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EXTENSION OF COPYRIGHT TERM

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation which would extend the term of ownership of a copyrighted work from the life of the author plus 50 years to the life of the author plus 70 years. I am pleased that the gentlelady from Colorado, Mrs. SCHROEDER and Messrs. COBLE, GOODLATTE, BONO, GEKAS, BERMAN, NADLER, and CLEMENT are cosponsoring this legislation. This change will bring U.S. law into conformity with that of the European Union whose member states are among the largest users of our copyrighted works.

The last time the Congress considered and enacted copyright term extension legislation was in 1976. At that time the House report noted that copyright conformity provides certainty and simplicity in international business dealings. The intent of the 1976 act was twofold: First, to bring the term for works by Americans into agreement with the then minimum term provided by European countries; and second, to assure the author and his or her heirs of the fair economic benefits derived from the author's work. The 1976 law needs to be revisited since neither of these objectives is being met.

In October 1993, the European Union [EU] adopted a directive mandating copyright term protection equal to the life of the author plus 70 years for all works originating in the EU, no later than the first of July this year. The EU action has serious trade implications for the United States.

The United States and EU nations are all signatories of the Berne Copyright Convention which includes the so-called rule of the shorter term which accords copyright protection for a term which is the shorter of life plus 70 years or the term of copyright in the country of origin. Once this directive is implemented, U.S. works will only be granted copyright protection for the shorter life plus 50 year term before falling into the public domain. The main reasons for this extension of term are fairness and economics. If the Congress does not extend to Americans the same copyright protection afforded their counterparts in Europe, American creators will have 20 years less protection than their European counterparts—20 years during which Europeans will not be paying Americans for their copyrighted works. And whose works do Europeans buy more of than any other country? Works of American artists. This would be harmful to the country and work a hardship on American creators. I intend to schedule hearings on this issue in early summer.

EAGLE SCOUT HONORED

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to bring to the attention of my colleagues an outstanding young individual from the Third Congressional District of Illinois who has completed a major goal in his scouting career. Douglas Pratt of Chicago, IL, has completed the requirements required to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Douglas will be honored at an Eagle Scout Court on February 26, 1995.

The eagle rank is one of the highest and most prestigious ranks a Boy Scout can earn. It is important to note that less than 2 percent of all young men in America attain the rank of Eagle Scout. This high honor can only be earned by those Scouts demonstrating extraordinary leadership abilities. Douglas worked long and hard to learn and perform all the skills necessary to achieve this rank.

Douglas has been active in Scouting for several years at St. Mary Star of the Sea. In addition to being an outstanding member of Boy Scout Troop 1441, Douglas served as a den chief for the younger Cub Scout troops for 2 years. Because of his patience and skill with the younger boys, Douglas proved to be a natural leader and an excellent role model.

Douglas has also excelled in activities outside of Scouting. He is currently a sophomore at the Illinois Math and Science Academy. He is a writer on the school paper and editor for the satire paper. In the spring, he plans to join the basketball team. At the Ted Lenard Gifted Center, he graduated with honors and an impressive list of achievements. For example, in eighth grade, he was a member of the Academic Olympics team and also won the City Competition Science Fair.

For his Eagle Scout project, Douglas did an excellent job cleaning and repairing the area around Bachelor's Grove cemetery. In fact, Douglas is such an ambitious and talented Scout that has earned enough merit badges to attain the honor of Eagle Palm, a honor even more prestigious than the Eagle Scout. Douglas is an outstanding young man who deserves to be commended for his leadership, hard work, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Douglas on his achievement as Eagle Scout. Let us also wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

THE DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION TAX INCENTIVE ACT

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce along with my Oklahoma colleagues the Domestic Oil and Gas Production Tax Incentive Act.

Recently, the Secretary of Commerce reported the results of an investigation conducted, under the Trade Expansion Act, into the impact of crude oil imports on the national security of the United States. The investigation determined that oil imports threaten to impair

the national security of the United States. Clearly, it is vital that we take immediate action to remove this threat to our national security. By removing unnecessary impediments to domestic exploration and development we can fortify our domestic oil and gas industry and begin to correct this dangerous oil trade deficit.

The preservation of marginal well production and the encouragement of new oil and natural gas production provides a blueprint for fast, effective action to protect our Nation's vital economic and security interests.

