

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## WEFA STUDY SAYS LET THE BELLS COMPETE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, there is no more pressing issue before this Congress than the need to stimulate our sluggish economy and create new jobs—and there is no greater constraint in meeting this need than the scarcity of Federal dollars. But there is a way to create millions of jobs without adding to our national debt.

A new study by the Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates Group [WEFA] predicts that 3.6 million jobs would be created over the next 10 years if the restrictions were lifted on the regional Bell companies. Over this same period of time, the study finds that \$247 billion would be added to our gross domestic product.

The 3.6 million jobs that would be created by lifting the manufacturing, information services, long-distance, and cable restrictions would be jobs over and above those that would be created through normal economic growth. They would be spread throughout each industry and sector of the American economy.

Every State would experience substantial employment benefits. My home State of Michigan would gain nearly 121,000 jobs according to this study. This study is strongly endorsed by the Communications Workers of America who recognize the huge benefits in job creation through lifting the restrictions.

The WEFA study also finds that lifting the restrictions would significantly reduce rates for consumers. For example, 5 years from now long-distance [interLATA] and local [intraLATA] toll rates would be 50 percent lower with full Bell competition. In addition, local rates would increase by less than 50 percent of current projection over the next 10 years, saving consumers more than \$30 billion.

The WEFA study includes lifting the restrictions on Bell ownership and operation of video programming in their telephone service areas. I must say that I have reservations about further changing the 1984 Cable Act in this specific regard. I would have to be totally convinced that such a move would provide more choices for cable consumers and enhance competition. Nevertheless, this study illustrates the tremendous value of lifting the other restrictions.

I have long advocated lifting the restrictions preventing competition in equipment manufacturing, information services, and long-distance. These restrictions have hindered our ability to compete in these vital sectors.

The projected economic benefits from lifting these restrictions illustrates the potential power of the Information Age to put America

back on track in terms of global competitiveness and technological superiority. More than anything else, this new study shows that if we continue to bar major telecommunications companies, like the regional Bells, from competing in whole segments of the exploding communications industry, we will fail to maximize the potential of the Information Age.

Moreover, these benefits can be achieved without additional spending. Competition in the private sector would spur increased private investment in the communications infrastructure.

America's public policy framework for telecommunications is currently being debated in Congress. As we rebuild the framework to support America's communications needs well into the next century, we must keep in mind our tremendous need to stimulate the economy, create millions of high quality jobs, reassert our international competitiveness, and provide a strong future for our children.

Telecommunications will play an important role in filling these needs. The full potential can only be realized if we let all telecommunications providers—including the regional Bell companies—fully compete in the telecommunications industry. As a long-time cosponsor of legislation to eliminate the manufacturing and information services restrictions of the MFJ and a supporter of Bell competition in the long-distance marketplace, I commend this study to your attention. Its conclusions are significant and in many respects startling.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD a summary of the WEFA study.

EXCERPT FROM: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ELIMINATING THE LINE-OF-BUSINESS RESTRICTIONS ON THE BELL COMPANIES

WEFA's enhanced models yield two sets of forecasts through the year 2003. The first forecast, which is referred to as the Baseline forecast, represents WEFA's standard long-term forecast of economic activity in the United States. In WEFA's Baseline forecast, the current economic recovery does not falter, and the economy grows an average of 2.9 percent per year in real terms through 2003. Total real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reaches almost \$6.8 trillion in constant 1987 dollars by 2003.

The second forecast, which is referred to as the LOB Relief simulation, quantifies the impact on the national and state economies of unfettered competition throughout the telecommunications, information services, and cable TV industries. In the LOB Relief simulation, the economy grows faster than in the Baseline forecast. Total real GDP reaches \$7.0 trillion in constant 1987 dollars by 2003. This is an increase of \$247 billion—a 3.6 percent total improvement—over the Baseline forecast.

The key results of the LOB Relief simulation relative to the Baseline forecast are summarized below:

## EMPLOYMENT

The economy gains 3.6 million additional jobs over the next ten years, increasing total employment to 135.7 million by 2003. These jobs are spread across all states and all major industry groups.

