

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

REFORM OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION ACT

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, when I last addressed the House concerning H.R. 3261, as Chairman BLILEY's request, I read his statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Due to my long legislative history in issues relating to the satellite industry, I believe it is necessary for me to provide some additional views as the House and Senate prepare to begin a conference aimed at reconciling differences between their respective bills.

The Communications Satellite Competition and Privatization Act of 1999 is an important step forward in Congress' efforts to update the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (1962 Act). I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Chairman BLILEY in reaching out to members of the Telecommunications Subcommittee to address important issues and advance the legislative process.

Mr. Speaker, reform of the 1962 Act is vitally necessary, as technological innovation and marketplace competition has dramatically changed the satellite industry over the past 30 years. Indeed, the arrival and rapid advance of undersea and underground fiber-optic cable systems has forced the industry to move beyond what many policymakers have thought to be its only role: universally providing telecommunications services to broad audiences. While the industry will certainly continue to lead efforts to develop new markets, satellites are now highly sought after to provide the capacity and redundancy necessary to continue the explosion in telecommunications usage, data transmission, and e-commerce. In other words, we have now learned that not only are cable systems unable and, in some cases, unwilling to reach everyone, they may not be able to service everyone.

As the landscape of the marketplace continues to change more cable and satellite systems find themselves in direct competition for customers, and we have been forced to reconsider our assumptions regarding the average satellite services user. No longer are these users simply interested in access to services; satellite customers want exactly what other telecommunications customers want. They want choice in the marketplace. They want the option of different transmission systems. They want broadband services over the Internet. They want high quality and highly dependable services. And they want it now.

This change in consumer demand, coupled with the exponential increase in Internet usage, interactive data and direct-to-home satellite services fuels much of the growth in the satellite services industry today. The result is a dynamic and highly competitive marketplace. How competitive? One need look no further than the chapter 11 filings of Iridium and ICO

to understand that you won't be around long in this business if you're only resting on your laurels.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can make this market even better for consumers. As the conference committee moves forward, we need to ensure that legislation intending to direct the future of the satellite industry is consistent with current economics, and that it recognizes the enormous strides toward full, free and private competition that are already underway. We need to ensure that a wide range of issues are addressed in a manner that fosters even more competition, and that Congress enacts balanced legislation which offers all companies in the satellite services industry a level playing field.

I want to specifically commend Chairman BLILEY for working to improve upon H.R. 1872 in several important areas. I am particularly gratified that the House legislation has effectively ensured that private contracts negotiated between entities are safeguarded and not subject to manipulation as a result of new legislation.

We also need to be sensitive to the fact that this bill is necessary to accommodate a commercial transaction between two companies that have already received regulatory approval for their merger. In this regard we should work to ensure that any action of the Congress should not diminish the value of current investments or ongoing business activities.

We should also ensure that no single competitor in the satellite services industry is advantaged or disadvantaged by our actions. In our effort to create a more dynamic marketplace, we should endeavor ourselves to provide even more consumer choice. Any limitation on services that any one company would offer should be seen as an outcome that reduces consumer choice. As I said previously, at a time when demand for Internet and other broadband services are driving growth across the telecommunications industry, it would be terribly ironic if an action of the Congress actually limited choice in the satellite market.

I am optimistic that we will produce legislation in the conference committee that is genuinely pro-competitive and offers customers around the world more choices. I look forward to working with Chairman BLILEY and Senator BURNS to produce legislation that meets these objectives.

TRIBUTE TO MANUEL MONTOYA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it makes me very proud to rise before the House of Representatives to recognize Manuel Montoya from Mora, NM. Just a few weeks ago Manuel began his studies at Oxford, England as a Rhodes Scholar. Manuel is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and is one of

only 32 students nationwide to earn the much coveted scholarship named in honor of philanthropist Cecil Rhodes. And just last year Manuel also earned the distinguished Truman Scholarship. I want to recognize Manuel for bringing honor to his family, his community and to New Mexico.

Manuel was born and raised in Rainsville, in the County of Mora. He lost his father at an early age. Through his faith and his gifts, he has turned tragedy into inspiration and misfortune into strength, both for himself and for those around him. The County of Mora is one of the most economically disadvantaged counties in our country. The county confronts all of the challenges that affect rural America today. Although stricken by poverty, Mora is one of the wealthiest counties in spirit in our country, rich in culture and history with its Hispanic Heritage, rich in beauty with its mountains, valleys and rivers, rich in people that place the highest value on family, honor and respect. And Mora is rich in faith and rich in hope. The best of Mora is personified in Manuel Montoya and he has made our State and his community very proud.

