

(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

on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies in defense of HUD's budget requests. We have always found him to be most knowledgeable and most responsive.

Over the years, he has been of great assistance to the subcommittee in its day to day dealings with the Department. We have always valued his counsel.

Herb is, I believe, a truly dedicated civil servant. His high standards represent what is best about the civil service.

Since 1990, Herb has been Director of the Office of Budget. Prior to that he served for a number of years as Deputy Director in the Office of Budget. He has made countless contributions to efficient and effective program management.

Mr. Persil began his Federal service at the Department of Agriculture in 1958. In 1964, Herb moved to HUD's predecessor agency, the Housing and Home Finance Agency. In his early years at HUD, Herb helped in the development and initial administration of the Model Cities Program. He also helped in the development of the first community development consolidated grant proposal which later evolved into the community development block grant program.

Mr. Persil's achievements and skills are not only recognized throughout HUD, but also in the academic community. As adjunct faculty, he teaches courses in public financial management for Golden Gate University and the American University. He is a member of the board of directors of Public Financial Publications, Inc., which publishes Public Budgeting and Finance, jointly sponsored by the American Association for Budget and Program Analysis [AABPA] and the American Society for Public Administration. He has served as chairman of special committees on AABPA and has participated as an expert in numerous panel discussions on topics such as training budget staff and managing under limited resources. He is also a frequent contributor to professional journals.

I understand that Herb plans to spend his time with his family, reading, and traveling. While he claims to be retiring, there are many who know that old habits are hard to break and suspect he will continue to serve through his teaching, writing, and panels on government issues.

Mr. Speaker, Friday, February 2, 1996, is Herb's last day at HUD. We will miss him. I know that you join with me in wishing him and his wife, Blythe, a long, happy, and healthy retirement after 41 years of distinguished Federal service.

ELECTRIC POWER COMPETITION ACT OF 1995

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation aimed at promoting competition in the electric utility industry. This legislation creates Federal incentives for the removal existing State-level barriers to competition in the generation of electricity—so that

competition and market forces can be unleashed in a manner which will efficiently and reliably provide electric energy to retail consumers at a lower cost.

Today, the electric utility industry operates as one of our Nation's last great protected monopolies. Presently, the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity remains fundamentally a monopoly enterprise. The monopoly nature of this industry has, in turn, necessitated a very strict system of Federal and State utility regulation aimed at protecting captive utility ratepayers from potential overcharges, abuses, and conflicts-of-interest.

Over the years, Congress has taken the lead in promoting increased competition in the electricity industry. In 1978, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act [PURPA] first opened up competition by making possible the growth of independent power. This was achieved by requiring utilities to purchase power from such independent producers at their avoided cost. While there have been problems in some States with implementation of the act, by most accounts, PURPA has been largely successful in achieving its objectives. The congressional conference report accompanying the bill predicted that 12,000 megawatts of nonutility projects would be on-line by 1995. In actuality, by 1991, 32,000 megawatts was on line. In addition, the emergence of wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and other renewables industries can be directly traced to PURPA.

In 1982, the Energy Policy Act [EPACT] built on the foundation established under PURPA by adopting an amendment I authored along with the gentleman from California [Mr. MOORHEAD] which opened up wholesale transmission access. In the same legislation, Congress also adopted amendments to the Public Utility Holding Company Act [PUHCA] aimed at allowing utilities to establish exempt wholesale generators.

As a result of industry changes prompted by these bills, we are now at a crossroads for the electric utility industry—half-way between the old heavily regulated monopolies of the past and the new competitive electricity marketplace of the future. We now have a growing independent power industry, increased cogeneration, and increased interest by industrial customers in lowering rates through competition. While transmission and distribution systems appear likely to remain a natural monopoly, we now have an historic opportunity to bring full competition to the business of electricity generation. The transition to such a competitive market, however, will require both Federal and State action.

Right now, following the overall policy direction mandated by the transmission access provisions of EPACT, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [FERC] is moving forward on a proposed rulemaking on wholesale wheeling and stranded investment. This is a positive development and I look forward to adoption of a final FERC rule this year. In addition, several States, including Massachusetts, have initiated retail wheeling proceedings which, when completed, will open up retail competition and consumer choice by eliminating monopoly control over retail electricity generation.

Unfortunately, many other States are either not moving forward all or have become stalled part of the way through the process. I find this

troubling in light of the fact that many in the utility industry are now arguing for a repeal of PURPA by suggesting that competition is already here. The reality is that full competition has not yet arrived. We cannot and should not deregulate into a monopoly environment; we can and should deregulate into a competitive marketplace.

The bill I am introducing today provides incentives to move toward competition. Specifically, my legislation will link any repeal of the mandatory power purchase provisions of PURPA to the arrival of real competition in the market for electricity generation. It would establish overall Federal standards for competition which could be met either by divesting generation from transmission and distribution assets or, alternatively by permitting retail power generation competition on an open and nondiscriminatory basis. In addition, the bill establishes certain minimum certification requirements aimed at ensuring that energy efficiency and renewables programs are retained and that the low-income consumers receive protections against price discrimination. Utilities in States that meet the minimum certification requirements and either the retail competition or divestiture standards in the bill would be freed of the mandatory power purchase requirements of PURPA. In other words, my bill deregulates—but it deregulates by creating the conditions in which true competition can exist.

I agree with Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY and Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman SCHAEFER it makes little sense to adopt piecemeal bills such as a repeal of the mandatory power purchase provisions of PURPA or a repeal of PUHCA. We cannot get rid of the protections built into these bills without also attaching the fundamental reason these laws were enacted in the first place: the continued existence of a government protected utility monopoly. With the bill I am introducing today, I hope to advance the dialog on the difficult and complex issues Congress will be confronting as we consider legislation regarding PURPA. Obviously, there are many broader restructuring issues that are not specifically addressed in my bill. These include the need to retain certain PUHCA restrictions on abusive interaffiliate transactions, the appropriate boundaries of Federal and State regulatory jurisdiction, treatment of conservation, efficiency, and renewables, and need to eliminate certain Government subsidies for the power marketing administrations.

While these are difficult and complex issues, I believe that electric utility restructuring—if done properly—will benefit all consumers of electricity. A properly crafted approach holds out the hope of lowering electricity rates through increased competition, while simultaneously protecting the societal and environmental benefits of conservation, improved efficiency, and greater fuel diversity. I look forward to working with the leadership of the Commerce Committee as we proceed into this debate on electricity restructuring legislation, so that we can produce a truly balanced and bipartisan approach to bringing real competition and consumer choice to the electricity industry.