HEINONLINE

Citation: 3 Bernard D. Reams Jr. & William H. Manz Federal Law A Legislative History of the Telecommunications of 1996 Pub. L. No. 104-104 110 Stat. 56 1996 the Communications Decency Act E1071 1997

Content downloaded/printed from HeinOnline (http://heinonline.org) Tue Mar 19 23:18:36 2013

-- Your use of this HeinOnline PDF indicates your acceptance of HeinOnline's Terms and Conditions of the license agreement available at http://heinonline.org/HOL/License

-- The search text of this PDF is generated from uncorrected OCR text.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

H.R. 961, THE CLEAN WATER AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1995

HON. CARDISS COLLINS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 961, the Clean Water Amendments Act of 1995. It is interesting that the Republicans have continually claimed to have an interest in bringing common sense to the legislative process and yet they are now proposing taking one of the most successful environmental laws on the books and recklessly and nonsensically gutting it. This Dirty Water Act is a threat to our health and should be rejected soundly.

Almost half of the lakes and rivers in America are currently so polluted that it is not safe to fish or swim in them. The Clean Water Act was passed to improve this horrific situation and has been steadily improving the quality and the safety of the waters across our country. Yet, now, with our environment still not even close to the level of clean that it needs to be, the Republicans are foolishly working to overturn and undermine this most critically important clean water law.

In the State of Illinois, as in the other 49 States, substantial improvements in the quality of water have been made over the past 20 years but there is still a long way to go. In fact, 91 percent of Illinois' lakes and 55 percent of our rivers and streams are not safe for fishing or swimming or are so dead from pollution that they cannot support aquatic life. H.R. 961 would halt the progress that has been made so far and dangerously jeopardize the future health of Illinois' waterways through several damaging provisions.

First, the bill would undermine the Great Lakes initiative which seeks to control the amount of toxic chemicals being dumped into Lake Michigan and the other Great Lakes. Since this is the source of drinking water for my constituents, the quality of Lake Michigan's water is of primary interest and concern. Currently, because of high levels of mercury and PCB's, there is an advisory for women of child-bearing age, pregnant women, and children not to eat more than one fish meal per month from Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan trout now contain PCB levels that are more than 180 times their target and likely cause thousands of cancer deaths in the area.

The Great Lakes initiative seeks to improve this situation by organizing the Great Lakes border States in a unified Federal-State partnership to clean up the Great Lakes. This model initiative should be promoted and encouraged rather than weakened and undermined as H.R. 961 seeks to do.

In addition, H.R. 961 dramatically alters the definition of wetlands that are protected and eliminates the current legal protection for 70 percent of Illinois' wetlands. We need only think back to the Mississippi floods of 1993 to remember how critically important wetlands are to flood protection. Illinois has already lost 90 percent of its acres of natural wetlands and this loss of nature's flood absorption system has caused billions of dollars worth of damages. The Illinois State Water Survey estimates that every one percent increase in wetland acreage would lead to a four percent decrease in flood levels. It seems extremely short-sighted and risky to me to further reduce our wetlands and cause even more severe flooding in the years ahead.

Further, the Dirty Water Act does not address the critical issue of polluted run-off. Polluted runoff from fields, roads and cities is Illinois' number one water quality problem. It was also responsible for the cryptosporidium outbreak in Milwaukee that caused 400,000 people to become ill, and 130 children, senior citizens, and people with AIDS to become seriously or fatally ill in 1993. Seemingly, after the tragedy in Milwaukee, this bill would be used as an opportunity to take specific steps to address polluted run-off problems.

Mr. Speaker, the recklessness of this bill astounds me. Our lakes and streams are so polluted that they are almost unusable and they are posing a direct threat to our health. How much further do we want to go? Do we want to wait until all the fish die and every city experiences a Milwaukee-like tragedy? This is certainly not what my constituents want to see and I will not stand by and allow our lakes and streams to be turned into sewers. I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this dangerous bill.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the members of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program [RSVP]. Tomorrow afternoon, Friday, May 19, 1995, the RSVP of Macomb County is saluting the many seniors who provide vital volunteer services at a luncheon in Clinton Township, MI.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is a nationally recognized program for persons over 55 who serve as volunteers in their communities. In the 10th Congressional District, Catholic Services of Macomb sponsors RSVP at the local level.