On behalf of all New Mexicans I want him to know that he is in our thoughts and we look forward to his many successes. Manuel, La Gente de Mora y de Nuevo Mexico estan Contigo.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, I ask that a copy of the newspaper article recognizing Manuel's accomplishments also be placed in the RECORD.

[From the Santa Fe New Mexican, Dec. 8, 1999]

MORA NATIVE WINS RHODES SCHOLARSHIP
(By Kim Baca)

As a boy, Manuel-Julian Rudolfo Montoya of Mora wrote stories about his father—his favorite hero next to Batman.

In his stories, his father helped him and the family. Montoya was 7 when his father died, but the child never forgot the things his father taught him—especially things about trust, honor and leadership.

It may be those things that helped the 21-year-old University of New Mexico senior become one of 32 American students named a Rhodes scholar Saturday.

"I am not proud of the accomplishment, but what it means to all those people that helped me get there," Montoya said. "This is by no means my scholarship; it belongs to a lot of people—to my family, to my friends, my community. It belongs to UNM and everybody has the right to celebrate that."

The prestigious scholarship program was created in 1902 by British philanthropist and colonial pioneer Cecil J. Rhodes to help students from English colonies and the United States attend Oxford University in England for two or three years.

The scholarship, which pays all college and university fees, is one of the oldest international study awards available to students.

Montoya, a 1995 Mora High School graduate, has a long list of achievements. After graduating as valedictorian, he was awarded the Regents Scholarship, a four-year grant given to New Mexico's highest achievers. While in college, the English and economics double major helped establish a rural honors

• 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.

program for high school students in honor of his father.

Earlier this year, he was named a Truman Scholar—a national scholarship project named after President Harry S. Truman and given to college juniors who have extensive records of public service and outstanding leadership potential.

After he was awarded the Truman scholarship, his advisers in the honors program at UNM encouraged him to apply for the Rhodes program.

Rebecca Vigil, Montoya's English teacher at Mora High School, said news of the scholarship comes as no surprise to her.

"He has always been dedicated and committed. I always thought he would succeed," she said. "It's great that he has received this honor, not just for him but the entire community."

Mary Lou Sanchez, a guidance counselor for Mora schools, also remembers Montoya as an exceptional student.

"His written and verbal communication was always outstanding," she said. "He has always been a leader."

In addition to playing pool, guitar and writing poetry, Montoya is also helping build a museum in Mora. The museum will contain the history and genealogy of Mora residents.

Montoya's mother Mary Louise Montoya, said her son has always been a quick learner. His first language was Spanish, but he learned English immediately.

"He was a lector at our church at the age of 7," she said. "He taught a confirmation class when he was still in high school."

Montoya is one of a dozen Rhodes scholars residing in New Mexico. The last person to receive a Rhodes scholarship at UNM was in the 1970s.

In September, Montoya will leave for England and study law. After his term at Oxford, Montoya plans to go to Stanford University law school.

"It's my dream to become a litigator and provide legal services for the underprivileged," he said. Montoya would also like to create a think tank to study public policy.

[From the Santa Fe New Mexican]

THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST
(By Monica Soto)

MORA—The Mora River rises in the Rincon Range, east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and flows to the west and to the south until it fuses with the Canadian River north of Sabinoso.

Generations of families have lived and died near the river. This is where Manuel-Julian Rudolpho Montoya, the Rhodes Scholar, was born.

His story, his journey, is simple really. It begins and it ends in Mora, a place too beautiful for words, where the most brilliant flowers bloom in the muddiest of waters.

Montoya, 22, stands in a field and stares at his birth home. The gray A-frame house is empty; it has been for a long time.

The wind rushes past him, and he sees images of his father, Rudy William Montoya, washing the family's 1972 Plymouth Duster and of his mother, Mary Louise, cooking dinner. He sees the forbidden cookie jar atop the highest kitchen shelf. He closes his eyes and smiles.

"I've come realize this as the turning point in my life because it meant a harder life for me," he says, then pauses. "Why live life if it's not hard? I seek the virtues."

