

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 652,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF
1996

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 1, 1996

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, the conference agreement provides that, in order for a Bell operating company to receive in-region interLATA relief, either the company must have entered into an interconnection agreement contemplated under section 271(c)(1)(A) with a facilities-based carrier or, if there has been no request for such an agreement, must have provided the statement of interconnection terms contemplated under section 271(c)(1)(B) (approved by a State under section 252(f)). Either the agreement or the statement must meet the requirements of section 271(c)(2)(B), which itemizes the competitive checklist, and must include each of the items in the checklist.

The purpose of these provisions is to ensure that a new competitor has the ability to obtain any of the items from the checklist that the competitor wants. It is very possible that every new competitor will not want every item on that list. In such cases, the legislation would not require the Bell operating company to actually provide every item to a new competitor under the agreement contemplated in section 271(c)(1)(A) in order to obtain in-region relief.

Under these circumstances, the Bell operating company would satisfy its obligations by demonstrating, by means of a statement similar to that required by section 271(c)(1)(B), how and under what terms it would make those items available to that competitor and others when and if they are requested. It would be entirely appropriate under this legislation for the Federal Communications Commission to determine under section 271(d)(3)(A) that the Bell operating company has fully implemented the competitive checklist.

Quite simply, Congress did not intend to permit the Bell operating companies' competitors to delay their entry into the in-region interLATA market by refusing to include checklist items in the interconnection agreements. Refusal for such reasons would not constitute good-faith negotiations by the competitors. Where the Bell operating company has offered to include all of the checklist items in an interconnection agreement and has stated its willingness to offer them to others, the Bell operating company has done all that can be asked of it and, assuming it has satisfied the other requirements for in-region interLATA relief, the Commission should approve the Bell operating company's application for that relief.

AGRICULTURAL MARKET
TRANSITION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, once again North Carolina's version of the Washing-

ton Post, the Raleigh News & Observer has it wrong. In a recent editorial they called for the end of an important program for hard-working farmers of eastern North Carolina. They endorsed the elimination of the peanut program and they give as the reason the supposed increased benefit to the consumer. This could not be further from the truth. Peanuts and peanut products sell for more in Canada and Europe than in the United States. This is true even though those manufacturers purchase peanuts on the world market. Peanut farmers will suffer substantially if the proposal to eliminate the peanut program passes. The lost revenue in the first year will exceed \$275 million. It has been argued that the farmers' losses will be transferred into savings for the consumer, but this will not happen. Lower input cost for the manufacturer will be retained and not passed on to the consumer. The importance of the peanut program in North Carolina cannot be overstated. Agriculture is our most basic industry. The House has recognized that changes in past policies were needed. But it also recognized that changes must be gradual in order to minimize hardships and at the same time insure the health of this most important industry.

FLORIDA AIR NATIONAL GUARD
ON DUTY IN CUBAN CRISIS

HON. TILLIE K. FOWLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, the destruction of two unarmed civilian aircraft from the group "Brothers to the Rescue" and killing of four pilots has again focused our attention on the Castro regime's criminal behavior. I am pleased that the international community has responded swiftly to these horrible misdeeds.

I would note that even as our Government, the Congress, and the Security Council were working to fashion their political responses, the men and women of the Florida Air National Guard were on heightened alert status in defense of our national interests. Following the shoot-downs, Jacksonville-based F-15's of the 125th fighter wing, supported by the unit's C-26 operational support aircraft, redeployed to Homestead Air Reserve Base in South Florida. There they joined a detachment of the 125th that is on alert 365 days a year to assure protection of our Nation's airspace and perform the combat air patrol mission.

The air guard's speedy response to the Castro dictatorship's crimes is a tribute to the dedication and professionalism of our guard forces. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUELINE
CHARITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Jacqueline Charity, who serves as deputy director for access and compliance with the New York City Board of Education, for her years of service. Ms. Charity has amassed

an impressive résumé of selfless service in the cause of educating young people. She has been directly responsible for programs targeted at talented and gifted students, in addition to her outstanding supervision of the College Bound Program. Recognizing that it is essential for students to be competitive in math and sciences, Ms. Charity undertook the challenge to establish a math-science program at Stuyvesant High School.