Manufacturing output alone grows 0.5 of 1 percent faster per year over the coming decade, creating 977,000 additional manufacturing jobs.

The unemployment rate falls an additional half a point to 5.1 percent by 2003. This improvement is especially noteworthy since it occurs even while more telecommuters and remote site workers expand the labor force.

## GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

\$247 billion is added to total real GDP by 2003, a total gain of 3.6 percent over the ten-year interval.

Consumer spending gains an extra \$137 billion by 2003, growing 0.3 of 1 percent faster per year.

Total investment increase an additional \$72 billion, as lower interest rates help boost productive capital formation.

The balance of trade improves an extra \$33 billion as a result of lower domestic inflation and more favorable currency exchange rates.

The Federal budget deficit improves an additional \$150 billion by 2003.

## OTHER ECONOMIC FACTORS

The aggregate annual inflation rate slows nearly a full percentage point more on average over the coming decade. Inflation is low enough relative to the nation's major trading partners (even our most successful competitors in the world market) to stimulate exports and significantly improve the balance of trade.

Long term interest rates are more than full point lower by 2003.

## CONSUMER BENEFITS

Average telecommunications services prices decline 22 percent over the next ten years in the LOB Relief simulation versus a 20 percent increase in the Baseline forecast. These lower rates will include: inter- and intraLATA toll call rate decreases of 50 percent as compared to Baseline, saving consumers over \$490 billion by 2003; local rates increase less than one-half the amount of Baseline, saving more than \$30 billion over the ten-year period; and, cellular rate decreases of 15 percent (including toll charges) over five years, saving more than \$25 billion by 2003.

Average cable TV price decrease almost 5 percent when LOB relief is granted, versus an increase of 27 percent in the WEFA's Baseline forecast for the ten-year period, saving consumers nearly \$75 billion by 2003.

Gains to consumers that result from lower telecommunications and cable TV rates average \$63 billion per year over the forecast period, freeing a comparable amount of disposable income for the purchase of other products and services.

Lower telecommunications rates, higher quality, and greater value accelerate the use of the public telephone network to deliver a variety of health care, education, and other public services to more people at lower prices.

Achieving these benefits is predicted on two critical requirements. First, the LOB restriction are removed immediately; and, second, corresponding changes are made to Federal and state regulatory policies that enable all telecommunications providers, including the Bell companies, to compete under equal

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

terms and conditions. The second requirement is no less important than the first. If regulation does not permit regulated telecommunications carriers to compete fully and fairly, e.g., to lower rates in response to competition from unregulated vendors, prices will remain higher than they would otherwise and the economic benefits of removing the LOB restrictions will be less than those forecasted.

#### RECOGNITION OF HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

##### HON. DICK SWETT

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. SWETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Helsinki Human Rights Day. The Helsinki accords, signed in 1975, represented an attempt by the sovereign states of Europe and the United States to ensure peace and stability in Europe. The accords affirmed a mutual commitment to forswear weapons of war as a means of resolving disputes among nations, and a recognition that every person has inalienable rights which no government can justly curtail.

The end of the cold war has caused us to once again examine the conditions of human rights in Europe. The current conflict in the former Yugoslavia dramatically illustrates the need for us to reaffirm our support for the Helsinki accords. Ethnic and secessionist impulses are threatening stability across Europe and the United States must send the clear signal that support remains strong for the values embodied in the accords.

Mr. Speaker, it is also essential that we demand all signatories to the Helsinki accords live up to the promises that they vowed to uphold. The former Soviet Union must address continuing human rights issues, such as those political prisoners that remain behind bars, the rise in anti-Semitic violence, and the threat to the religious freedom of all the people of the former Soviet Union.

As an executive member of the congressional human rights caucus, I am particularly dedicated to the plight of oppressed peoples throughout the world, and I urge my colleagues to remain ever vigilant as we declare August 1 Helsinki Human Rights Day.

