

COMPUTER MILESTONE

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the occasion of a significant scientific achievement. Today, scientists at Livermore National Laboratory have started assembling the world's most powerful computer. This computer, known as ASCI White, delivered to Livermore on 28 tractor-trailer trucks, is capable of 12 trillion calculations per second. Mr. Speaker, that is more than three times faster than the most powerful computer in existence today.

One specific achievement of this endeavor is the collaboration it embodies. ASCI White is the product of work by IBM and our national labs, and the computer will now aid the Department of Energy in the work of simulating nuclear explosions without conducting live tests. Surely, this super computer is a model for the marvelous work that results from strong private-public partnerships.

Mr. Speaker. I submit the following article from the San Francisco Chronicle to be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And on behalf of this body, I would like to extend our congratulations to IBM, Livermore Lab, and all of the other agencies and individuals who contributed to this superb accomplishment.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, June 29, 2000]

IBM ASSEMBLING EXPLOSIVE NEW SUPERCOMPUTER PROCESSORS TO MIMIC NUCLEAR DETONATIONS AT LIVERMORE LAB

(Carrie Kirby)

Technicians at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have begun assembling the world's most powerful supercomputer, the first sections of which were delivered by International Business Machines Corp. Monday.

The 8,100-processor computer, ASCI White, will be used to simulate nuclear explosions to maintain the nation's weapons stockpile. Exploding real nuclear bombs for testing purposes has been forbidden since the 1996 signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The testing is required to ensure that the nation's aging stockpile of nuclear weapons still functions properly and is safely stored.

The processors in the \$110 million computer are no different than those found in high-end workstations used for engineering or design. But by putting 8,000 of them together in a box the size of two basketball courts, IBM has created a machine capable of 12.3 trillion operations per second—what scientists call a 12.3 teraflop computer.

Armed with a calculator, it would take a human being 10 million years to complete the number of calculations ASCI White can do in one second. That's three or four times better than the previous titlist for world's most powerful supercomputer, ASCI Blue Pacific, a 3.8 teraflop machine also located at Lawrence Livermore. ASCI White is 1,000 times more powerful than Deep Blue, the IBM supercomputer that beat world chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997, and 30,000 times more powerful than the average personal computer. Its memory could comfortably house the Library of Congress—twice.

ASCI White is named for the Energy Department's Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative.

Tractor trailers brought about a quarter of the massive computer to Lawrence Livermore Monday, and the rest will arrive during the summer. When it is complete, a team of several hundred scientists at Lawrence Livermore will use the computer to conduct the most realistic mock nuclear explosions ever.

Limited memory and computer power meant that previous simulations used a simplified, two-dimensional model to approximate a three-dimensional explosion.

"A one-dimensional problem assumes that the surface of the Earth is uniform—all earth or all water," said David Nowak, the physicist who will lead the ASCI White program at Lawrence Livermore. Two-dimensional models would assume that the Earth is smooth, without mountains, valleys or complicated factors such as air currents. "ASCI White allows us to go to three dimensions."

Nowak has been anticipating getting his hands on the computer for two years, while 1,000 engineers at IBM's Poughkeepsie, N.Y., laboratory designed and built it. Yet he knows that despite its mind-boggling abilities, ASCI White is not powerful enough to simulate the blasts as realistically as scientists want.

"To actually do the problem, we need 100 teraflops," Nowak said. "We think we can get that by 2004 or 2005."

The ASCI program calls for two more supercomputers to be built. The first, with 30 teraflops, will go to Los Alamos, N.M., in about two years. The second, with 100 teraflops, is scheduled to be assigned to Livermore, said lab spokesman David Schwoegler.

TRIBUTE TO DAN RATTINER

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Dan Rattiner, my neighbor and constituent from Long Island, on the 40th anniversary of Dan's Papers.

Dan Rattiner's story is that of many seeking the American dream. As a college student during the summer of 1960, Mr. Rattiner started a small, free, eight-page publication in Montauk, New York. Over time, as Eastern Long Island has grown, this one-man operation has grown into a 50-page publication employing over 40 people. Articles range from serious issue-based essays to coverage of summer in the Hamptons.

