

widow, Ronalee, and the rest of the family, and a posthumous salute to a fallen hero, Brian D. Myers, Sr., of Schuylerville, NY.

CONSUMER INTERNET PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, the age of the Internet puts more and more Americans online—evolving faster than we ever imagined. Each day new companies and industries grow out of the constant technological innovation that has come to symbolize this information superhighway. The Internet has reached into our schools, businesses, and homes. It has allowed average Americans sitting in the privacy of their living rooms to connect with and explore the world. The Internet provides us with entertainment, information, and communication. But with all the wonders of the Internet comes the potential for problems. Today, I am introducing the Consumer Internet Privacy Protection Act of 1997 in an effort to address just one such glaring problem.

To gain access to the Internet's endless web of sites, users must work through an Internet provider or server. While these servers provide a valuable service to their customers, they are also capable of collecting an enormous amount of personal information about these individual consumers. Besides the personal information an Internet server may collect when they enroll a subscriber, servers are also capable of identifying the sites their subscribers visit. Without doubt such information would be quite valuable to those interested in marketing, while providing servers with yet another source of revenue for providing such personal and private information about consumers. The result—subscribers are inundated with junk mail and/or e-mail, based on such sales of their profiles to third parties.

My legislation is intended to inform and protect the privacy of the Internet user by requiring servers to obtain the written consent of their subscribers before disclosing any of their personal information to third parties. In addition, my bill requires a server to provide its subscribers access to any personal information collected by the server on its users, along with the identity of any recipients of such personal information.

While this bill addresses many concerns, I do not view this legislation as a final draft, complete with every detail, but rather as a first step down a road we are bound to travel. Obviously, issues involving the Internet are new and complex and deserve careful and thoughtful consideration. The Internet touches an incredible and increasing number of people and industries, and it is clear that the perspective and input from these interests are vital to the success of this process.

As the Internet becomes a more integral part of our daily lives, it is important that we in Congress take a commonsense approach, like this proposed legislation, to ensure the citizens of our Nation are able to benefit and retain a voice in the use of this technology without involuntarily sacrificing their personal privacy. My legislation will not hamper the growth and innovation of the Internet in any

way. It will merely provide an opportunity for the consumers of Internet services to protect their privacy if they so wish. After all, the preservation of our privacy is one of our Nation's most cherished freedoms, which unchecked technology must not be allowed to circumvent.

END THE ABUSE OF PUSH POLLS

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in recent years, many campaigns have used unsubstantiated allegations against an opponent in their polls. While these push polls may be sound politics to some, I believe that the use of negative, suggestive, and unfounded information in a poll fails to meet the democratic goal of persuading voters with truth and fairness.

That's why I introduced the Push Poll Disclaimer Act today. This bill will discourage the practice of slandering a candidate in a Federal election under the guise of a legitimate poll. The Push Poll Disclaimer Act will require that any person or organization conducting a poll by telephone give the source of any information provided in the poll, or a statement that there is no source if this is the case. Further, my bill will require that the identity of the person or group sponsoring the poll, as well as the identity of the caller, be disclosed.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we work together to reduce the negative impact push polls have on the Federal election process. I urge that the provisions in my bill be included in the larger campaign finance reform bill which is expected to be considered this Congress. I thank the Speaker, and look forward to working with him during the 105th Congress on this important issue.

BASEBALL FANS AND COMMUNITIES PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Baseball Fans and Communities Protection Act of 1997." It is time that Congress finally steps up to the plate and ends baseball's antitrust exemption which was at the root of the debilitating strike of 1994–95.

Professional baseball is the only industry in the United States that is exempt from the antitrust laws without being subject to alternative regulatory supervision. This circumstance resulted from an erroneous 1922 Supreme Court decision holding that baseball did not involve "interstate commerce" and was therefore beyond the reach of the antitrust laws. Congress has failed to overturn this decision despite subsequent court decisions holding that the other professional sports were fully subject to the antitrust laws.

There may have been a time when baseball's unique treatment was a source of pride and distinction for the many loyal fans who loved our national pastime. But with baseball suffering more work stoppages over the last 25 years than all of the other professional

sports combined—including the 1994–95 strike which ended the possibility of a World Series for the first time in 90 years and deprived our cities of thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues—we can no longer afford to treat professional baseball in a manner enjoyed by no other professional sport.