Mr. Speaker, let us be unwavering in our commitment to peace, stability, and human rights as we look to the future—a future that we must ensure is shaped by the values of the Helsinki accords, guaranteeing fundamental freedoms for all.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE REC- REATIONAL BOATING SAFETY ACT OF 1993

##### HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, safety is the primary concern of the millions of recreational boaters across this Nation. The bill I

am introducing today would increase the level of safety enjoyed by recreational boaters by increasing the penalties for boating while intoxicated [BWI], requiring children to wear personal flotation devices onboard vessels and personal watercraft, and requiring the Coast Guard to develop plans related to mandatory boating education and certification, and boating accident reporting.

Mr. Speaker, last month, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation conducted an oversight hearing on the National Transportation Safety Board's [NTSB] recreational boating safety study. In that study, NTSB found that alcohol use was involved in at least half of all boating accidents and that 85 percent of those who drown in recreational boating accidents were not wearing personal flotation devices [PFD's]. In their conclusions, NTSB recommended that comprehensive BWI laws be implemented, that minimum recreational boating safety standards be established and that information about fatal or serious boating accidents be submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard.

I support many of the recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board and have incorporated some of their suggestions within this legislation.

Regrettably, this past weekend, there was another tragic boating accident, this time on the Fourche LaFave River in Arkansas, which highlighted the essential need for this legislation. According to the Coast Guard, nine people were crowded into a 12-foot boat designed to carry three, none of the occupants were wearing personal flotation devices, and, reportedly, only the father knew how to swim. Sadly, seven members of the family—five of which were children—lost their lives in this senseless boating catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, section 2 of my bill would reduce boating deaths and serious accidents related to alcohol use. Section 2 requires the Coast Guard to develop a program in cooperation with State officials to reduce boating accidents by concentrating enforcement of BWI laws in areas where many boating accidents have occurred. Several States have implemented successful programs of this type, and a national cooperative effort would reduce boating accidents across the Nation.

Sections 3 and 4 are related to the use of personal flotation devices onboard recreational boats and personal watercraft. Section 3 requires children 12 years of age and younger to wear personal flotation devices, unless they are in enclosed cabins on a boat. Section 4 requires the Coast Guard to submit to Congress a plan to approve full inflatable life jackets for use by certain individuals under appropriate conditions.

Sections 5 and 6 would improve the information that is received by Federal and State boating officials on recreational boating accidents. Section 5 implements a recent suggestion by the National Transportation Safety Board and requires the Coast Guard to implement an information system for boating accident information similar to the one presently operated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that compiles highway accident information. Section 6 requires the Coast Guard to submit a plan to appropriate congressional committees to increase reporting of boating accidents nationally.

Sections 7 and 8 of my bill require mandatory boating safety education under certain circumstances. Section 7 requires individuals who violate the BWI laws to complete a boating safety course that is acceptable to the Coast Guard. Section 8 requires the Coast Guard to develop a plan for education and certification of individuals who operate recreational vessels. After we have experience with this program nationally, we may find that we can increase the age of individuals subject to these education requirements to gradually educate the entire boating public.

According to Texas State boating officials, 71 people drowned in boating accidents in our State last year. Based on their educated analysis, these boating officials believe that more than 50 percent of those Americans would not have lost their lives if they had been wearing personal flotation devices.

Mr. Speaker, this bill contains extremely valuable changes to the laws designed to protect the safety of our waterways. I urge my colleagues to support early action on this important piece of legislation so that we can help to ensure that more people do not lose their lives on our Nation's waters.

ESSAY BY MR. LAWRENCE  
AMELANG, D.D.S.

##### HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share an essay written by my friend, Mr. Laurence Amelang, D.D.S. from Valencia, CA. Dr. Amelang offers an important perspective on the consequences of actions our Government takes. The points he raises are insightful and should be regarded by all lawmakers. His essay follows:

MY TURN

(By Laurence Amelang, D.D.S.)