Jacqueline attended primary and secondary school in Brooklyn, and received her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College, and her masters degree from New York University.

A devoted mother and wife, Jackie finds the time to provide extensive community service in her church and for numerous civic organizations. Among her numerous awards is recognition from the Jack and Jill organization and the YWCA. Jacqueline maintains her spiritual center by serving as a eucharistic minister/lay reader at St. Phillips Episcopal Church. I am pleased to be able to bring the accomplishment of this noted Brooklyn educator to the attention of my colleagues.

COMMEMORATING COMPOSER-
CONDUCTOR MORTON GOULD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Morton Gould, the great composer, conductor, and recording artist who died on February 21 at the age of 82.

Gould's contributions included significant works for orchestra, chamber ensemble, band, chorus and soloists, as well as scores composed for film, television, Broadway, and ballet. Throughout his career, Gould's work was characterized as particularly American, integrating the elements of jazz, blues, spirituals, and folk music.

He was born on December 10, 1913 in Richmond Hill, NY. As a child prodigy, he composed and published his first work at age 6. Growing up during the throes of the Great Depression, Gould supported his family by working as a vaudeville pianist.

His music has been commissioned by symphony orchestras, the Library of Congress, the New York City Ballet, and the American Ballet Theatre. Gould's work has been performed worldwide by a number of prominent conductors.

He received the Kennedy Center Honor in 1994 and the Pulitzer Prize in Music the following year. Elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1986, Gould received 12 Grammy nominations and a Grammy award in 1966. He conducted more than 100 albums on three different recording labels.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Gould was a great friend of the intellectual property community as an active participant in many ASCAP and ASCAP Foundation programs. A tireless advocate for new American composers, he was constantly seeking opportunities to expose their work. Gould also served with distinction on the Board of the American Symphony Orchestra League and on the National Endowment for the Arts Music Panel.

Mr. Speaker, Morton Gould was a great American artist whose talents and contributions to our national culture will be missed. I

join my colleagues in acknowledging his accomplishments. We extend our sympathies to his family.

THE 110TH CELEBRATION OF GROUNDHOG DAY

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise in honor of the 110th celebration of Groundhog Day, February 2, 1996. Although it is almost 4 weeks late I am pleased to announce only 2 more weeks of winter left according to the 1996 proclamation.

1996 GROUNDHOG DAY PROCLAMATION

Punxsutawney Phil, King of Groundhogs, Seer of Seers, the Omniscient Marmot, Weather Forecaster Without Peer has responded to his annual summons at 07:28 this February 2, 1996.

As he sat upon his regal stump, he greeted the throng of anxious well-wishers "Happy Groundhog Day." After brief observation and contemplation he spoke in Groundhogese which was quickly interpreted to read:

I'm sorry to have to say
On this Groundhog Day
As I looked around
My shadow I found
When my shadow I do see,
Six more weeks of winter there must be.

However, I think that even Punxsutawney Phil, burrowed deep below the icy frost of winter at Gobbler's Knob, engaged in fun and frolic as we enjoyed the taste of spring this past week. May I say in all confidence, that Phil be true to his word and that March will "come in like a lion and go out like a lamb," to put an end to this bitter cold winter.

COMMEMORATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Miss COLLINS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, we, as African-American citizens are on the verge of having our civil and economic rights readjusted to a degree that will seriously test our faith—both in ourselves as a people and in our American Government. Not since the 19th century—in the wake of reconstruction—has the U.S. Government been so determined to renege on every last pledge and promise that it made in the name of equality for all Americans.

After 300 years of so-called emancipation, America has failed to live up to its founding creed that "All men are created equal." Although significant strides were made during the civil rights era, some Members of Congress are determined to devise new laws and customs in order to maintain the status quo. As in the past, in order, for us to combat this rising tide, we must never yield to their oppressive tactics. We must never forget that the African-American spirit can never be broken.

Black history month is always a special time to honor the contributions and achievements

of African-American men and woman. This year, however, I want to specially focus on the extraordinary examples of courage displayed by dynamic African-American women throughout our history.

The courage and conviction of African-American woman such as Sojourner Truth will never be forgotten. As a fierce opponent of slavery, Sojourner Truth, spoke before huge crowds deep in the Ante-bellum South, preaching against white supremacy—all the while, Sojourner Truth never even knew if she would live to complete the speech.