The bill I am introducing today is based on a legislation approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress and is similar to legislation adopted by the House Judiciary Committee during the 103d Congress partially repealing the antitrust exemption. Because concerns have previously been raised that by repealing the antitrust exemption we could somehow be disrupting the operation of the minor leagues, or professional baseball's ability to limit franchise relocation or jointly negotiate network broadcasting arrangements, the legislation carefully eliminates these matters from the scope of the new antitrust coverage.

After advocating repeal of the exemption for many years, I believe the time is finally ripe for enactment of this legislation. In the past some legislators had objected to legislating in this area because of their hesitancy to take any action which could impact the ongoing labor dispute. But because the owners and players have recently agreed to enter into a new collective bargaining agreement, this objection no longer exists.

In addition, the baseball owners have agreed to work with the players to seek a partial repeal of the antitrust exemption as part of their new labor accord. Their memorandum of understanding provides, "[t]he clubs and the [Major League Baseball Players Association] will jointly request and cooperate in lobbying the Congress to pass a law clarifying that Major League baseball players are covered under the antitrust laws (i.e., that major league players will have the same rights under the antitrust laws as do other professional athletes, e.g., football and basketball players), along with a provision which makes it clear that passage of the bill does not change the application of the antitrust laws in any other context or with respect to any other person or entity."

I have asked that the bill be introduced as H.R. 21, in honor of the courageous center fielder, Curt Flood. Mr. Flood, one of the greatest players of his time, risked his career when he challenged baseball's reserve clause after he was traded from the St. Louis Cardinals to the Philadelphia Phillies. Although the Supreme Court rejected Flood's challenge in 1972, we all owe a debt of gratitude for his willingness to challenge the baseball oligarchy.

Professional baseball is now a more than \$2 billion annual business and the time has long since passed when it could be contended that baseball did not constitute "interstate commerce." There is bipartisan support in both the House and Senate for taking action on this issue, and I look forward to Congress finally repealing the longstanding anomaly of baseball's antitrust exemption.

THE STATE WATER SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL D. CRAPO

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the State Water Sovereignty Protection Act, a

bill to preserve the authority of the States over waters within their boundaries, to delegate the authority of the Congress to the States to regulate water, and for other purposes.

Since 1866, Congress has recognized and deferred to the States the authority to allocate and administer water within their borders. The Supreme Court has confirmed that this is an appropriate role for the States. Additionally, in 1952, the Congress passed the McCarran amendment which provides for the adjudication of State and Federal water claims in State water courts.

However, despite both judicial and legislative edicts, I am deeply concerned that the administration, Federal agencies, and some in the Congress are setting the stage for ignoring long established statutory provisions concerning State water rights and State water contracts. The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, and proposed wilderness legislation have all been vehicles used to erode State sovereignty over its water.

It is imperative that States maintain sovereignty over management and control of their water and river systems. All rights to water or reservations of rights for any purposes in States should be subject to the substantive and procedural laws of that State, not the Federal Government. To protect State water rights, I am introducing the State Water Sovereignty Protection Act.

RAY CALHOUN DAY CELEBRATED IN CONGRESS

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, every now and then, you come across an individual who exemplifies the spirit and ethics on which this country was founded. Ray Calhoun from the town of Hoosick, NY, in my congressional district is just such a man in every aspect of his life. I have had the privilege of knowing Ray for better than a quarter of a century now in both public and private life and it is with great pride that I call him friend.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many things I admire about Ray I don't even know where to start so why not with the beginning. Ray was born on Christmas eve 1922 and raised on his father's dairy farm. They were a family farm and supplied local citizens and stores with fresh milk. As was typical at the time, Calhoun's farm became part of the fabric of the local community as the Calhoun's, Ray and his father and brother, became renowned for their service and pride in their work.

Ray remained on that farm for the first 50 years of his life. It was there, rising at the crack of dawn, plowing and tending to the fields, harvesting the crops, and looking after the herd that Ray Calhoun, the man, was shaped.

So it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that we owe a lot to that farm. For it was there that Ray Calhoun developed his tremendous work ethic, his inner pride, and most importantly to those in Hoosick and the surrounding area, his willingness to do more than the norm.