The other day I bought a magazine for three dollars. I noticed there was a sales tax of 25 cents and it occurred to me, that was only the last and most visible tax on that magazine. I wondered just how much tax I had paid to be able to buy that magazine. I sat down and asked my math-teacher wife to help me with the algebra. Since I own my own business, I had property taxes, payroll taxes and other taxes I had paid in order to generate a personal income to spend on that magazine. I then had to pay personal income taxes before I had the money available to spend on the magazine. As it turned out, I spent \$2.78 in taxes in order to buy a \$3.00 magazine. Astounding, isn't it? In order to maintain multiple layers of bureaucracy, our government confiscates almost one dollar for every dollar I am then allowed to spend on myself. How did this ever come to this point? I have been witness to some of this folly. Let me explain.

I sit on the Board of Directors of a non-profit foundation which today voted to spend \$20,000 to provide dental care to needy children. Sounds like a noble venture, doesn't it? The problem is, the foundation only had \$200 in the bank. It hoped to garner the \$20,000 from a "windfall" of federal money. I argued that this money was not a windfall; it was ultimately going to increase our national

deficit and therefore be equivalent to a mortgage that our children would have to pay in increased taxes.

I sat on this board as a representative of the dentists in our community. I had surveyed the local dentists and found them more than willing to provide the needed care as a donation of their services. I viewed their willingness to be an example of the "thousand points of light" President Bush encouraged us all to become. However, it was easier for the board to spend federal money than it was to accept the generosity of others.

How many other communities look to the "windfall" of federal spending to keep their personal interests funded? We need the courage to "just say no" when it comes to spending tax monies. They don't appear magically. They will be confiscated from our future earnings and from those of our children.

Government increases our cost of living in less direct ways than taxation. Regulatory agencies fabricate regulations that end up as hidden costs. Last year, OSHA (a Federal Agency with a mission to protect workers) instituted new regulations that concerned bloodborne transmission of disease. They assured us that their regulations would only cost some \$800 a year to implement. As it turns out, in my dental office we have to spend that much each week! The new regulations have directly increased the costs of an Exam and Prophylaxis (cleaning) by 37%. Obviously the people drafting regulations have no concept of the consequences of their work. And we have no recourse to their actions.

Looking back on injuries in my dental office over the past 20 years, there have been three small puncture wounds from cleaning up sharp instruments with bare hands. When we began to require our staff to wear heavy puncture resistant gloves during the clean-up procedures we effectively eliminated the source of all exposure (in our personal experience) and for the small sum of a few dollars. Yet we now must spend thousands of dollars and pass these expenses on to our patients. As the defacto head of the Department of Health, Mrs. Clinton needs to consider the effect of regulatory expenses if she wants to bring down the cost of health care.

I have two suggestions. First, the costs of meeting governmental regulations should be indicated to the consumer much as mileage is on cars and energy use on refrigerators. These costs should be reported back to the appropriate agency in order to develop a system of checks and balances. They would be used to indicate the extent of expense mandated by that agency and be considered as indirect taxes. Second, we should have an elected Cabinet and make them responsible to reduce the amount of governmental spending both direct and indirect. As an example, determine last year's expenses in Defense and tell the Secretary of Defense that he will have 10% less to spend this year. Decrease each department 10% each year until the level of confiscation drops to a less crippling level. This way we can elect people who campaign to specific issues instead of a broad platform which might have some things we like but others we disagree with. And then we could selectively remove from office those who don't fulfill our expectations.

I know that some worthwhile projects will be cut, but what absolutely must be done, will be. Many things will be accomplished by selfless people who donate their time to help others. We will then turn to each other and not to federal "windfalls" that enslave our children.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON FIREARM FATALITY REPORTING SYSTEM

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, we do not systematically collect data that looks at the relationship between crime, violence, and weapons.

The Uniform Crime Reporting System collects data on homicides. However, approximately 10 percent of all homicides are not recorded in the UCR. In addition, the UCR doesn't keep track of firearm suicides, which outnumber firearm homicides, or unintended gun deaths.

