

TRIBUTE TO THE PARKWAY  
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL SYM-  
PHONIC BAND

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Parkway Central High School Symphonic Band from Chesterfield, MO. The Marching Colts proudly represented the St. Louis area by participating in the 1996 Tournament of Roses Parade.

Parkway Central is located in the Parkway School District, which has long been committed to providing their students excellent facilities and instructors for its music programs. Under the skilled guidance of their director, Mr. Doug Hoover, the Parkway Central band has a history of national performances; including performances at the 1989 George Bush Presidential Inaugural Parade, and the 1991 and 1993 King Orange Parades in Miami.

The Marching Colts have benefitted from outstanding community support from Chesterfield and the entire St. Louis community. The band has successfully used various fundraising efforts, including their annual fall craft show known as the Craft Harvest, to raise thousands of dollars. This event boasts over 200 vendors and several thousand patrons. These efforts stand as a testament to the dedication of the parents, faculty, and local community who have rallied around the efforts of these young people.

Mr. Speaker, the Parkway Central band is to be commended for its continued hard work and dedication to excellence, which has brought not only their school nationwide recognition, but is also a great source of pride to the residents of St. Louis County. It is with great pride that I congratulate these fine educators and students and recognize the contributions they have made while at Parkway Central High School.

PARENTS TELEVISION  
EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the bill I am introducing today addresses a problem faced by parents across the country—controlling what their children see on television.

Parents can control what movies their children see, but what can a parent do when their kids can turn on the TV every night and see murder and gore? What can a parent do when their kids can come home after school, flip on the TV and see talk shows with titles such as, "Nude Dancing Daughters," "Incest Family," "Get Bigger Breasts or Else," and "Women Who Marry Their Rapists"?

The television industry, in a rush for ratings, too often takes an anything goes attitude and loses its sense of responsibility. The industry has every right to make a profit, but when in the process they help to debase our culture, we have to say enough is enough. They're chipping away at our moral foundation and, in

the long run, this will be disastrous. It may sound corny in this day and age, but it's still true: A society without clear collective values and strong morals is like an engine without oil—eventually, it grinds to a halt.

The Parents Television Empowerment Act of 1996 requires the Federal Communications Commission to establish a toll-free number that television viewers can call to complain about violence and other patently offensive material. The complaints would be considered by the FCC when deciding whether to renew the licenses of stations that aired the material.

Callers' comments would also be forwarded to the offending stations, and the stations would have to respond to each caller.

This is not censorship. This is an attempt to give viewers a better way to bring pressure on television producers and to help improve a situation that has truly gotten out of hand.

The average American child watches 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television before finishing elementary school. Study after study has shown that television violence causes aggressive and violent behavior in children who watch it. Despite this growing body of evidence, TV and cable companies continue to broadcast murders, rapes, and gratuitous violence into our living rooms.

Psychologists have raised strong concerns about the impact on children from talk shows that explore such topics as incest, rape, and pornography in a manner intended more to sensationalize and shock than educate and inform.

The V-chip is part of the solution. But I think that the conversation about this problem should not be just in our living rooms, but also in institutions where public policy is made.

Television producers are fond of saying, "We're only giving viewers what they want." Well, this bill gives consumers, especially parents, a way to tell the television industry what it wants.

STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II REGARDING THE PARENTS TELEVISION EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. Speaker, the bill I am introducing today addresses a problem faced by parents across the country—controlling what their children watch on television.

When it comes to movies, parents can control what their children see by paying attention to ratings. But what can a parent do when their kids can turn on the TV almost every night and see murder, blood and gore? What can a parent do when their kids can come home after school, flip on the TV and see talk shows with titles such as, "Nude dancing daughters," "Incest Family," and "Wives of Rapists"?

The television industry, in a rush for ratings, too often takes an 'anything goes' attitude and loses its sense of responsibility. The industry has every right to make a profit, but when in the process they help to debase our culture, we have to say enough is enough. In the long run, this chipping away at our moral foundation will be disastrous. It may sound trite, but it's certainly true: A society without clear collective values and a strong sense of moral responsibility is like an engine without oil.

The Parents Television Empowerment Act of 1996 requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a toll-free number that television viewers can call to complain about violence and other patently offensive material. The complaints would be considered by federal officials when deciding whether to renew the licenses of stations that aired the material.