Mr. Speaker, nothing better exemplifies Ray's pride and resolve than the event that

caused him to reluctantly leave the family farm business he so loved. You see, a tragic farming accident cost Ray his leg. Yet, as he recuperated at his home, I paid him a visit along with the current town supervisor, John Murphy. It was there, in the face of so much adversity that Ray decided to serve the community he so loved and run for town supervisor of Hoosick. Little did we know then that his decision would bear a second career of 23 years in public service. Not only did Ray go on to two successful terms as town supervisor, but he served as the town clerk from 1977 until just this past December 31, 1996, when he retired from public service. But those of us who know him know that Ray will still be seen about town, whether it be at church, or at the many civic organizations he also belongs to and has served.

I've always been one to judge people based on what they return to their community. Ray Calhoun has given all he can and then some. But to me Mr. Speaker, he's even more than that. Ever since my mother and I were left by my natural father shortly after I was born, I have always looked to men I admire as a father figure. For me, Ray has always been just such a father image. Someone I more than admire, someone I have tried to model myself after in life.

Mr. Speaker, we all would do ourselves and our communities a great service to model ourselves after Ray Calhoun. At this time, I would ask that you and all Members of the House rise with me and the town of Hoosick, NY, in recognition of a great American on his day, Ray Calhoun Day, to be celebrated this January 12, 1997.

INTRODUCING CROWN JEWEL LEGISLATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce the Crown Jewel National Parks Act. This legislation will require the President to submit a specific budget request for our 54 national parks so that for the first time, our national parks would have their own specific and separate line-item to ensure that their funding is a top priority.

We are truly blessed in this Nation with a national park system that is second to none and serves this Nation as one of the top vacation choice of families, individuals and visitors world-wide.

In my State of Washington, we have the good fortune of having three national parks. Mount Rainier National Park, the North Cascades National Park, and the Olympic National Park. Like many of our older national parks, they are suffering from lack of funding creating maintenance and construction backlogs that continue to build up year after year. Also, the popularity of our parks has increased dramatically over the last decade and funding for roads and trails has not kept pace.

While we significantly increased funding for the National Park Service in the 104th Congress, we must not allow money from one park account to be haphazardly moved to another without any constraints. Our national parks are too important to be left to the discretion of bureaucrats.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the 105th Congress to enact this legislation.

CREATION OF A "RETIREE VISA"

HON. BILL MCCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 1997

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation to create a retiree visa for various people who would like to spend some of their retirement years in the United States. Let me give you an example of how this will work by using August and Gerda Welz as an example.

August and Gerda Welz have spend more than \$380,000 in the United States since taking up a residence in Palm Coast, FL, 3 years ago. Native Germans, the Welzs saw Florida as an ideal place to spend their retirement years, with its pleasant climate and sound economy. They own a home, pay taxes, and volunteer in the community.

What they did not realize, however, was how many problems they would encounter in meandering through the United States' immigration laws.

To encourage more business and tourist travel to the United States, the Immigration and Naturalization Service established the Visa Waiver Pilot Program [VWPP], which has benefited many citizens from eligible countries. Narrow in scope, however, it only pertains to those who come to the United States for 90 days or less. Couples such as the Welzs represent the growing number of foreign travelers who wish to stay for an extended period of time or even retire in the United States. Unfortunately, they must still jump through an unreasonable number of hoops.

Having to navigate through such a complex set of rules and regulations is an unnecessary disincentive to foreign tourists looking to retire in the United States. My legislation would help remedy this.

The proposed visa would be available to citizens from those countries participating in the VWPP, as well as Canada. This diverse group includes countries such as Japan, Spain, and Germany. Applicants would have to be at least 55 years of age, own a residence in the United States, maintain health coverage, and receive income at least twice the Federal poverty level. The applicant would also be required to maintain a residence in his or her country of citizenship.

Perhaps the most attractive feature is that the visa would be valid for up to 4 years, alleviating the burdensome expense of frequent travel. It would be renewable as long as the application was filed from the retiree's country of citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to clarify that the proposed visa would only be available to non-immigrants, and would not provide work authorization or eligibility for any Federal means-tested programs. In its simplest terms, the visa would serve as a much needed mechanism in which foreign retirees would have the opportunity to comfortably reside in the United States.

It goes without saying that ensuring proper immigration procedures is critical to our Nation's well-being. Still, there is absolutely no