Information is collected at the State and local levels by police and medical examiners. However, this information is not uniform and is not reported to any national data base.

Creating a national data base for the purpose of analyzing data on fatalities is not a revolutionary idea. This country has created a national data base on fatal car accidents. The Fatal Accident Reporting System has reported on all motor vehicle-related fatalities since 1975. From this information, scientists, epidemiologists, and safety experts have been able to assess the effectiveness of seatbelt laws and child restraint laws. This information has also given us a better idea of the role of alcohol in highway accidents.

Facts, numbers, statistics—these are objective elements that are missing in the politically charged debate on the role of guns in American society.

That is why I am introducing the Firearm Fatality Reporting System, so that health and criminal justice experts will have access to data that can give them a clearer picture about the relationship between firearms and fatalities.

The Firearm Fatality Reporting System will be uniform data on the type of firearm used in a fatality and detailed information on the gun—type, make, model, caliber, and serial number. The system will also have information on the type of death—suicide, homicide, unintended—the shooter, the victim, and the circumstances of the incident.

Mr. Speaker, unless we start a comprehensive data collection system on gun fatalities, I fear we are doomed to unproven assertions from both sides of the debate on guns.

I would like to insert into the RECORD an article from the June 10, 1992, Journal of the American Medical Association by Stephen P. Teret, Garen J. Wintemute, and Peter L. Beilenson outlining the need and rationale for establishing a Firearm Fatality Reporting System.

[From the Journal of the American Medical Association, June 10, 1992]

### THE FIREARM FATALITY REPORTING SYSTEM— A PROPOSAL

(By Stephen P. Teret, Garen J. Wintemute, and Peter L. Beilenson)

(Recommendation: [R]equire that firearm injuries, in addition to being reportable to the police, be reportable to health departments. Place greater emphasis on coding the type of firearm on the death certificate. Develop a national fatal firearm injury reporting system, comparable to FARS [Fatal Accident Reporting System], with sufficient data for documenting the firearm problem and designing prevention strategies—from Cost of Injury in the United States)<sup>1</sup>

Firearms are the vehicle of death for approximately 34,000 people each year in the United States. The estimated lifetime costs for firearm injuries that occurred in 1985 will be \$14.4 billion.<sup>1</sup> Firearm policy, as expressed most often through legislation, is in part health policy. For groups such as young African-American males, for whom almost half of all deaths are caused by gunfire,<sup>2</sup> gun policy may be more influential to their health status than any other form of health policy.

But gun policy has been driven more with an ear to rhetoric than with an eye toward health statistics. This is due in part to the inability of health professionals to provide data that will answer crucial policy questions.

For example: Are there temporal trends in the proportion of gun deaths from small, cheap handguns (Saturday night specials) vs. more sophisticated weaponry? Do newly manufactured guns figure disproportionately in firearm homicides or suicides? How many deaths, and what percentage of all gun deaths, are attributable to paramilitary "assault" weapons? Are certain types of guns preferentially used for adolescent suicide, which has been increasing dramatically in recent decades?<sup>3</sup> Are there particular characteristics common to the guns that are involved in unintended, childhood shootings? Does the risk-to-benefit ratio for defensive handgun ownership vary among subsets of the population?

Questions such as these deserve answers based on reliable data, but these data are at present difficult or impossible to assemble. Vital statistics records for gun mortality are E-coded (using the external cause of death codes in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death, Ninth Revision<sup>4</sup>), and the type of gun involved can be recorded by use of the code's fourth digit. But in about 80% of firearm homicides and 66% of firearm suicides and unintentional shootings, the type of gun is not specified on the death certificate.<sup>5</sup> Death certificates present only a crude assessment of intent—they do not distinguish among the types of homicides, for example. They contain little information on persons who die from gunshot wounds, less on the circumstances, and none at all on other involved persons.