By matching the talents, knowledge, and interest of volunteers with community needs, the RSVP maximizes its services provided to the needy and ill among us. RSVP volunteers serve in schools, hospitals, community centers and with numerous social, health, and welfare organizations. Last year, 433 registered volunteers performed over 50,000 hours of service and assisted 55 nonprofit agencies. The devotion RSVP volunteers have displayed to their community is an inspiration. Their contributions are many and they deserve our gratitude for their compassion and work.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, but few fulfill. I applaud all of the RSVP members who rather than retire to the easy chair, continue to serve our communities.

I commend the members of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program for their efforts and encourage them to continue their good work. Please join me in saluting the RSVP of Macomb on the event of their volunteer recognition luncheon.

HONORING JOHN VINCENT FIORE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize, John Vincent Fiore, vice president, trade relations of Pepsi-Cola West. Mr. Fiore is retiring from Pepsi-Cola after 41 years of service.

Mr. Fiore attended Northwestern University and specialized in business management and advertising. Prior to joining Pepsi-Cola, he served in the U.S. Army.

He has been an active member of the Mexican-American Grocers Association, California State Package Store and Tavern Owners Association, Korean Grocers Association, Chinese Grocers Association, and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He is the past president of RecyCal and a member of the political affairs committee for the California Nevada Soft Drink Association.

In addition, under Mr. Fiore's direction, Pepsi-Cola has become actively involved with community youth programs in an effort to guide young people in the right direction. Pepsi-Cola has participated in public awareness programs such as Just Say No To Drugs and Don't Drop Out Of School. In his community and company, he has made contributions to the minority community so that it may grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to recognize my friend, John V. Fiore, and I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting him for his outstanding commitment to his community.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, 30 years ago, the creators of public broadcasting proposed funding it through a trust fund capitalized by various fees and taxes on commercial broadcasters. The proposal went nowhere.

Like other government-funded agencies today, public broadcasting is being asked to

HeinOnline -- 3 Bernard D. Reams, Jr. & William H. Manz, Federal Telecommunications Law: A Legislative History of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) including the Communications Decency Act E1071 1997

reinvent itself. The leaders of CPB, NPR, and PBS have been specifically challenged to come up with new sources of funding to replace tax dollars. Given the realities of the deficit, public broadcasters were strongly encouraged to be innovative and far-reaching in their thinking, to take full advantage of the tremendous changes now taking place in the telecommunications marketplace and the resulting opportunities to get public broadcasting off the Federal dole.

And what have they come up with? PBS has proposed a trust fund capitalized in part by fees from commercial broadcasters and in part by allocations from the Government's sale and auction of spectrum, and CPB says that "no combination of cost savings and new sources of revenue can fully 'replace' the Federal subsidy."

Anyway you look at them, the plans rely on Government funding, slightly repackaged and devoid of a marketplace solution. Where is the vision so desperately needed in order to reinvent public broadcasting for the 21st century? Where is the innovative thinking in proposing an idea that died 30 years ago? Why should commercial broadcasters subsidize public radio and television when they themselves are faced with an increasingly competitive marketplace?

It is time for public broadcasting to reach beyond the tired proposals of bygone days and look for truly bold solutions for replacing Federal funding. It is time to look to the marketplace for ideas, alliances, and opportunities. Public broadcasting is a valuable network of local community institutions which has an intensely loyal audience. Surely this presents opportunities for more innovative solutions.

I believe we can find a way to preserve the educational mission of public broadcasting in the context of today's telecommunications market without relying on Federal funding, whether is direct appropriations or redirecting Federal revenues into a trust fund. For public broadcasting to remain viable, its leaders must first recognize that the congress will cut the umbilical cord to the Federal Treasury.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY WESLEY WATTS, JR.

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of LeRoy Wesley Watts, Jr., professor emeritus of social work at Eastern Michigan University.

Some people are able to reach young people at definitive moments in their lives—and open new vistas of insight and opportunity to them. Such a man was Professor Watts. He served in key academic and administrative roles within Eastern Michigan University, was instrumental in the development of the university's African-American Studies Department, and advocated for minority and disabled students. Roy sat on the boards of several civic and professional organizations that focused on health and social welfare and worked quietly but ceaselessly to make the world a better place for us all. He was a friend and mentor to many students and encouraged them to continue educational programs that they likely would not have completed without his intervention. Roy was recognized for his humility, compassion, and abiding respect for the light in each of us.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN DICK ZIMMER COMMENDING THE NEW JERSEY STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE BEES PROGRAM

HON. DICK ZIMMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to more than 80 high school students from Hunterdon County, Princeton and Trenton who give us hope for our Nation's environmental future. As part of an innovative pilot project called Building Environmental Education Solutions [BEES], these students have spent the last 2 months examining the complex public policy choices that we face when addressing environmental issues.

Focusing on an abandoned industrial site in Trenton, this diverse group of students explored the many issues surrounding the reclamation and redevelopment of the property. The students were required to analyze the potential environmental and economic trade-offs, perform comparative risk assessments and evaluate the arguments of the various stakeholders.

On Monday, May 22, the students will present their findings, which I plan to distribute to each of my colleagues in the hope that we can learn from such an intense examination of these very difficult issues.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the coalition of business, community groups and government agencies that made the program work, particularly the American Re-Insurance Corp. of Princeton, which spearheaded the effort. This program is an example of the type of responsible environmental activism that benefits all segments of society, but is most effective when government and business work together.

Mr. Speaker, through programs like this one, we can prepare a generation of decisionmakers who appreciate the interdependence of the environment and the economy. I congratulate the students for their accomplishments and thank them for assuming the responsibility for protecting our precious natural resources in the 21st century and beyond.

HEAD START

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Head Start.

Head Start is 30 years old today.

Over those 30 years, 13 million low-income kids have gotten their head start for success.

Parents and staff have worked together to give poor kids a better chance in school.

But today is not a happy day for Head Start.

On the very day we should be celebrating 30 years of success—funding for Head Start is about to be slashed.

The budget resolution we vote on today freezes funds for Head Start for the next 7 years. This translates into a $1.4 billion cut from current funding. Millions of low-income children will be cut off.

Why are we denying kids their head start on life? Because the Republicans want to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, whose kids will never be at an educational or economical disadvantage.

What an inappropriate birthday present. Happy Birthday, Head Start.

INDIA SHOULD RELEASE SIKH LEADER

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again speak about the human rights situation in India, which is deplorable. I want to speak about two issues today. The first is the destruction of a centuries-old mosque in Kashmir. The second is the continued imprisonment of Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann.

The half-a-million Indian security forces in the valley of Kashmir have for years run rampant over the civilian population there. They have gang-raped women. They have tortured and murdered political prisoners. They have shot indiscriminately into civilian crowds, and they have burned entire villages into the ground.

Just last week, in the town of Charar-e-Sharies, the Indian military, with no regard for the safety of civilians, launched an attack that resulted in the burning of hundreds of homes and the gutting of a centuries-old walnut-wood mosque, one of the most famous religious sites in Kashmir. The Indian Government, time and time again, has shown absolute disregard for basic standards of human rights in Kashmir, Punjab, and other areas. India must be held to account for the crimes that have been committed against the Muslims of Kashmir, including the destruction of the sacred shrine of Charar-e-Sharies. The Indian Government's utter disregard for Moslem mosques and other holy places is shocking and must not be swept under the rug.

The Indian Government must also be held to account for the horrible human rights abuses committed against the Sikhs in Punjab and the Christians of Nagaland. Few people know about what is happening in those areas because the government will not allow the media or human rights groups into those areas.

Indian paramilitary forces in Punjab are responsible for thousands of cases of well-documented disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Thousands of Sikhs are held in prisons throughout Punjab, and human rights groups have reported that virtually all Sikhs held in prison are routinely tortured.

Four months ago, I came to the House floor to talk about the detention of Sikh leader Simranjit Singh Mann. Mr. Mann is a former member of Parliament and probably the most prominent of all the Sikh leaders. He has been a forceful, but peaceful, advocate of independence for a Sikh homeland called Khalistan. Mr. Mann was arrested in January after addressing a gathering of thousands and speaking out

HeinOnline -- 3 Bernard D. Reams, Jr. & William H. Manz, Federal Telecommunications Law: A Legislative History of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) including the Communications Decency Act E1072 1997

Document No. 14

HeinOnline -- 3 Bernard D. Reams, Jr. & William H. Manz, Federal Telecommunications Law: A Legislative History of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) including the Communications Decency Act [xi] 1997

HeinOnline -- 3 Bernard D. Reams, Jr. & William H. Manz, Federal Telecommunications Law: A Legislative History of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) including the Communications Decency Act [xii] 1997

INTENTIONAL
BLANK

HeinOnline -- 3 Bernard D. Reams, Jr. & William H. Manz, Federal Telecommunications Law: A Legislative History of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) including the Communications Decency Act [xiii] 1997