

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GRATITUDE TO FORMER
CONGRESSMAN J. EDWARD ROUSH

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on October 26, the President signed into law S. 800, the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999. This bill promotes and enhances public safety through the use of 9-1-1 as the universal emergency assistance number, furthers deployment of wireless 9-1-1 service, and supports states in upgrading 9-1-1 capabilities and related functions.

While S. 800 is another advance in the provision of efficient and timely emergency services, it would not have been possible without the vision and tenacity of a former Member of Congress, J. Edward Roush, from Huntington, IN.

In 1967, as a member of the Subcommittee on Science, Research and Development of the former Committee on Science and Aeronautics, Congressman Roush questioned a representative of the International Association of Firefighters during a hearing on the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1967. The association noted response time is critical to fighting fires. Responding to this comment, Congressman Roush proposed establishing a three digit, single, nationwide telephone number for reporting fires and other emergencies.

The subcommittee members thought this was a good idea, but it would require a commission to study and review the whole matter. Ed Roush would not let an idea that could save so many lives get lost in commissions and studies. In that very hearing, he told the subcommittee members and guests that he intended to launch a one man crusade to establish a national emergency number.

Ed Roush made good on his promise. To get the Congress' attention, he introduced a sense of Congress resolution supporting a single, three digit emergency number. He made speeches around the country; visited and encouraged police, fire and emergency personnel; and wrote letters to local government officials and other Members of Congress.

AT&T (the only telephone company at the time) argued that dialing "0" for operator was sufficient. But Ed Roush knew the blind, elderly, disabled, children, or anyone in an emergency situation, deserved an easy and accessible number that would quickly connect them to the appropriate emergency responders.

The Bell system decided it was worth a try. In January, 1968 in Congressman Roush's office, AT&T held a news conference announcing it would make available a single, three digit emergency number "911." Roush's home town of Huntington, IN became the first city in the Bell system to establish E-911 service, when Congressman Roush placed the first call.

Yet, local police, fire and other emergency services were hesitant to turn over their com-

munications facilities and multiple emergency numbers to a single agency and number. Ed Roush patiently undertook a national education campaign to alert these agencies and the American people to the life-saving possibilities of adopting "911."

The stories began to come in—of fires cut short, lives saved, babies delivered, and children learning the 911 number. Over the years "911" has de facto become the universal emergency telephone number.

Mr. Speaker, each of us comes to Congress with the hope of improving the lives of our constituents. Ed Roush's one man crusade to establish a uniform emergency telephone number has saved the lives of countless Americans.

As S. 800 becomes law, we should not forget it was the vision and dedication of Congressman Ed Roush of Indiana who put America on the path to a universal, emergency assistance number over 30 years ago. And for that, we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

HONORING PHYLLIS AND RON MCSWAIN ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituents, Phyllis and Ron McSwain, who will be recognized at a gala dinner and pageant on Saturday, October 30, 1999 for their many contributions to the prestigious Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy (CHCA) located in Mason, Ohio

CHCA is one of the fastest-growing schools in the country and has earned a reputation for excellent academics, competitive sports and extracurricular activities. In 1997, I had the privilege of presenting the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Award to CHCA Elementary. CHCA's goal is to nurture and support each student toward individual growth. The school embraces students, parents and faculty within the care of a Christian community.

Phyllis and Ron were early supporters of CHCA and have remained loyal friends. Phyllis is a past member of CHCA's Board of Trustees. They have four children, but only their youngest was able to attend CHCA. However, two of Phyllis and Ron's grandchildren currently attend CHCA elementary.

Phyllis and Ron McSwain give generously to our community through volunteering their time and through Cornerstone, a charitable family foundation established by Ron to benefit the disadvantaged. I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3163, THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today, along with my colleagues Ranking Member JIM OBERSTAR, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Ground Transportation, Mr. TOM PETRI, and Ranking Member Mr. NICK RAHALL, I am introducing, by request, the Administration's proposed legislation to reauthorize the Surface Transportation Board.

I evaluate the Administration's proposed changes to the law governing the Surface Transportation Board against the background of extensive hearings on these issues conducted by my Committee last year—over 1,000 pages of testimony in 4 days of hearings.

The two clearest realities to emerge from those hearings were (1) the rail industry's resurgence and traffic growth since deregulation has made capacity constraints on their infrastructure a major problem for the first time in 3 decades; (2) to fund these huge infrastructure needs, the railroads, must spend billions of dollars raised in private capital markets, but they are not attracting even the average earnings-multiples of industry at large on Wall Street.

A number of interests, some merely short-sighted and others opportunistic, have tried to use the reauthorization of the STB as a means to force down rail rates by legislative fiat. This effort occurs despite repeated authoritative findings by the General Accounting Office that rail rates have declined sharply, even in constant dollars, in recent years.

I am very disappointed that the Administration seems to have joined this effort. Instead of promoting the capital flow that will benefit both railroads and shippers through improved infrastructure, the Administration has sent to the Congress a bill that includes major portions of the "re-regulation" agenda.

By forcing mandatory access by one railroad over another's tracks in several types of situations, the bill would endanger the vital capital flow upon which the future prosperity of railroads, shippers, and rail labor depends.

Much of the effort that went into the ICC Termination Act four years ago was focused on streamlining federal regulation of railroads. Yet the proposed legislation would take a major step backward; it proposes to balkanize the authority to approve or disapprove rail mergers among multiple federal agencies. Even worse, the Administration's proposal sows the seeds of many debilitating disputes under state and local law, even for mergers that have received full federal approval.