The FCC would be required to publish summaries of viewer comments on a quarterly basis. The comments would also be forwarded to the offending station and would become part of that station's relicensing process. The stations must, under law, respond to each complaint.

Let me stress: This is not censorship. This is not some sort of polyanish attempt to block out the real world. This is an attempt to give viewers a better way to bring pressure on television producers and to help improve a situation that has truly gotten out of hand.

The average American child watches 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television before finishing elementary school. Study after study has shown that violence on television causes aggressive and violent behavior in children who watch it. Despite this growing body of evidence, networks, cable TV companies and producers continue to broadcast murders, rapes and gratuitous violence into our living rooms for our children to see.

While there is less scientific evidence about the impact of television talk shows on children, psychologists have raised strong concerns about them. Many of these shows explore topics such as incest, rape and pornography in a manner intended more to sensationalize and shock than educate and inform.

Television producers are fond of saying, "We're only giving viewers what they want. Let the market decide what shows appear on TV." Well, this bill simply establishes a way to make the market work better by giving consumers, especially parents, an avenue to express their opinions and concerns.

Concern about television programming cuts across lines of ideology, race and gender. There's an outcry across the land to give people a better way to do something about what they see on TV. My bill gives them that opportunity.

H.R. —

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Parents Television Empowerment Act of 1996".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The average American child watches 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television before finishing elementary school.

(2) Many of the poorest and potentially most vulnerable groups in our society are the heaviest viewers of television.

(3) Television violence is often presented without context or judgment as to its acceptability.

(4) Most of the violence on television is presented during times when children are likely to be viewing.

(5) The 1972 Surgeon General's Report, *Television and Growing Up: The Impact of Televised Violence*, found that there was a significant and consistent correlation between television viewing and aggressive behavior and a direct, causal link between exposure to televised violence and subsequent aggressive behavior on the part of the viewer.

(6) The 1982 National Institute of Mental Health report, *Television and Behavior: Ten Years of Scientific Progress and Implications for the Eighties*, found that "violence on television does lead to aggressive behavior by children and teenagers who watch the programs," and that some viewers learn to be passive victims.

(7) Numerous other studies establish a causal connection between watching violence on television and increasingly violent behavior of children.

(8) There has been a proliferation of television talk shows that, in a race for ratings, air ever more outrageous programs dealing with rape, incest, and other sensitive topics in a manner that seeks to sensationalize and shock rather than educate and inform. Although the impact on the hundreds of thousands of children who view these programs has yet to be fully documented, the programs have raised strong concerns among psychologists.

### SEC. 3. AMENDMENT.

Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### "SEC. 714. COMPILATION AND PUBLICATION OF COMPLAINTS CONCERNING VIOLENT PROGRAMMING.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITY FOR THE COLLECTION OF COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS.—The Commission shall, within 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, establish a toll-free number for the collection of comments, suggestions, and complaints from the public concerning the transmission by broadcast stations or cable systems of programming containing depictions of violence and other patently offensive material. The Commission shall take such steps as may be necessary to publicize such number and the Commission's functions under this section.

"(b) PUBLICATION OF DATA CONCERNING COMPLAINTS.—The Commission shall publish in the Federal Register, on a quarterly basis, a summary of the comments, suggestions, and complaints received pursuant to subsection (a) during the preceding period. Such summary shall include—

"(1) a breakdown of the complaints by broadcast or cable network and broadcast station, and by program name, date, and time;

"(2) an identification, with respect to the 50 programs for which the highest number of complaints were received, of the production company, the principal advertisers supporting network distribution, the broadcast or cable network and broadcast station, and the program name, date, and time; and

"(3) a statement of observed trends in such complaints as compared with complaints received during prior periods.

"(c) AVAILABLE OF RECORDS.—The Commission shall transcribe the comments, suggestions, and complaints received pursuant to this section and shall—

"(1) transmit to each licensee any comments, suggestions, or complaints made with respect to its station; and

"(2) make the transcribed comments, suggestions, and complaints available for public inspection.

The Commission shall omit from any records transmitted or made available under this subsection the name and address of any caller requesting confidentiality.