Currently, nationwide we plug a marginal well about every 30 minutes. Since 1983, some 450,000 petroleum jobs have been lost, and nearly half of our independent oil companies have gone out of business during the same time period. In 1993, nearly 17,000 domestic oil wells were abandoned, an average of 46.3 per day. Plugging an oil well is permanent. After a well has been plugged it is then cost prohibitive and not always technically feasible to re-lease and reequip the well to recover the remaining oil and gas.

It is my belief that this bill provides a positive first step toward revitalizing our Nation's dwindling energy industry. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort to decrease our reliance on foreign crude imports and reinvigorate a vital component of our economy—the domestic oil industry.

RICHARD DEMARY: A FLIGHT ATTENDANT ON USAIR FLIGHT 1016

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, when confronted with appalling circumstances beyond our most ardent imagination, individuals summon forth courage and fortitude that nearly defies belief.

Such is the case of Richard DeMary, a flight attendant from Coraopolis, PA, who was aboard the doomed USAir Flight 1016 which crashed near Charlotte, NC, on July 2, 1994.

Flight 1016 took off from Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in heavy rain and wind. Moments later, the DC-9 plummeted into the woods, broke apart, and burst into a fireball.

No Hollywood screenwriter could devise a more compelling story than what Mr. DeMary did in the next few minutes. An official account later read:

After the aircraft came to a rest, DeMary first freed a severely injured fellow flight attendant from her seat and carried her from the wreckage. Despite the threat of secondary explosions, DeMary returned to the aircraft and rescued a small child from the tail section. He re-entered the torn fuselage to pull the child's injured mother to safety and returned a third time to rescue another passenger.

His efforts did not stop there. He kicked open the door of a house in which part of the aircraft was embedded and attempted to reach other trapped passengers until heavy smoke forced him to withdraw. Despite burns on his arms and an injured ankle . . . DeMary helped move a downed telephone pole that was blocking a street and preventing fire fighting equipment from getting closer to the wreckage.

Through the sound and fury, Richard DeMary was brave and selfless; for his actions, he was awarded the Flight Safety Foundation's Heroism Award.

Deeds such as this summon within all of us a feeling of elation and humility. They are deeds that ask us to pause a moment and attempt to truly grasp the heights of human pathos and its deliverance, human courage.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the League of Women Voters on 75 years of extraordinary service to our democracy.

In 1920, women throughout the Nation cast their first ballot for Congress and President of the United States, forever changing the character of our country and of our politics. It was the League of Women Voters which informed and engaged these millions of newly enfranchised citizens.

Today, the League of Women Voters has over 1,000 chapters with some 150,000 members, both women and men. It continues to shape our public dialogue through study of major policy questions, and through the encouragement of community service and participation.

In Westchester County, where I live, the League of Women Voters is a leading sponsor of progressive reforms. Each year, the league produces thousands of voter guides to help us make informed decisions, publishes a directory of elected officials, and sponsors scores of debates with ample opportunity for citizen involvement.

That vibrant tradition has helped produce leaders such as Ruth Hinerfeld, who rose to lead the national league organization after a long and successful experience with the Westchester chapter.

I am also very proud to say that the founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt, chose to spend the last decades of her life in New Rochelle. Today, the city of New Rochelle and its local league chapter are temporarily renaming Paine Avenue, where Mrs. Catt lived, League of Women Voters Avenue. It is a fitting tribute to a leader whose remarkable works continue to shape our lives.

Mr. Speaker, 75 years after its founding, the league's mission is as essential as ever. For though the right to vote is secure, the responsible exercise of that right remains an ideal for which we shall ever strive.

It is a pleasure to thank the league for all it has done, and all it will do.

THE MADISONVILLE METEOR'S
CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to call to this body's attention the

history of one of the most enduring institutions in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, which I am privileged to serve in this House of Representatives.

For the last century one of the major agricultural centers of this district has been Madison County and its county seat of Madisonville. And, not coincidentally, during the last 100 years that beautiful section of our State has been served, informed, and led by the Madisonville Meteor.

