

I would like to emphasize the special needs of public schools in the territories, which, apart from the remoteness from the U.S. mainland, share in the same struggle to meet the basic needs of operating a school system. But due to our geography, we face special challenges in maintenance, school construction, acquisition of school supplies and equipment, recruitment and training of professionals.

In Guam, we face the additional burden of dealing with typhoons in an unforgiving tropical environment, unforgiving for buildings, that is. The people of Guam have crafted a reasonable 10-year plan for the system's infrastructure, and we look to Federal programs and unique bonding arrangements which will jump-start our effort to bring Guam schools into the 21st century.

The territories are generally included in most national programs, but only as afterthoughts and educators in Guam must follow a patchwork system of funding arrangements and frequent bureaucratic indifference in order to obtain needed and fair funding. This was the message conveyed to me in a meeting last week with Guam's top-level administrators in the Department of Education.

We also frequently try to apply national programs to our local jurisdictions which face very different and difficult circumstances. It is for this reason that territorial school systems which have a unique relationship with the Federal Government deserve special consideration and mention in the President's plan and any plan which leaves Congress.

As stated in Title VI of the President's proposal, "The Federal Government has a special obligation to certain schools that educate the children of families who serve in the U.S. military and those that educate Native American children." This initiative to rebuild schools for Native Americans and children of military families should be extended to all territories, as all territories have a unique relationship with the Federal Government.

As an educator by training, and my mother is an educator and my wife is an educator and my daughter is an educator, I must also state a concern about the emerging nature of the accountability to mention the President's proposal. I am concerned about the overreliance of testing as the only measure of educational success. Guam schools, like many other school districts in the Nation, are struggling to meet very basic needs and have a very diverse student body and we need to account for different ways of measuring success.

I believe in standards and agree that the failure to include high standards will mean that schools will not meet designated goals. But we must think about other ways to measure the school environment than simple reliance on standardized testing, just that alone.

As a former educator, I give President Bush high marks for introducing a comprehensive educational measure at the beginning of his administration. This demonstrates his solid commitment to improve education in public schools for all American children. I know my colleagues in the territories will agree that this administration and this Congress should work in concert to move our Nation's educational agenda forward so that no child is left behind whether they live in Los Angeles or Washington, D.C., Hagatna or Yara.

I urge my fellow colleagues and President Bush to consider the special needs of U.S. territories as we work in crafting an educational plan that truly meets the needs of all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

WELL WISHES TO HON. BUD SHUSTER ON HIS DEPARTURE FROM HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, this is the last day for the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), one of the most dynamic experts on transportation in the entire country. There has been no individual that has had more of an impact on transportation in Pennsylvania, in the commonwealth in his district, in my district, in the entire country.

He was an expert in the field. Even when he was in the minority, he had a tremendous impact on transportation things. He convinced the Congress and the White House that the taxes we collect for transportation ought to go to transportation; and, even against tremendous odds, he was able to win that battle.

It will be a long time before we see another person with his ability. He was a Ph.D with a Phi Beta Kappa. He was an Army veteran. He was a person of great compassion, and sometimes it was overshadowed by things that he was interested in.

But I will say this, that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) will be long remembered for all the things that he did in Pennsylvania and for his legacy and there will be a better transportation system in this great country. And that is absolutely essential to our economic progress.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the finest sons of Pennsylvania: Chairman BUD SHUSTER.

BUD, your commitment and vision has reshaped our national landscape from the local level to the national level.

In 1995, when I took the oath of office and won a seat on the T&I Committee, you were beginning your 12th term as a Congressman and first year as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Little did

I realize that under your leadership the Committee would become the most productive Congress has ever seen. A large measure of your success can be attributed to your fair treatment and respect for the minority members of the Committee.

We as a nation are extremely lucky to have had you working to build the Transportation and Environmental infrastructure of our nation. Because of your efforts, I do not believe the American people will ever again accept inadequate funding for our Waterways, Railways, Airways, and Highways.

Personally, I want to thank you for helping with many projects in my district. I am particularly grateful for your visit to my district to view the efforts being made to complete the Mon-Fayette and Southern Beltway Transportation Projects. Once completed, this project has the economic potential to revive the economy for the hard working men and women of southwestern Pennsylvania.

It has been an honor and pleasure to work with you on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Although I am certain you are looking forward to other pursuits, you will be sadly missed by me personally and your colleagues on the Committee.

As you plan for your future, let me assure you that you have a friend in FRANK MASCARA. I wish you the best of everything.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks about the retirement of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

CONSUMER ONLINE PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in the remarks of my colleague. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) has been very fair and worked on transportation not only, obviously, in Pennsylvania but all over the country. His presence will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, though, to talk about a bill I just introduced, the Consumer Online Privacy and Disclosure Act.

Unprecedented numbers of American consumers are flocking to the Internet to transact business and tap the nearly limitless informational databases that are available. The explosion in Internet usage, however, is not without its problems.

Unlike shopping in a mall or browsing through a library where individuals travel anonymously through the merchandise racks and library stacks, the Internet is becoming less and less anonymous. Direct marketing firms

are now trying to identify individuals as they surf the Web to isolate where they visit and what they are viewing.

