

July 20, 2001

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-  
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Chairman, over the years we have heard a number of contentious arguments about the viability of the Advanced Technology Program (ATP). As a consistent ATP supporter, I understand these discussions are difficult to resolve and stem from fundamental questions about the proper role of government in the development of technology. While government should, and must, contribute to funding our basic research enterprise, there is fair ambivalence about the government taking on the role of private investors and picking the "winners and losers" of the market by targeting funds to specific projects. While I also question the superiority of government over Adam Smith's "invisible hand" of the marketplace, I think this argument is severely flawed when it comes to ATP.

The Advanced Technology Program is not public financing of established technologies. It should not be seen as speculative investment nor should its success be measured in the same economic terms as private investment. Framing the debate in these terms is fundamentally wrong and misses the point of the program. The ATP is a research and development program, not an exercise in government venture capital.

The program seeks to provide a critical bridge for the "funding gap" from innovation to the marketplace of pre-competitive, emerging technologies. ATP seeks to smooth the transition from invention to commercialization, the so-called "valley of death" or "Darwinian Sea." The United States has the greatest research effort in the world. Our universities and industries develop more ideas and discover more innovations than everywhere else combined. We also understand capital markets and have used our knowledge to produce the world's most vibrant and robust economy. Yet we are still not very good at turning raw ideas into commercial products. While it is tempting to believe that this process is straightforward and should be understandable from basic social and economic principles, it is not and cannot. The relationship between the private sector and this intermediate stage between research and venture capital investment is poorly understood and the subject of intense scrutiny. It would be wrong to treat it as a mature, fully-formed, capital arena.

As such, there is a role for government to play. What's more, the ATP has been largely successful in carrying out that role. The purpose of the ATP is to develop and disseminate high-risk technologies with the potential

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

for broad-based economic benefits. It is devoted to technical research; research that is more directed that basic proof-of-principle work, but not to product development. And more often than not, it involves matching funds from industry. This process has worked. In a recent review of the first 50 ATP awards, 32 projects have been successful in bringing 61 products or processes to market.

Despite this success, H.R. 2500, the Fiscal Year 2002 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill, only provides enough funds to fulfill existing commitments and halts new awards. While I understand the rationale to suspend new ATP grants is due to the on-going program re-evaluation efforts conducted by the Secretary of Commerce, I am concerned that this may ultimately lead to a zeroing out of the program. The ATP is one of the most closely reviewed government programs of all time. In addition, the National Research Council has just completed the most comprehensive review of ATP to date and the review is extremely positive. The report calls ATP an "effective federal partnership program" and claims that it "appears to have been successful in achieving its core objective." It also cites its "exceptional assessment effort" and compliments its review and awards process. These are extremely strong statements for a non-partisan group that tries to avoid making policy judgments.

The Academy report, however, does not say the program is perfect and does take issue with certain aspects of the ATP. It also makes recommendations for changes and improvements. These concerns should be taken seriously, but the report is still a strong endorsement for continuing the program. Effective programs that produce measurable long-term economic benefits should not be sacrificed on the altar of short-term budget constraints. The success of the ATP speaks for itself and the program should be continued. At the very least, I hope that when this legislation is considered in conference, there will be adequate funding to continue the program pending the Secretary's reevaluation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HORNETTES OF  
NASHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hornets of Nashville High School on their recent state softball championship. The Hornets defeated the Stanford Olympia Spartans 3-0 to win their first ever Class A State Softball Championship.

In addition to being crowned state champs, the Nashville Hornets tied the state record for most wins in a season with 41 victories and only 2 losses. The team gave Nashville softball fans a thrill throughout their historic season.

I would like to personally commend the team members and coaches for a job well done. They are: Cara Pries, Lindsay Henry, Tessa Schmale, Amy Harre, Amber Fark, Linda Maschhoff, Amy Rybacki, Ashley

Schaeffer, Mallory Ruggles, Krystal Stein, Kristen Klingler, Danielle Kaufman, Chelsi Boatright, Nicole Richard, Danielle Chambers, Heather Guest, Sara Skibinski, Nicole Asberry, and Stephanie Niedbalski. Their coaches are: Neil Hamon, Wayne Harre, Charlie Heck, and Head Coach Chad Malawy. I am very proud of you all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE POLICE  
CHIEF CECIL GURR

**HON. CHRIS CANNON**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to a fallen police chief from Roosevelt, Utah. Police Chief Cecil Gurr was "off duty" in his car en route to the grocery store to run family errands when he heard a police dispatch about a domestic dispute at a nearby convenience store. As he had countless other times, he responded to the call. Drawing attention away from his officers, Chief Gurr deliberately placed himself in the line of fire to protect his men. Caught in the exchange of gunfire, Gurr died Friday, July 6, 2001 in the line of duty for the Duchesne County community. I send my prayers and condolences to his family, neighbors, and the community as a whole.

Cecil Gurr had been Roosevelt's police chief since 1978. He grew up in Roosevelt and joined its police force in 1974 after a tour of duty in Vietnam and a short stint with the FBI. Nearly 30 years of his life was devoted to protecting his hometown of 4,000 residents. He is survived by his wife, Lynnette, his three children, and four grandchildren. Left behind are neighbors and a community that will greatly miss his unconditional self sacrifice, kindness, generosity, and quiet demeanor. And, now those left behind must unite to support and strengthen one another during the coming months and years as they heal.

"He was very fair and firm and always had the best interests of the community at hand . . . He'd do anything for you. He never asked for anything in return," stated Roosevelt Police Officer Brad Draper. The National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial says that "it is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived."

We may never truly comprehend the latent danger associated with the daily routines of our law enforcement officers. They continually put themselves in danger as they stop a vehicle, respond to an incident or a suspicious circumstance. The dangers, risks, and violence they encounter each day are very real. Sorrowfully, at such times we pause to honor the brave law enforcement officers who serve and protect our communities. I hope they will routinely be given the honor, respect and thanks they deserve—not only when life's fragile nature is revealed.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask that you and our colleagues join me in remembering this fine man and the selfless life he lived. On behalf of the residents of the Third District of Utah, we extend our prayers and most heartfelt sympathy to his family and loved ones.

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