

Hardware/Software (CHS) contract, to translate data from smart cards into a format compatible with CHCS.

The Agilpacs then downloaded CHCS data onto the cards so that medical personnel at other locations would be aware of each patient's condition, medication or other essential information. The casualties were transported to the forward surgical companies, where smart card data was transferred to ruggedized laptops via SAIC's Tactical Communications Interface Module, a controller/signal processor designed for combat applications.

This module is also available on the CHS contract. Throughout the exercise, Marines used SAIC V2AI LC Lightweight Computer Units, 23-pound, ruggedized laptops based on 32-bit, 486DX processors. These machines were purchased from the Army's LCU contract, held by SAIC.

Medical personnel were able to use the LCUs to check the CHCS database for further information on each patient. The laptops connected to CHCS nodes located on the Mercy and the Peleliu via portable satellite dishes or radio.

When patients were evacuated, the forward surgical companies transmitted patients' records to medical staff at the Peleliu and the Mercy to alert them that casualties were on the way and to provide information on the type of injuries and what caused them.

"The doctor has a more complete picture of his patient as opposed to being surprised when the helicopter arrives," Hudock said.

NO GLITCHES

Baxter said people involved in the exercise reported no glitches.

"The summary information rolled from one medical treatment facility to another," he said. "I think people were skeptical at first, but everybody said it is working great."

Baxter said the exercise represents a new phase in the CHCS program and battlefield medical automation in general. CHCS was initially designed as a system for pharmacists, lab technicians, radiologists, and other hospital-based clinicians. DOD officials, however, decided to expand the system into the battlefield rather than develop a separate system for tactical users.

HONORING TOM BOLACK

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, each of us is blessed with the responsibility of representing thousands of hard working Americans back in our districts. Of course, some of our constituents distinguish themselves by excelling in a particular field whether it is business, public service, athletics, or a whole host of other specialties.

One of my most distinguishable constituents is celebrating his 77th birthday. Tom Bolack, whose life has been one giant success story, is still going strong. Over the years, he has excelled in politics, business, and ranching.

In 1942, this Kansas native had a vision of rich oil deposits in the San Juan Basin of New Mexico. His hunch was based on some self-taught geology basics. Experts called his dream a fool's dream. As Tom Bolack says, he followed his dream "to a pool of oil and gas that would quench the thirst of even my harshest critic, the geologist who declared he

would drink every drop of oil I found in the Basin!"

Tom Bolack's reward for perseverance is his cherished home, his ranch, the B-Square, just outside Farmington, NM. It is 12,500 acres of agriculture, livestock, wildlife, and conservation and of course oil and gas.

Tom Bolack's political career began in the 1950's with his election to mayor of the city of Farmington. After serving as mayor, he pushed for construction of the Upper Colorado River Project. He helped secure Federal funding for one of the Southwest's greatest water engineering accomplishments, the Navajo Dam and Reservoir on the San Juan River.

After his lobbying days, Mayor Bolack ran for and was elected to the New Mexico State Legislature. In 1961, he became the first Republican Lieutenant Governor in 35 years. The following year, he was sworn into office as Governor and served out the remainder of Ed Mechem's term.

Governor Bolack retired from career politics after his 1962 service as Governor. But he has remained active in Republican circles over the last 30 years.

Governor Bolack has distinguished himself as an outstanding citizen who had a dream, pursued it and excelled in business, ranching, and politics. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring former New Mexico Governor Tom Bolack as he celebrates his 77th birthday.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Polish American Congress, eastern Pennsylvania district, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary in Philadelphia this month.

Since its formation, the Polish American Congress has been an outstanding organization in southeastern Pennsylvania and continues to be a leading force in the unity of Pennsylvania and the fostering of Polish traditions and culture.

Over the last 50 years, the officers and members of the eastern Pennsylvania district have worked closely with the national organization in supporting its objectives. Members have proudly watched Poland gain her freedom from Communist Russia, and Polish Americans of all ages have supported cultural and educational events to demonstrate the pride in Polish heritage which will last for generations.

There have been many joyous moments in the 50-year history of the eastern Pennsylvania district. The organization has been instrumental in commemorating Pulaski Day and Polish Constitution Day in the Philadelphia region and has played an integral role in establishing the Thaddeus Kosciuszko House as a national historical memorial, so that tourists worldwide can appreciate the unique role this Polish patriot played in our Nation's history.

The Polish American Congress can also take special pride in sponsoring the Polish American Weekend at Penn's Landing, the largest ethnic event held along the riverfront in Philadelphia.