Special studies that use medical examiner or coroner records or police reports can yield more information on gun deaths.<sup>6,7</sup> These studies, however, are expensive and fail to provide ongoing, timely information for most geographic areas. The ability of policymakers to respond to changing trends in gun deaths is thereby compromised.

The Uniform Crime Reporting System, maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provides information, at least for

Footnotes at end of article.

homicides. For example, it grossly specifies the type of gun used in murders. This reporting program is "a cooperative effort of approximately 16,000 city, county, and state law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on crime brought to their attention."<sup>8</sup> Firearm suicides, which outnumber firearm homicides, and unintended gun deaths are not covered by the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Moreover, approximately 10% of homicides in the United States are not included in the UCR database.<sup>9</sup>

A Firearm Fatality Reporting System is needed. One can be patterned after the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS), which is maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and which has reported on all motor vehicle-related fatalities since 1975. FARS collects uniform data from the states and reports on up to 90 different data elements characterizing each fatal crash and the vehicles and people involved in that crash. In 1989, FARS collected data on 45,555 fatalities involving 40,718 crashes. The annual budget for FARS is approximately \$3.5 million.

The FARS data have been used, for example, to evaluate seatbelt laws,<sup>10</sup> child restraint laws,<sup>11,12</sup> and changes in speed limit laws<sup>13</sup>, to detect vehicles that are at high risk for injury involvement<sup>14</sup>, to monitor trends in motor vehicle safety<sup>15</sup>, and to monitor the role of alcohol in highway fatalities.<sup>16</sup> The existence of the FARS database has been crucial to the development of highway safety.

As is the case with highway fatalities, gun deaths are routinely investigated by medical examiners or coroners and by police. A good deal of information, therefore, is currently collected at the state and local levels, but this information is not uniform, nor are the medical data reported to a national repository. A Firearm Fatality Reporting System, which might best be located within the Centers for Disease Control, could rely on data currently collected at the state and local levels in much the same way FARS does. Information maintained at the federal level need not contain identifiers, so that the confidentiality interests of involved parties are protected.

At a minimum, data collected on firearm fatalities should include the following:

Information on the gun itself, such as type, make, model, caliber, and serial number, which would allow researchers to determine other variables such as year of manufacture.

Type of death—homicide, suicide, unintended, or undetermined.

Information on the victim, such as age, race, sex, and drug/alcohol involvement.

Information on the shooter, such as age, race, sex, relationship to the victim, and drug/alcohol involvement.

Information on the circumstances of the shooting, such as date, time, type of location, and whether it occurred during commission of another crime.

Involvement of emergency medical services.

In 1981, Wright and Rossi,<sup>17</sup> having reviewed the literature on weapons, crime and violence, wrote the following:

"The published literature is more noteworthy for what it does not show than for what it does. There is, it appears, scarcely a single finding in the literature that could be said to have been indisputably established. In part, this reflects the highly politicized nature of research in this area, but perhaps more importantly, it results from a near-total absence of sound and nationally generalizable data from which reliable informa-

tion about weapons, crime, and violence might be extracted."

In the decade since that observation was written, there have been more than 300,000 additional firearm deaths in the United States, and we still do not systematically collect data.

Informed decisions must be made regarding gun risks and benefits, a topic that is emotionally and politically charged. The Firearm Fatality Reporting System would bring important, new, and needed information to help with the resolution of difficult issues.<sup>18</sup> The creation of such a system should be recognized as a national health priority.

STEPHEN P. TERET, JD,  
MPH.

GAREN J. WINTEMUTE, MD,  
MPH.

PETER L. BELLENSON, MD,  
MPH.

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## WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION FOR FARMINGTON RIVER

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, after nearly 7 years, the Farmington River study advisory committee has completed its review of the importance of adding the west branch of the Farmington River to the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The committee voted unanimously on April 29, 1993, to endorse the management plan written as part of its study and to seek wild and scenic designation through legislation that I am pleased to introduce today with the support of the entire Connecticut congressional delegation. Senators LIEBERMAN and DODD are introducing an identical bill in the Senate today.