Montoya, who graduated last month from The University of New Mexico with degrees in English and economics, leaves Sept. 25 for Oxford University, the first UNM student to be named a Rhodes Scholar since 1978. Montoya last year was named a Truman Scholar,

a distinction bestowed upon college juniors who have extensive records of public service and outstanding leadership potential.

If Montoya represents the future of New Mexico, then he wants his home-town of Mora to be celebrated for this gift. It is the place where he experienced unconditional love, punctuated by deep pain, where he gained the wisdom to know that his experiences, both good and bad, have shaped him into a worthy man.

Montoya was born Dec. 9, 1976, but his story begins a generation before that.

Mary Louise Martinez was born Feb. 12, 1953, to Francisco and Dolores Martinez in Mora. Rudy William Montoya was born Oct. 2, 1953, to Ambrosio and Celena Montoya in Rainsville, 10 minutes away.

For the first 15 years of their lives, the two never crossed paths. Then on a spring day, halfway through adolescence, Rudy William Montoya and Mary Louise Martinez attended the same eighth-grade picnic in the Tres Ritos area, near the river.

Mary Louise didn't know how to swim. And she knew what happened at these types of functions. Someone always got flung in the river. This time it was her.

Her classmates must have thought she was joking when she started to scream for help. She panicked and went under water. Rudy William jumped in the river. He saved her life.

Both were freezing when they emerged from the frigid waters. Mary Louise had brought a beach towel to the picnic. They wrapped themselves in it and sat on a log, beneath a tree.

"Really shyly, he got my hand and he held it," she remembers. "That was the start."

Mary Louise and Rudy William went to every basketball game, every dance together from their freshman through senior years. They graduated from Mora High School in 1972. They were married the following August.

Manuel was the first born. Francisco followed four years later on April 12, 1981. Rudy William Louis, the baby, was born Dec. 22, 1984.

The elder Rudy William was a hard-working man with a gentle soul, a man who had grand dreams for his family. The heavy-equipment operator planned to build a split-level house in Rainsville on property he and Mary Louise inherited from the Montoya family.

Rudy William already had begun digging the trenches to lay the foundation of the house when on April 17, 1984, he responded to a call for help and was shot. He died a day later.

Mary Louise says the events surrounding her husband's death are things that are still too painful to discuss, only to say that he was "an innocent victim to a violent crime. He had no idea what he was walking into."

She can still remember how Montoya, just this little boy, walked around the house and prayed fervently in every room the day his father died. And the moment at which Montoya became a man.

The family held the funeral in Rainsville. When the casket opened, when Montoya first laid eyes upon his father, he didn't cry. Rather he clasped his hands together and incanted The Lord's Prayer, very clearly, very loudly.

After her husband's death, Mary Louise says she did everything she could so Montoya didn't have to feel like he was the man of the house, but that "he took on a lot of responsibility within himself."

Montoya's patriarchal role was, in ways, inevitable. Montoya's younger brothers went to him for guidance and advice. He fixed their problems the way he imagined his father would.

Montoya had numerous uncles to draw guidance from. He was nevertheless painfully aware that his own father was, in his words, "a guardian angel now."

He spoke of his struggles once to a group of peers at a student government conference. He modeled his speech after the words of Martin Luther King Jr. "I speak of the trials in my life not to gain your sympathy, but to gain your understanding."

Montoya says his father's death and the struggles he went through as a result pushed him to excel in ways that he felt would honor his father's memory.

"I love his memory more than anything in this world," he says. "It compels me every day."

As a single parent, Mary Louise doesn't describe her life with her three sons as one in which she played dual roles as mother and father. They leaned a lot on both the Martinez and Montoya families—people whom she refers to as "very special."

The dynamics of her own family was such that every son—Montoya, Francisco, and Rudy William—played an integral role in keeping the family together.

Mary Louise says all four of them made decisions on the finances and even discussed emotional issues. When she decided to return to school to receive an associate's degree, all four of the family members studied together.

"It took the four of us to do what we've done," she says. "It took the four of us to pull together."

It's been 15 years now. Sometimes it seems like yesterday.

"I remember somebody asked me one time how I felt," she says. "I always wondered, how are you supposed to answer that? But I did real truthfully saying, 'I feel like I'm cut in half. I'm missing half of me. And it's not crosswise, it's lengthwise.'"