Mr. Rattiner's work ethic, dedication, and success represent the very best of Long Island, New York and our Nation. His commitment to journalistic excellence, all the while providing important information to the people of Southampton and Easthampton, is worthy of commendation and praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rattiner, for 40 years of bringing news with a local flavor to the people of Eastern Long Island. On behalf of the people of Long Island, I would like to thank Mr. Rattiner and the entire staff of Dan's Papers and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2000

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680, the Medicare Prescription 2000 Act. H.R. 4680 is a poor excuse for a prescription drug bill for our Nation's senior citizens.

This Republican bill would force seniors who want prescription drug coverage to get it from private insurance companies. However, the bill provides no guarantee that individual seniors will have access to private insurance plans that cover prescription drug. Furthermore, even when coverage is offered, the premiums, deductibles and co-payments will vary widely, depending upon what plans are available in the area. Millions of seniors will not be able to afford to participate in these private insurance plans.

The Republican bill would provide payments for prescription drugs to private health insurance companies—not patients themselves or their health care providers. Many private insurance companies have unfairly restricted health care for their patients in the past. Now is not the time to give these insurance companies additional government benefits.

H.R. 4770, the alternative prescription drug bill proposed by the Democrats, would provide a guaranteed prescription drug benefit under Medicare to all seniors who want one. This bill would ensure that all seniors who choose to participate would pay the same low premiums and receive the same benefits, regardless of where they live. Moreover, low-income seniors who cannot afford to pay the premiums would not be denied prescription drug coverage under the Democratic alternative.

It is time that Congress make prescription medicines available to all seniors who need them. I urge my colleagues to oppose this Republican giveaway to private insurance companies and support the Democratic alternative.

HONORING MR. TOM MESSENGER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a man that has devoted his career to protecting the health of people in the great State of Colorado, Tom Messenger. After 30 years of service to the citizens of Colorado, Tom is set to retire this week, bringing to a close what has been a truly distinguished career.

As his family, friends and colleagues celebrate Tom's retirement, I would like to pay tribute to his substantial efforts to improve the quality of life for all Coloradans. His career is eminently deserving of both the praise and thanks of this body.

Tom began his tenure as an environmental health advocate in 1970. He first started as a sanitarian for the Tri-County District Health Department and, after earning a masters degree, started a career at the Colorado Health Department. Early in his career, Tom demonstrated both the integrity and the skill needed to conduct a responsible, responsive and

successful food safety program. His ambition and ability gave rise to his rapid ascension through the ranks of the Department. In 1980, Tom became the Department of Consumer Protection Assistant Director, holding that position until 1988. After a brief stint as the Department's budget director, Tom later returned to the Consumer Protection Division, serving as its appointed Director until today.

Tom has spent twenty seven years with the Department and his efforts to protect Colorado's health have been considerable. He has been the catalyst in bringing state, local and federal governments together toward mutually agreeable health policies. Throughout his career, Tom has been highly effective in bringing these often divergent entities together to address emerging health issues. In recent times, Tom has made a parade of bold breakthroughs in the Department, including providing the leadership at the state level to help ensure the successful introduction of a state retail food law, and coordinating a proactive action plan with the state dairy industry to address issues of antibiotic residues. Although these accomplishments only scratch the surface of what Tom has achieved, they both are indicative of the type of success that he has repeatedly encountered in his time working for the State of Colorado.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Messenger and his efforts to make his community, state and nation a better and healthier place to live. His dedication and know-how have distinguished him greatly. The citizens of Colorado owe Tom a debt of gratitude and I wish him well during his retirement.

Your family, friends and colleagues are proud of you, Tom, and we all are thankful for your dedicated service over the past three decades.

INTRODUCTION OF SAINT CROIX ISLAND HERITAGE ACT

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today legislation to help Calais, Maine, commemorate the 400th anniversary of an internationally historic event. In 1604, a group of adventurers led by a French nobleman established a settlement on Saint Croix Island in the Saint Croix River that forms part of the border between Maine and New Brunswick. By accounts it was one of the earliest settlements in North America.

The residents of the region, with the Saint Croix Economic Alliance and the Sunrise County Economic Council and with the co-operation of state and federal agencies have worked for several years to develop a regional heritage center to mark the event with a celebration in 2004 with the United States, Canada and France. The island itself is the only international historic site in the National Park System. The heritage center in Calais will preserve and chronicle the region's cultural, natural, and historical heritage.

The work began with an evaluation of the market potential for the heritage center and preparation of a preliminary exhibit and operating plans. The loose-knit coalition secured

planning funds and seed money from local businesses, the city of Calais, and the U.S. Forest Service. A full-time project coordinator is in place to oversee the development of the project.

It is time for the National Park Service to step forward. The Saint Croix Island Heritage Act would grant the Park Service the authority to provide assistance. The bill directs the Park Service to facilitate the development of the heritage center in time for the 400th anniversary of the island's settlement by French explorers. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with other federal agencies as well as with non-profit organizations, and state and local governments. It also authorizes \$2.5 million for this endeavor.

QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1304) to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of health care professionals and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act:

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Chairman, I rise to comment on H.R. 1304, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act—Representative CAMPBELL's bill which the House passed on June 29. While I had some reservations about this bill, I supported the legislation because I believe that it ultimately will level the playing field for health care providers when they negotiate patient-care agreements with managed care companies. I believe that we should do all we can to restore the relationship between patient and physician. Too often, managed care companies negotiate with providers on a "take it or leave it" basis. And because many independent physicians have little leverage over third party payers, they must take what is offered for their services or lose patients. We improve the quality of patient care when we give physicians a greater role in determining care.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, the bill would give physicians and other health care providers the same collective bargaining options (under the Clayton and Sherman Acts) accorded to labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act. Smartly, the negotiating authority granted by H.R. 1304 sunsets in three years. At that point, the General Accounting Office will study the impact of the legislation and make recommendations on how to improve it.

Opponents of the bill argue that it will allow physicians to form monopolies. Nothing in this legislation preempts the FTC or anti-trust department at DOJ from overseeing the business practices of groups formed by doctors. And the bill specifically states that physicians must negotiate in "good faith" with managed care companies. I encourage the FTC and the DOJ

to continue to pay close attention to any activity that would adversely affect patients. Ironically, it is the HMOs which seem to exhibit monopolistic behavior. Over the last decade, third party payers have increasingly exercised their market power over both patients and doctors.

As I mentioned before, I have some reservations about the bill. For example, I am concerned that the legislation might create agreements where HMOs will pass any increase in health care costs to patients. I am also concerned that any shift in cost to patients will increase the number of uninsured. But, that argument is used every time Congress tries to reform the current health care system and it is the reason we cannot break the stranglehold that HMOs have on our health care decisions. At some point, we must return the health care market back to patients and doctors. I believe that this bill is a small step toward restoring the patient-physician relationship.

NONLETHAL WILDLIFE SERVICES BILL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 10, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled the roads in my district talking and spending time with my constituents—small ranchers, sheep growers, farmers, conservationists, environmentalists and others—I have learned to understand and appreciate their different concerns over the issue of predators. This has been an important listening and learning experience for me. What I learned from all of this was the need for a balanced approach. On one hand environmentalists insist that out on the range, where no one can see, many predators are killed unnecessarily. The traditional small ranchers, sheep growers and farmers on the other hand, point out the need to find solutions for protecting the domestic resources that provide them with a living. Conservationists are concerned about predator impacts on both game animals and protected species.

My legislation is an effort to bring common sense thinking to these sensitive issues. In the rural Hispanic and Native American communities of my district, I have seen the need for finding ways to control predators that will allow them to preserve a way of life that is more than four centuries old while not putting the surrounding ecosystem under unnecessary stress. My legislation would provide grants through the Wildlife Services Agency, to assist with implementing nonlethal predator control in areas like my district. Funds would also be made available for providing training and technical assistance to traditional small ranchers, sheep growers and farmers regarding the use of nonlethal predator control in their operations. Emphasis would be placed on methods such as using burros, llamas, night penning and guard dogs for predator control.

Matching the funding to the small subsistence operators is important if the assistance is to get to those who need it to protect their livelihood. I am also recommending that the Secretary of Agriculture add to our knowledge base concerning these methods by conducting