The Meteor publishes its centennial edition on the very appropriate date of February 22. That is, of course, the birthday of George Washington, the father of our country. While this part is pure coincidence, I am proud to note that George Washington, the Madisonville Meteor and I share the observance of the same birth date; however, I do stipulate that my birthday was several decades later than the Meteor's and a full 215 years after President Washington's.

Despite all of its accomplishments under the leadership of a century of dedicated publishers, editors, and staffers, the Meteor could be most proud of its biggest and longest-running error—the mistake it made in selecting its own name.

The story goes that the newspaper's founder, Thomas J. Stevens, showed up amid the rolling, tree-lined hills of Madison County with a wagon full of printing equipment and a plan to produce a newspaper that would be so full of local news and advertising that area residents would find it indispensable. Maybe so, Mr. Stevens' first hired man observed, but he personally figured the paper would be a short flash and then disappear, leaving no more than a footnote to the history of Madison County. Kind of like a meteor causing a quick flash, then disappearing forever, he reckoned.

So why not call it the Madisonville Meteor, reasoned the amused publisher?

A succession of publishers have enjoyed the irony of the name and the call to civic duty. Edna Keasling now publishes this venerable weekly that manages to retain its down-home charm and interests, while more than holding its own on the electronic lanes of the post-nuclear information superhighway.

Publisher Keasling has noted that of more than 5,000 issues of the Meteor, the two most popular and most consulted are the ones marking the centennial of Madison County, created in 1853 and organized in 1854, and the 50th anniversary of the Meteor.

There will be a strong new light glowing at the Meteor as Ms. Keasling, editor Daniel Humphries, sports editor Mark Kuchera, typesetter Melissa Fautheree, compositor Marta Nichols, bookkeeper-circulation staffer Deenna Tobias, circulation staffer Carolyn Standley and darkroom operator Martha Fautheree pool their talents on Wednesday, February 22, to present Volume 101, No. 1, of the Madisonville Meteor.

I join the Meteor's many other friends in anticipating the first edition of the misnamed but well-placed newspaper's second century.

As an enduring example of our Nation's unique marriage of free speech and the free market, the meteor has earned our thanks and congratulations. Just as it will when our descendants celebrate Volume 201, No. 1, of the Meteor as it begins its third century.

BIPARTISAN INITIATIVE TO REAUTHORIZE THE CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of a bipartisan coalition of Members who have come together to present a balanced and reasonable strategy to reauthorize the Clean Water Act.

The legislation we are introducing today is the consequence of months of hard work last year building consensus among disparate parties to this debate. The States, cities, and counties, and the business and agricultural communities had significant input into our development process. The resultant product for the most part tracks language circulated as an alternative to last year's failed attempt to reauthorize, and just like our effort last year, its intent is to open up an honest dialog to draft a progressive and pragmatic plan. This proposal is just the starting point, and the continued participation and thoughtful analysis of all of the interested players is critical to helping us perfect this important legislation as it moves through the committee markup process.

This bill seeks to address the shortfalls as well as enhance the strengths of the current CWA programs. First and foremost, our proposal provides an affordable authorization level of \$10 billion for the State revolving fund over the next 6 years. In doing so, we propose, in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with the current budgetary climate, to provide needed funds to States to improve water quality, presenting a more accurate picture of what the Federal Government can afford in these areas, while maintaining high enough allocations to allow the programs to remain viable.

Another crucial area that this bipartisan initiative also intends to address is the nonpoint source section 319 program. Developing innovative strategies to address our nonpoint source problems without the onerous and often-counterproductive command and control regulatory overkill will be important to the future effectiveness of the entire Clean Water Program.

Finally, among the other important provisions of the bill is a long overdue effort to comprehensively resolve the enigma that is our Federal Wetlands Program. The obscure and burdensome section 404 permitting program would be revised to establish a system of multiclassifications that protects the most pristine wetlands and coastal marshes, while also preserving the rights of property owners to utilize those lands that are less valuable.

I firmly believe that too often—and the section 404 wetland permit program is a prime example—the institutional arrogance and ignorance of bureaucrats and government agencies has spawned ineffective and inflexible programs beyond the scope of their intended authorizations. These programs are neither cost effective nor improve the quality of our waters. We have forgotten that properly motivated individuals and businesses, rather than bureaucrats and politicians, are much better equipped to efficiently allocate financial and human resources toward the economic and