"We truly were one, and that's how it's always going to be."

A PROMISING YOUTH

Montoya always had shown promise. He learned both English and Spanish at an early age but preferred to speak Spanish before he began school. Neighbors would traipse into his grandmother's house to watch him stand on the coffee table, with his little guitar, and sing Spanish church hymns.

"I can remember he was a voracious reader," says Quirinita Martinez, his third-grade teacher. "He could read and read and read."

By the time Montoya was in high school, he understood clearly the educational opportunities he missed growing up in a rural community. His high school did not offer calculus or an honors English program because of the lack of demand. His school library did not carry Machiavelli's *The Prince* or Aristotle's *Ethics* as standard texts.

The more people held Montoya up as an anomaly, the more he believed that he was no different than his peers.

"I saw them struggling through a system where they said, 'If you don't do this or that, you're a loser,'" he says. "That's unacceptable to me."

In college, Montoya spent a summer writing a proposal to the Mora School Board that would implement a general honors program at the high school. The program would set up independent studies for students who had exhausted the school district's traditional options.

Montoya wrote in his proposal that an instructor would craft semester-long lesson plans for each student. A student who enrolled in a class on contemporary, moral and ethical issues, for instance, would read books such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to gain insight into such issues as "euthanasia, genetic cloning, chemical testing on animals and humans, freedom-of-speech issues and

hate crime." He included a 40-page economic analysis.

The school board signed the proposal in August 1997. The board later rescinded the program because it could not fund an instructor to oversee it, Montoya says.

Montoya says he was disappointed by the outcome, but that he has not given up on his project.

"Next time I'm going to have everything ready to go," he says. "No questions, no doubts."

Montoya also has worked diligently on another long-term project—to build an archive and museum that would house the town's family and cultural histories. He envisions a Plaza where the community could gather; Mora no longer has one.

Montoya, who has been accepted to Stanford Law School, says he also dreams of the day when each person is appreciated for his or her potential, when his brothers are held up for their talents, just as he has been celebrated for his.

"One time, my grandfather made a china cabinet with no nails, structurally sound," he says. "My brother (Francisco) can do that. It's something that I envy in him. The time hasn't come where they say that this is just as beautiful as being a Rhodes Scholar, and that bothers me."

Toby Duran, director for the Center for Regional Studies and the Center for Southwest Research at UNM, worked with Montoya on the museum proposal. Duran says that one of the first things they discussed was Montoya's dream of becoming a United States Supreme Court Justice.

"I was impressed by his boldness," says Duran, who gave Montoya a fellowship that enabled him to spend time preparing his Rhodes Scholar application. "He has a way of feeling for things and for people, but in addition to that, he uses reason. He's able to balance that very well."

Friends and family, those who have influenced Montoya, say that despite his rigorous intellect, he is stripped of pretension. Montoya's dream is to return to Mora and practice law with his closest confidant, Cyrus Martinez, also a Mora High School graduate.

The Rev. Tim Martinez, who was once a pastor in Mora, explains it this way:

"For a lot of people that grow up in rural communities, they have to leave before they realize the value of their upbringing," he says. "He realized the value long before he left his community. He carries that with him, always."

A DATE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Montoya will participate in a White House ceremony before he leaves to study jurisprudence philosophy in England. He will meet President Clinton and members of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Even then, Montoya says he will be "the farm boy from Mora making messes in my mother's kitchen." And for that, he is immensely proud.

"I don't learn things without them being fixed in human experience," he says. "The facts can exist without human experience, but the truth cannot."

The truth, Montoya says, is that he is a culmination of many lives and many lessons, the embodiment of a town. He is his uncle, the Vietnam veteran and his Godmother, a shy and humble woman; he is his father, hardworking and unapologetic, and the viejo who plants a tree at the chapel each year.

He is also a man, now—one who has made it his life's mission not to allow his people to lose hope.

"If you don't surrender to your community, you will never unify what you have inside of you," he says. "It's indescribable. It's a healing that I have yet to comprehend."

ADDRESSING A GENERATION

Manuel-Julian Rudolpho Montoya's speech for The University of New Mexico's general commencement ceremony in May:

What then, I ask myself, shall we do this fine morning? How will we give praise to our education and our light?

I say we shout.