Mr. Speaker, as a Polish American and Congressman of the Pennsylvania's Third Dis-

trict, I am proud to represent the many dedicated people who have given so much of their time to keep the Polish spirit alive in the Philadelphia region.

THE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND ECONOMIC CONVERSION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, in this time of budget rescissions and cutting of social programs, I am reintroducing a bill that would aid us in refocusing the debate on funding priorities. The Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act, which is designed to take effect when all foreign countries possessing nuclear weapons enact and execute similar legal requirements, requires the United States to disable and dismantle its nuclear weapons and to refrain from replacing them with weapons of mass destruction. In addition, the bill proposes refocusing resources that are currently being used for nuclear programs to address human needs such as housing, health care, education, agriculture, and environmental restoration.

The Nuclear Disarmament and Economic Conversion Act is consistent with current U.S. policy and moves us to the next logical level by redirecting resources to essential domestic needs. The disarmament contemplated by this legislation is not unilateral on the part of the United States but requires multilateral cooperation to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

During the first 100 days of this Congress, many crucial programs were put on the chopping block—money for summer jobs for youth and future levels of funding for school lunches for our children. Yet, with the end of the cold war already making it into our children's text books, we have not yet refocused our priorities, nor reallocated our precious resources toward our most precious resource of all—our children. This act is a step toward that end.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JOHN S. STENNIS

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to pay tribute to the life and service of Senator John C. Stennis, who passed away April 23, 1995.

Senator Stennis' life is the story of 20th century America. In 1901, he was born the son of farmers in the red clay hills of east Mississippi. He graduated from Mississippi A&M College, and received a law degree from the University of Virginia, earning the honor of Phi Beta Kappa.

He kept the promise of his youth and moved back to his hometown of DeKalb, MS, where he began an extraordinary 62-year career in public service which was unblemished by scandal, untainted by personal gain, and unquestioned in statesmanship. He served as a district attorney, State representative, and circuit judge.

Then, in 1947, he ran for the U.S. Senate to fill the unexpired term of Theodore Bilbo. In today's era of contracts and 100 and 500 day timetables, I often think of John Stennis' campaign promise from his first Senate campaign. He pledged to "plow a straight furrow right down to the end of my row." Senator Stennis kept that simple promise with the people of Mississippi and plowed a straight furrow in the U.S. Senate for 42 years.

He served during a time when many politicians grabbed headlines by fanning the flames of prejudice and preying on the fears of the vulnerable. However, Senator Stennis always took the high road with integrity and courage. He was the first Senate Democrat to stand up to the fear of McCarthyism and was crucial in bridging our country's racial divide in the 1960's.

He began his service in the Senate by working each day until the Senate recessed and then studying at the Library of Congress until it closed. He rose to serve as chairman of the Armed Services Committee for 12 years, becoming one of the most influential voices in our Nation's military affairs during the Vietnam war and for much of the cold war. Every weapons system used in the 1991 Desert Storm offensive was authorized and appropriated under the leadership of Senator Stennis.

He also served as chairman of the Appropriations Committee as well as the first chairman of the Senate's Select Committee on Standards and Conduct.

Widely respected for his integrity, diligence, and judgment he was called upon time and again to investigate sensitive political matters. It became routine to refer to him as the "Conscience of the Senate." To illustrate the bipartisan respect he engendered, President Nixon looked to John Stennis' reputation and integrity during the height of Watergate. When President Nixon refused to turn over Watergate tapes to a special prosecutor, he offered to have Senator Stennis listen to their content and verify President Nixon's summary.

Mississippians knew they had no greater friend in Washington. Senator Stennis brought economic development to my home of north Mississippi through the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. In south Mississippi, he secured the State's largest employer, Ingall's shipyard, and brought about NASA's testing facility for rocket motors, the John C. Stennis Space Center.

Senator Stennis retired from the Senate in 1989, having served eight Presidents from President Truman to Reagan in a career in which he would rise to President pro tempore of the body he so revered. Upon his retirement, President Reagan announced that the Nation's newest nuclear powered aircraft carrier would be named the U.S.S. *John C. Stennis*. The U.S.S. *John C. Stennis* will join the ranks in December of the U.S.S. *Nimitz*, *Vinson*, *Eisenhower*, *Washington*, *Roosevelt*, and *Lincoln*.

After his retirement, Senator Stennis moved to the Mississippi State University campus from which he graduated in Starkville, the home of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and the John C. Stennis Center of Public Service, created by Congress to train young leaders.