Another great example is Harriet Tubman, who not only escaped from slavery herself, but ventured back into the slave States over 20 times to free more than 300 of our brothers and sisters.

It was Mary McLeon Bethune, who blazed the trail for future black appointees to high-level government positions by becoming the first black woman to be a White House appointee.

There was also Ida B. Wells, who at great personal risk, let the crusade against lynchings in Tennessee and cofounded the NAACP.

Daisy Gibson Bates is another example of African-American courage. As a newspaper editor, Ms. Bates fought throughout her career against racial injustice. However, it was her leadership in the 1955 struggle for Arkansas school integration that gave her national prominence. As president for the Arkansas chapter of the NAACP, she led the way in publicly criticizing the State Governor for his refusal to admit nine African-American students to all all-white high school.

As a direct consequence, her life became a legendary nightmare of arrest, abuse, and intimidation. In addition to forcing her newspaper out of business, racist whites routinely vandalized her home and burned crosses on her lawn. Yet, this remarkable black woman never yielded to the oppression.

Fannie Lou Hamer is another outstanding example. As the founder and chairwoman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, Ms. Hamer created an alternative to the all white Democratic Party. Ms. Hamer's struggle against the racist white establishment in Mississippi was nothing short of heroic. For her efforts, she was made the object of assassination attempts, unlawful arrests, and torture. Despite these incredible odds, Ms. Hamer persisted—and in 1964, she became the first African-American woman to run for Congress from Mississippi. By 1968, she was formally seated at the National Democratic Convention in Chicago. All because she was sick and tired of being sick and tired. Her famous statement is still used today to verbalize frustration with the system.

Coretta Scott King is an example of a courageous African-American woman. After her husband was slain, she made a swift transition from dedicated wife and parent to a dynamic civil rights and peace crusader in her own right. She was a leading figure in the American antiapartheid movement and founded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, GA.

Another example of African-American determination is C. Dolores Tucker, the first African-American Secretary of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Long active in civil rights, Ms. Tucker participated in the 1965 White House Conference on Civil Rights. She

was a founding member of the National Women's Caucus, a cofounder of the National Black Women's Political Caucus. During her time as Pennsylvania's Secretary of State, from 1971 to 1977, she was the highest ranking African-American in State government in the country.

Another example is the Honorable Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress. Congresswoman Chisolm was also the first African-American woman to make a serious bid for President of the United States.

Another dynamic African-American pioneer is Dorothy Height, whose legendary leadership skills created many powerful organizations in the service of equal rights and justice. As president and executive board member of Delta Sigma Theta, Ms. Height succeeded in making the sorority more a global organization. Dorothy Height's work with the Young Women's Christian Association [YWCA] led to its integration. As president of the National Council for Negro Women, Ms. Height has vastly expanded its reach and influence to include over 240 local groups and 31 national organizations—all striving toward the universal equality of women of color.

As we celebrate black history month, it is imperative that we continue the strides of the remarkable African-Americans who have gone before us. In so doing, we must especially remember those sisters who have shaped history. We are great descendants of great people who had the courage, the wisdom, and the fortitude, to face unsurmountable challenges. We come from the world's prime stock. So impressive is our true heritage that massive efforts have been made in the attempt to destroy all knowledge of our history. That is why each and every day, we must continue the struggle and guard against any attempts to dismantle our strong foundation.

EXPIRING TAX PROVISIONS MUST BE RENEWED

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 29, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, my Ways and Means colleague, BOB MATSUI, and I today have introduced a bill to extend the lives of several important tax provisions that expired last year.

We have done this to encourage support for prompt consideration and expeditious enactment of tax provisions affecting research and development, orphan drugs, and employer-provided educational expenses, among others. If tax payers are to meet their obligations by April 15, it is imperative that we act quickly to reinstate these effective programs.

Extension of the so-called expiring provisions was included in the Balanced Budget Act of 1995, legislation that was vetoed for reasons unrelated to these specific tax items. We believe that these targeted tax provisions serve a critical role in enhancing economic growth and long-term job creation. Just as importantly, various loophole closers were identified in the Balanced Budget Act to pay for these extensions.