Shout in honor of the gathering. Give praise to your talents and those who lay hands on that talent. Form a song, without words and without beat save the rhythm of the many standing alongside you. Hear the rhyme of one language in unison as we shout in shades of Black, Yellow, Brown, White and Red. Shout in colors, shout in creeds. Shout in praise of the legacies that brought you here. Shout difference! Shout unity! And remember that they do not betray each other, they simply approach your soul from one end to the other.

Dance.

Dance in honor of your celebration. Give substances to the presence of our smiles and our laughter. In our dancing, let us love the greatness of this day, for it is a day that we recognize the trials of wisdom and knowledge brought to bear upon our very souls.

Cry.

Cry in honor of your suffering. Give it a voice so that it may surrender to the echoes of healing among our communities. Give it to the ignorant, so they may have heard that pain of their brothers and sisters.

Fight.

Fight with your minds. Gather your faculties in honor of the shouting, the dancing and the crying. Give them reason for existing. Validate them. Look to your minds and recognize the great unifier within you. Reconcile your pain with the promise of a better day because you fought with your mind. Know that you have learned all you can so that one day learning can take its place in the symphony of change.

Fight with your heart. Fight with kindness and do not relent when the wits of the many sway against the singular revolt of your heart. Cherish your passion and let it bleed for your neighbor. In this lies the hand that picks up our enemies and cares for them.

Let us now be called forth and have our names announced to the community. Call my name, for in it you evoke the legacy of my grandmothers and grandfathers. My beloved father and mother. My brothers. My friends. My family. My happiness and strength. Let it be called because our name shall ring the truth of my veneration for my community. Mora, New Mexico. Mi tierra y mi vida.

Let us call the names of our graduates. Let their names ring forever in the past. So today, as we call names and hand diplomas, let us celebrate the world that lives alive and well within us.

Bless you all.

CREDIT CARD CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, credit card late fees are becoming an increasing burden on consumers. More and more of my constituents are telling me that credit card companies are charging them \$30 late fees when they shouldn't be. I believe some companies are abusing their ability to charge late fees. In fact, just recently, First USA, a com-

pany that has millions of customers, was caught charging its customers late fees regardless of when they sent their payment in.

(ABC News, Nightline: "Let the Borrower Beware." August 31st, 1999).

In addition, many companies are shortening grace periods and imposing early morning deadlines for when a payment is due. One of the worst things they are doing is sending bills out just a few days before they're due, which makes it very difficult to get the payment in on time.

Obviously, these practices do not help credit card customers maintain good credit ratings. Additionally, these practices can cost customers hundreds of dollars in charges each year. In order to address some of the problems that people are encountering with late fees, today I am introducing the "Credit Card Customers Protection Act of 1999." This legislation would require credit card companies charging late fees to clearly disclose a date by which if your payment is postmarked, it cannot be considered late. Right now, most companies charge you based on when your payment arrives. But with passage of this legislation, if you mail your credit card payment in before the postmark date, you'll be okay.

This is similar to what the IRS does with your tax return. Regardless of when your return arrives at the IRS, if it is postmarked by April 15, it is not late. To me, this makes perfect sense, since we do not control the internal bill collecting processes of the credit card companies, nor do we want to. And we do not control the time it takes for a letter to be delivered.

This bill will put the balance of power back into the hands of credit card customers. I ask my colleagues for their support for this important legislation.

JOHN G. SHEDD AQUARIUM CELEBRATES THE BIRTH OF A BELUGA WHALE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago as they celebrate the birth of a beluga whale. On August 3rd, a 4-foot-6-inch female calf was born weighing approximately 115 pounds. This is the first calf for Immiayuk, a 13-year-old beluga whale who has been in Shedd Aquarium's care since 1989.

Immiayuk is a first-time mother, and less than half of the calves born to those mothers, either in captivity or in the wild, are able to survive their first year. The new beluga has cleared many of the first hurdles, by swimming, diving and nursing with her mother. Shedd visitors will be able to see the calf in an underwater viewing area in late September. A contest to name the calf will be held for children ages 8 to 13.

The belugas reside in the Shedd's Oceanarium, a re-creation of the Pacific Northwest. Throughout the Oceanarium, large underwater viewing windows give Shedd visitors the opportunity to see the animals from the vantage point of their environment. Whales, dolphins, sea otters, harbor seals and penguins are some of the marine life on display.