"(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commission shall include in each annual report to Congress under section 4(k) an analysis of the complaints received pursuant to this section. Such analysis shall include—

"(1) an evaluation of whether, consistent with its obligations to serve the public interest and meet the educational and informational need of children, the broadcasting industry has effectively responded to the comments, suggestions, and complaints received pursuant to this section regarding video programming containing depictions of violence and other patently offense material; and

"(2) such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate to secure more conscientious fulfillment of those obligations with regard to such programming."

### TRIBUTE TO THE ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to bring to the attention of this body a historic and noteworthy anniversary. This year marks the 125th year since the founding of the Alabama Press Association [APA], the oldest statewide trade association in Alabama and one of the oldest State newspaper associations in the Nation.

In 1871, as Alabama continued to recover from the ravages of the Civil War, its newspaper editors and publishers, joined by community leaders, sought new ways to promote economic growth. This was the genesis of the Alabama Press Association which actually came into being with the first statewide meeting of newspaper executives on March 17, 1871 at the Montgomery Advertiser.

Since those early days, the APA has evolved from a social organization of editors and publishers to an association that has played an important role in developing the daily and weekly newspapers of Alabama and serving as a catalyst for the State's economic and cultural development.

The APA worked on behalf of the citizenry of Alabama by advocating stronger public access to government records and meetings. It has pushed for the State's first statewide taxes to support public education and it spearheaded a successful effort to launch a statewide chamber of commerce.

The APA played a role through many of its leaders in guiding the State through some of the important and cultural changes of the last half of the 20th century. Its officers have included some of the leading newspaper men and women in America, and its member newspapers have won the Nation's highest awards for journalistic excellence.

Additionally, before coming to the Congress it was my pleasure to serve as president of the APA in 1991. Alabama and the Nation can be justly proud of the contributions and leadership of the Alabama Press Association as it continues toward another 125 years of public service.

### TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. DAVID SCHOCK

HON. WALTER B. JONES, JR.

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to a great American, a great Army officer, and a greater soldier. Last month Lt. Col. David Schock completed over 24 years of dedicated service to our country. As a soldier, leader and finally as a trusted member of the Army's Office of Congressional Liaison, House Division, he has provided dedicated and distinguished service.

Today as we honor his retirement, we reflect on the outstanding career which David started in 1972 when he enlisted in the Army. Less than 2 years later, David successfully

completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. David went on to complete the Rotary Wing Aviator Course and became proficient in the AH1 Cobra, CH47 Chinook, UH1 Huey, and OH58 Scout. Over the course of the past 24 years, he served in a variety of exceptionally challenging troop and staff assignments in the United States, Hawaii, and Alaska. His positions of leadership include Aviation Section Commander, Aviation Platoon Leader, Aviation Company Commander, and Squadron Executive.

As a staff officer he saw duty in many tough and challenging assignments to include Brigade and Battalion Personnel Officer and Battalion Intelligence Officer, validating the confidence the Army placed in his demonstrated abilities. After serving in the field with many aviation units, David Schock demonstrated his superb organizational skills while serving as the Aviation Branch Assignments Officers and as the Combat Arms Division Coordinator for the U.S. Army Military Personnel Command. His selection as a headquarters, Department of the Army Staff Officer further demonstrated the high regard in which David is held by the leadership of the Army. This led to his final assignment as a Congressional Liaison Officer for the Secretary of the Army, first in programs working personnel issued and lastly in the House Liaison Division.

During David Schock's tour in Army Legislative Liaison, he guided the Army's relationship with a wide variety of Committees and individual Members of Congress. His ability to remain calm and focused during a period of tremendous change was demonstrated continually in his dealings with both Members of Congress, Professional Staff and Personal Staff. Through David Schock's involvement with the Speaker of the House and his Staff and the House National Security and International Relations Committees, he ensured that the very best service was provided to the Congress and that the Army and its programs were professionally represented.

David Schock's career reflects a commitment to our Nation, characterized by dedicated selfless service, love for the Army and a commitment to excellence. Lieutenant Colonel David Schock's performance, almost a quarter of a century of service, personifies the traits of courage, competency, and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its Army Officers. On behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of this great Nation, I offer our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes for a soldier who served his country so admirably.

### A TRIBUTE TO HERBERT G. PERSIL, A DEDICATED CIVIL SERVANT

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Herbert G. Persil, the Director of the Office of Budget at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Herb is retiring after 41 years of Federal service.

Herb has appeared many times as a witness before the Appropriations Subcommittee