiciary Committee. Before it comes to the House floor, I want to make clear my opposition to this bill that creates a windfall for the asbestos industry but denies fair compensation to tens of thousands of American workers and their families.

Bailing out an industry that has caused harm to millions of Americans, is the ultimate slap in the face to the millions of victims affected by the deadly hazards of asbestos. Only because our court system provides accountability for these manufacturers was this deadly threat finally stopped. Now, it is no surprise that asbestos manufacturers want to use the Federal Government to override tort statutes in various States, which have brought them to law. Even more troubling, the bill will prohibit approximately 50 percent of injured asbestos victims from compensation due to new and unreasonable medical standards.

Furthermore, punitive damages would be capped at three times compensatory damages if the victim goes through an administrative hearing. Most troubling, if the victim goes to court directly, punitive damages would be prohibited entirely.

The bill forgets all scientific and health related research that has proven the link between asbestos exposure and lung disease. The bill creates a strict burden of proof for establishing that asbestos-induced diseases were caused by asbestos exposure. There is no need for this elevated burden of proof since the medical literature by the medical community supports the current substantial level of proof now required. It is estimated that under the bill, about one-half of all asbestos cancer cases now eligible for compensation would be thrown out. For the first time, asbestos lung cancer victims will need to prove that they have no smoking history; if a victim has