

computer internetworking systems. It supplies the majority of networking gear used for the internet. According to Investor Research: "Demand for switches is being driven by a need for greater bandwidth by corporate users: Cisco dominates this market." Mr. President, the term dominates is bad in the anti-trust world.

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One irony in the Microsoft case is that Netscape, the frequently cited "victim" in the case against Microsoft, was in 1996 clearly a monopoly player in its own right, with over 80 percent of the browser market. Now, Netscape is owned by AOL, another monopoly-sized player.

America's high tech community used to shun government interference. They would be smart to continue to do so. The companies that encouraged the Microsoft lawsuit made a Faustian bargain. Now that the government has focused on this industry, it may be difficult to turn its attention elsewhere.

That's too bad. The case against Microsoft has hurt the high tech community where it counts—in its pocketbook. But the full cost of this ill-advised attack remains to be seen. Right now, America stands alone atop the New Economy. Increased government intervention is a good way to ensure that dominance doesn't last.

THE TRUTHFULNESS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN CONTRACTING ACT

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in support of the Truthfulness, Responsibility and Accountability in Contracting Act, or the TRAC Act. We look forward to dropping our bill when the Senate returns from the July 4th recess.

The TRAC Act simply stated, seeks the best value for the federal dollar. Its main objectives are instituting public-private competition and tracking costs. My colleagues and I agree that improvements to service contracting should be made, and this bill is one way to achieve that.

Our bill directs federal agency certification before entering into new contracts. These standards include establishing agency-wide reporting systems to report contracting efforts; requiring public-private competition; and reviewing contractor work and recompeting that work if appropriate.

Why the new standards? So we can better ascertain what the federal government is spending for government

services. David Walker, Comptroller General for the General Accounting Office, stated recently in a June 1st Washington Post piece by David Broder that "... it is not clear that the remaining federal employees are capable of monitoring the cost and quality of the outsourced activities." The ability to monitor costs is essential if the Congress is to exercise proper oversight of federal funds spent to carry out services by either contractors or federal employees.

We also want to ensure an even playing field between contractors and federal employees when competing for work. The public-private competitions required by the TRAC Act will determine how best the federal government can save money on its many critical services. Our bill doesn't guarantee any pre-determined outcome in a public-private competition, but rather ensures that these competitions occur.

Contractors have historically played a role in delivering government services and will continue to do so. Therefore, our bill will allow the federal agencies to see who completes work most effectively, regardless of who delivers the service.

EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER 12 OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, at this time, I am seeking recognition in order to call to my colleagues' attention something that will happen today. At midnight today, bankruptcy protections for family farmers will disappear. Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code will expire. And America's family farming operation will be exposed to foreclosure and possible forced auctions. I think this will be a clear failure on the part of the Congress and the President to do their duty. How did we get here? After all, the Senate and House have passed bankruptcy reform bills which made chapter 12 permanent. But a small minority of Senators who oppose bankruptcy reform have apparently decided that they would rather see America's family farmers with no last-ditch safety net than let the House and Senate even convene a conference committee in order to get the two bills reconciled.

But even with these stall tactics, the House and Senate have met informally to resolve the bankruptcy bills. The informal agreement, of course, will make chapter 12 permanent. If we were allowed to pass this bill, America's family farmers would never again face the prospect of having no bankruptcy protections.

That's right Mr. President, we have the power right now to give family farmers last-ditch protection against foreclosures and forced sales. But, some of our more liberal friends won't let that happen. Some members of this body have just decided to play political

chess games with bankruptcy reform, and they're willing to use family farmers as pawns to be expended in pursuit of some larger goal.

Mr. President, with the sluggishness we have in the farm sector, I think it's just plain wrong to play games with family farmers. Senator LOTT and the Republican leadership have tried to move the bankruptcy bill repeatedly and have been stymied every step of the way. We need to help our family farmers, not play games with their futures. The opponents of bankruptcy reform have resorted to tactics which are morally bankrupt.

Mr. President, back in the mid-1980's when Iowa was in the midst of another devastating farm crisis, I wrote chapter 12 to make sure that family farmers would receive a fair shake when dealing with the banks and the Federal Government. At that time, I didn't know if chapter 12 was going to work or not, so it was only enacted on a temporary basis.

Chapter 12 has been an unmitigated success. As a result of chapter 12, many farmers who once faced total financial ruin are still farming and contributing to America's economy. As was the case in the dark days of the mid-1980s, some are again predicting that farming operations should be consolidated and we should turn to corporate farming to supply our food and agricultural products. As with the 1980s, some people seem to think that family farms are inefficient relics which should be allowed to go out of business. This would mean the end of an important part of our Nation's heritage. And it would put many hard working American families—those who farm and those whose jobs depend on a healthy agricultural sector—out of work.

But the family farm didn't disappear in the 1980s, and I believe that chapter 12 is a major reason for the survival of many financially troubled family farms. An Iowa State University study prepared by professor Neil Harl found that 85 percent of the Iowa farmers who used chapter 12 were able to continue farming. That's real jobs for all sorts of Iowans in agriculture and in industries which depend on agriculture. According to the same study, 63 percent of the farmers who used chapter 12 found it helpful in getting them back on their feet. In short, I think it's fair to say that chapter 12 worked in the mid 1980s, and it should be made permanent so that family farmers in trouble today can get breathing room and a fresh start if that's what they need to make it. It's shameful that some Senators who know better are continuing to play politics and deny a fresh start to family farmers.

But the bankruptcy reform bill doesn't just make chapter 12 permanent. Instead, the bill makes improvements to chapter 12 so it will be more accessible and helpful for farmers.