This new data collection practice is most often described as Internet profiling. Internet profiling describes the practice of joining a consumer's personal information with that of his or her Internet viewing habits. To develop this detail profile, a "persistent cookie" must be attached to the consumer's cookie as they move through a Web site.

A persistent cookie is a small text file copied for varying lengths of time to consumers' computers to track their movements while they are online. It is almost like somebody following you on the street, Mr. Speaker; and we have protections against that.

My legislation would prohibit Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Web site operators from allowing third parties to attach these persistent cookies to a consumer's computer without his or her knowledge and consent. And that is the biggest purpose. If someone wants to give their consent, then that is their business.

For example, we have these grocery cards all over the country that gives us a discount. We understand that by taking that discount that Safeway or Kroeger's or someone else is actually seeing what we buy at the grocery store. We agree to that in a way.

The legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission, the FTC, to promulgate rules specifying that all operators of a Web site or online service provide a clear and conspicuous notice of their privacy policy in clear, non-legalistic terms.

The bill also requires a Web site or online service to provide consumers with an option to prevent the use of their personal information for any activity other than the particular transaction. And finally, the privacy policy must clearly state how any information, collected information will be shared or transferred to an external company or third party.

While my legislation gives consumers more information and control over how they use the Internet, I have also included a provision that will hold e-commerce companies to their privacy policies.

With insolvency of many dot-com companies, oftentimes the only tangible asset left to satisfy creditors is a consumer's transaction and personal information.

The global use of the Internet is beneficial only so long as the information traveling through cyberspace remains private. Consumers will pull back from this burgeoning information and commerce tool if they believe their privacy is being invaded.

While I understand there are many differing approaches to the use of Internet privacy, I believe this legislation addresses a critical component of Internet privacy debate; and I look forward in working with this Congress, Mr. Speaker, also to make sure that

our constituents have that privacy that they expect and also that they will think they have.

THE THREE R'S PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before the Chamber today to talk about what is the most important issue facing our country today and certainly in the future, education: How can we prepare our children to become adults with the skills and the knowledge that they need to succeed and compete in the world today. It is a challenge that we are presently not meeting to the degree that we should, and it starts with K-12 education.

Right now we are losing too many students before they even make it through high school, too many students who are not developing the skills and the learning experiences that they need. How can we go about fixing that problem?

Well, for the most part, this is a local issue. This is something that States, school districts and local communities are going to be the primary drivers on in terms of fixing the problems, investing the resources and making the decisions. And I think we should keep that in mind, as the United States Congress, that we want to make sure that we empower the locals to do the job that they are in the best position to do.

But the Federal Government does have a role. There is a lot of people that say that the Federal Government does not have any business being involved in K-12 education because it is a State and local issue, period. I disagree.

On the single-most important issue facing our country, the quality of our child's education, I think all taxpayers would like to know that some of that money that they pay in taxes to the Federal Government is going to help improve our K-12 education system since it is such an important issue to all of us.

But the question that we are addressing here today is, what is the proper role for the Federal Government? How can they best use the money that they spend?

Right now the Federal Government is responsible for about 7 percent of the school district's budget. Are we getting the most we can for those dollars? Are those dollars going to the right places? Are they coming with the proper amount of flexibility? I do not think so.

Myself and a number of colleagues of mine have introduced a bill on education called the Three R's bill. The gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) and others have cospon-

sored this to try to shift the focus of the Federal role in education to improve it and to make it work better. There are some basic principles that we want to outline today that we are headed towards on this program.

First and foremost is we do need to make an increased investment in education. And have a chart here that lays out what our goals and priorities are, and that is the first time.

There are many people that would like to believe, I guess, that we do not need to spend more money to make education better. And I will agree that we do not need to only spend more money, we have to make it more efficient, more effective and more accountable as well. But when we look at our crumbling classrooms in one end of this country to the other, the crushing need for school construction, at the coming shortage of teachers that we have, at the growing class sizes, at the growing needs for technology in our schools, there is no question that we as a Nation need to make a greater investment in K-12 education, and that is something that we ought to start with.

But the other thing is, when we are looking at the Federal Government, where should we send our money? Those Federal dollars should be targeted to help where we can best help, and that is driving those dollars out to the communities that are in poverty, to the poorer communities that frankly do not have the same access to education that other communities have.

If they live in a wealthy or tax-rich community, they have a number of options for funding the programs that they need in school. If they do not, they do not have as many options, they cannot simply raise a \$100,000 from the parents or pass a levy or bond issue to generate those dollars.

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The Federal Government should target their dollars that they send to get to those poor communities. We do not do a good enough job of that right now. Too many of those dollars are not going to the communities that truly need them. Our bill adjusts those formulas to drive them out primarily based on need, based on those poverty-based communities that we are headed towards.

The other major problem of the Federal role in education right now is that it is too bureaucratic and there are too many strings attached to those dollars that are sent out. That is a problem in a couple of different areas. First of all there is insufficient flexibility. The needs of one school district may not necessarily be the same as another. The needs in Seattle may not be the same as Chicago or Spokane or South Bend, Indiana, there may be differences in what they want, but the Federal Government is very prescriptive in how we send the dollars out. They have to be spent in a certain way. That reduces the flexibility of those local communities to best use those dollars. But the