The 17 committee members represented all interested parties, to wit: all 5 riparian towns in Connecticut, the metropolitan district commission which supplies drinking water from the east branch to Hartford and a few suburban towns, the State department of environmental protection, the secretary of the interior, and the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA). The committee also included representatives of the four Massachusetts riparian towns, but those towns eventually voted not to participate in wild and scenic designation.

Though it is in a relatively developed, urbanized area of the country, the west branch of the Farmington River has considerable geological, recreational, and scenic significance. Unlike the east branch of the river, it is free-flowing and has been the subject of discussion regarding future water diversions to supply Hartford-area towns. However, the MDC has approved the wild and scenic designation and has enthusiastically endorsed the committee's management plan.

Wild and scenic designation for the 14-mile stretch of the west branch would be a first for Connecticut and has been sought for at least 20 years by the FRWA and other interested people. I look forward to prompt consideration of this legislation in the House and Senate.

## TRIBUTE TO DR. DELMAR EDWARDS

HON. MICHAEL A. "MAC" COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Delmar Edwards, recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award presented by the Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America in Georgia's Third Congressional District.

Few individuals have contributed as much to the medical community as Dr. Edwards. His prestigious career began when he earned his medical degree from the University of Arkansas School of Medicine in 1957. After completing residencies in Winston Salem, N.C. and Tuskegee, AL, he came to Columbus, GA to begin the long and impressive career that we honor.

Dr. Edwards has served each of the regional hospitals in various capacities. From 1983 until 1988 he was chief of general surgery at the medical center, one of the State's largest hospitals. His affiliations and awards in the medical field are too numerous to list and there is no disputing the fact that Dr. Edwards remains among the most respected members of the Georgia medical community.

Dr. Edwards' achievements in the medical field alone would be enough to qualify him for most any award, yet we must bring into focus the true picture of Dr. Edwards. He has been an active member of the St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church, a longtime member of the Rotary Club, a member of the board of directors of the Muscogee County School Board, and most importantly, a loving husband, father and grandfather.

So Mr. Speaker, in being honored with this award, Dr. Edwards may redefine the phrase distinguished citizen. Few have accomplished more and given more. Those in the Chattahoochee Valley have been blessed more than we know, because in 1964 a young doctor named Delmar Edwards decided to make Columbus, GA his home.

NORMAN WALTERS, PRESIDENT OF YMCA IN YORK AND YORK COUNTY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Friday, July 30, 1993

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, on September 1, 1993, York County will be losing the services of a most valued member of their community. Norman L. Walters, president of the YMCA in York and York County will be retiring from a very distinguished career which consists of 35 years of public service.

Mr. Walters began his career with the YMCA in 1958 as assistant program director in the Philadelphia Central YMCA. He was also program/public relations director of the Reading YMCA and then moved up to central branch director in the Reading office. For the next 12 years he worked as the executive director of the YMCA of Madison County in Anderson, IL.

Having moved to York in 1982, Mr. Walters quickly took on the role as president of the YMCA. One of his first tasks as president was to try to increase the membership of the

YMCA. In 1982, the membership was 1,800 people. Under his leadership, membership has more than quadrupled to 7,300 in 1993 and the YMCA budget has doubled.

Among other changes, Mr. Walters established various new branches of the YMCA in the York County area. These include the Bob Hoffman Center in Dover which opened in 1985. The YMCA opened another branch in southern York County in 1990 and currently the York YMCA has been reclassified as the downtown branch.

Another success attributed to the energy and hardwork of Mr. Walters is the expansion of YMCA programs in the York County area including fitness and day-care programs as well as corporate challenge events.

Mr. Walters' efforts provided a level of continuity to the YMCA as evidenced by an impressive rise in member retention from 50 percent to approximately 75 percent. His boards, committees, and staff have all been strengthened and are highly respected leaders of the community.

The YMCA has been fortunate to have had Mr. Norman Walters for the past 11 years. He has had a tremendous positive impact on the YMCA and he will be leaving a job which he loves and in which he was loved.