When asked in the twilight of his career how he would like to be remembered, with his characteristic humility he responded, "I haven't

thought about that a whole lot. You couldn't give me a finer compliment than just to say 'He did his best.'" Senator Stennis' unyielding devotion to principle, character, and humility produced one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century. Senator Stennis did his best and for that my State of Mississippi and America will always be grateful.

LOW-INCOME SCHOOL CHOICE EDUCATION BILL

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, with my good friend FRANK RIGGS, the Low-Income School Choice Demonstration Act of 1995.

Mr. Speaker, in some parts of this great country, the state of education continues to decay—despite throwing more money at the problem. The liberal solution is more money, more bureaucracy, more regulation, and greater Federal intrusion into our schools.

I, and my colleagues joining me on this bill, feel differently. We should focus on parental choices, deregulation of classrooms, the acquisition of essential skills and knowledge; and good, objective tests that tell us how our children are doing.

Education is subject to a great many debates and ideas. One of the those ideas is allowing parents to choose the school their children attend. Some may say we shouldn't allow the parents to decide what school might best prepare their child for the world outside. But, I believe it is essential that we allow our parents to determine what is best for their children.

In an article from the Washington Post this past weekend, a high school student was very surprised to find out she had scored perfectly on her SAT test. This was despite knowing she had incorrectly answered at least two questions. How could this happen? Well, currently the College Board, the organization that administers the SAT, is recentering the scores to bring the average back up to 500 points. It is a sad commentary on the state of our Nation's educational system when we have to lower the standards of education in order for our students to score well on their college entrance tests. This must stop. We must better educate our children.

Breaking down old, outdated barriers and confronting the new paradigm of change and innovation has been the hallmark of this Congress. The first 100 days of this Congress brought a tremendous amount of change. The primary thrust of all the ideas that have been circulating is to reduce the role of Government and empower the American people to make their own decision about their lives. The Weldon-Riggs Low-Income School Choice Demonstration Act of 1995 is an innovative and creative way of changing the status quo in the debate about education reform and education choice for all Americans.

This demonstration project is a tiny step, but a step nonetheless, toward change and a better educational future for our most valuable asset, our children.

A good education is a key ingredient in ending the cycle of poverty that entraps so many

of our Nation's children. This bill will liberate the parents of low-income children to choose a school that meets the educational needs of their children.

Improved education is essential for our Nation's economic vitality. Our increasingly competitive global economy demands a well-educated work force, and this bill will serve as a catalyst for improved education.

In 1986, almost 94 percent of high school seniors were unable to solve multistep mathematical problems or use basic algebra. In fact, a 1994 survey by the Carnegie Foundation found that few college professors feel U.S. undergraduates are prepared for higher education: only 20 percent of professors believe undergraduates have adequate written and oral communications skills and only 15 percent feel undergraduates are sufficiently skilled in math and qualitative reasoning.

As for literacy, most young Americans are functioning at rudimentary levels: enough to get through the day perhaps, but not enough to sustain a strong democracy, a competitive economy, and a vibrant culture. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, functional illiteracy costs U.S. businesses \$300 billion in lost productivity annually.

Our children need the opportunity to pursue a good education. If this educational opportunity is outside their school district, they should have the chance to take advantage of it and find their American dream through quality education.

Last November, the American people sent me and many others to Congress to change the way the Government works. School choice is one step toward changing the attitudes of the Federal Government regarding education.

Under the Weldon-Riggs education bill, the Secretary of Education would review applications from school districts around the Nation and select 10 to 20 school districts to participate in the school choice demonstration project. Children who are eligible for the Federal School Lunch Program could participate, and their parents would receive certificates to use at any public, private, or charter school in the area.

Two \$5 million grants would be available to the most needy districts. They would be targeted to those communities with highest number of low-income children. The remaining grants would be in varying amounts up to \$3 million.

Parents could use the money to send their children to public, including charter schools, or private, including sectarian, schools of their choice. The money could be used to pay reasonable transportation costs and would be limited to the average per child expenditure in the local public school.

The Weldon-Riggs school choice demonstration bill would cover 3 years, with an initial cost of just \$30 million. Each participating school district must submit evaluation information to the Comptroller General for review. Data from the demonstration project would be studied after the 3-year period and a report would be submitted to Congress.

Earlier this year, Secretary Henry Cisneros of HUD said, "Low- and moderate-income families should have greater power to make decisions about their lives, and government should support their quest for self-sufficiency." This same principal should apply to education. These low-income families should have greater power to make decisions about their lives, that's what this bill does.