Although the bill pays lip service to "small" shippers, it could literally destroy a major segment of American small business—the short-

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

line railroads that serve so many smaller cities and towns. That is because the Administration wants to fund the entire \$17 million STB budget out of so-called "user fees." The STB already defrays \$1.6 million of its costs through filing fees, and we have received numerous complaints about those charges from shippers. Now the Administration would impose more than 10 times that burden on "users." We don't know who the users are, since the bill doesn't even attempt to identify them.

We had some experience with such fees imposed on our small railroads several years ago by the Federal Railroad Administration. Our Committee found that these small companies—the ones that literally are the only way to keep rail service in small communities—were paying up to 17 percent of net income in so-called "user fees"—on top of their state and federal taxes. That's why we ended those FRA fees, and I see no reason to impose a similar burden on struggling small businesses through STB fees, as the Administration now proposes.

While I cannot endorse much of what the Administration has proposed in its STB bill, I remain hopeful that a compromise can be reached on the contentious issues that have prevented an STB reauthorization bill from being enacted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to the occasion of the birth of my third child, I was unable to record my votes on the following bills, amendments and journal votes that were considered here in the House of Representatives the week of October 18, 1999.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 520, 521, 524, 526, 527, 528, 529, and 532.

I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 511, 518, 519, 522, 523, 525, 530, and 531.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER VAZGEN SARGSIAN

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest condolences to the people of Armenia and their countrymen throughout the world, whose democratic struggle has been dealt a severe blow. We are greatly saddened at the untimely death of Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian, who was assassinated along with a number of cabinet officials and lawmakers yesterday in the chambers of Parliament in Armenia.

The forty-year-old Premier was a young and intelligent leader who had just been appointed Prime Minister by President Robert Kocharian last June. Though he clearly had many more brilliant years ahead of him, his stellar accomplishments in moving his country toward the

road of democratic rule elevated him to the second highest political office in Armenia. The former athletic instructor, who was elected to parliament and served as Defense Minister prior to assuming the Premiership, was a man who embraced the ideals of free-market democracy.

Along with several of my colleagues, I had the honor of meeting Prime Minister Sargsian here in the U.S. Capitol just four weeks ago. We discussed trade, commerce, and the establishment of closer relations. I shared with him the great honor I have to represent one of the oldest Armenian-American communities in my Los Angeles County district. I related to him how earlier this year, I visited the Armenian Mesrobian School, the Armenian Social Services Center, and the Holy Cross Cathedral, and was tremendously impressed by the efforts and resources that Armenian-Americans dedicate to the betterment of the entire community.

I stand with my Armenian-American constituents who are undoubtedly in a state of shock over yesterday's violent acts. My heartfelt sympathy and earnest prayers are with the Armenian-American community, the people of Armenia and the families of the victims of this senseless tragedy.

ASSASSINATION IN ARMENIA

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on October 27, 1999, a group of five or six assassins burst into Armenia's parliament and gunned down Armenian Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsian. The gunmen also claimed the lives of Karen Demirchian, Speaker of the Armenian parliament; Yuri Bakhshyan, Deputy Speaker; Minister Leonard Petrosian, and Michael Kutanian, a senior economic official. Two other unidentified members of parliament were dead, too.

Words cannot adequately describe the deplorable and disgusting acts of violence committed by those individuals. To indiscriminately murder government officials in cold blood is cowardly.

Recent reports describe the gunmen have taken a number of hostages, and President Robert Kocharian is negotiating with the gunmen. Kocharian agreed to allow the lead gunman on national television to make a statement in return for the release of some hostages.

Unfortunately, the other details are still very sketchy. We do not know why they did what they did although they proclaim their actions as a coup d'état. All we know is that the senseless slaughter of those government officials strikes a blow to democracy in Armenia.

As some may know, Armenia, a democratic nation with a population of 3.5 million, people, has made much progress since the Armenian genocide in 1915. The Ottoman Empire subjected the Armenians to an eight-year long killing spree that ultimately claimed the lives of over 1.5 million Armenians. Hundreds and thousands more were forced from their homeland. We all know that rebuilding a ravaged nation requires much blood, sweat, and tears, but the Armenian people have worked long

and hard to make Armenia into the democratic nation it is today. The Armenian government under the late Prime Minister Sargsian was headed for even greater progress. The commitment to peace and prosperity in their region was clear.

I am very saddened by the horrific events and deeply concerned by the bloodshed and senseless loss of lives, but this only goes to show that democracy is not just an obscure ideal ensconced in an old written parchment or in dusty history books sitting in the garage. Democracy is an ideal that government should be for the people. Democracy is an ideal that many people have sacrificed their lives for, and in some parts of the world, people continue to sacrifice their lives for.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the people of Armenia and Armenian-Americans as we all pray that this will be resolved peacefully without further bloodshed and the angel of justice exacts just payment from those murderers.

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ON THE OCCASION OF THE TEN
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Jan and Tim Johnson were early supporters of CHCA and tirelessly volunteer their time to the school and to the Cincinnati community in general. They have four children, two of whom graduated from CHCA.

Tim, a professor of Finance at the University of Cincinnati, has been an invaluable resource and serves as the Finance Chair for the CHCA Board of Trustees.

Jan is also a member of the CHCA Board, served on early faculty search committees and was a member of the Education Committee for four years. In addition to all this, she has served on numerous ad hoc and PTF committees.

Jan and Tim Johnson are to be commended for their tireless devotion to their community and I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor.