

Congressmen TOM DAVIS, JIM TURNER, DAN BURTON, and HENRY WAXMAN. It is also the result of important input from a range of constituencies who support electronic government. This bill has won the support of the IT industry, of the public access community, of privacy advocates, and of non-profit groups interested in good government. There are many others who have contributed to the legislation, too many to name here. The bill demonstrates what can happen when we put aside partisan interests and work together to improve the performance of our Government.

I introduced the E-Government Act, S. 803, on May 1, 2001, with Senator BURNS as chief co-sponsor, and many original co-sponsors from both parties. This March after months of negotiations with the White House and with the help of my friend Senator THOMPSON, an amended version of the bill was reported out of the Governmental Affairs Committee. The committee filed Report No. 107-174 with the bill; this report provides important explanations and background on key concepts and terms in the legislation and should be referred to as relevant legislative history. The E-Government Act first passed the Senate on June 27 of this year. This fall, the House Government Reform Committee took up H.R. 2458, companion legislation to S. 803 that had been introduced by Rep. JIM TURNER on July 11, 2001. The House Government Reform Committee incorporated virtually all of the amended S. 803. It also expanded upon several provisions and added new ones, some of them initiatives that had been worked on for some time by Congressman DAVIS, TURNER, BURTON and WAXMAN. The revised E-government legislation was passed by the House by unanimous consent early this morning.

In less than a decade the tremendous growth of the Internet has transformed the way industry and the public conduct their business and gain access to needed information. This, in turn, has spawned a growing public expectation that government will make use of new information technologies, and a growing support for electronic government. Information technology, and the Internet in particular, provide a unique opportunity to re-package government information and services, so they are offered to the public according to the needs of individual customers. They can also facilitate interagency cooperation without requiring a major reorganization of government agencies. Ultimately, e-government can transform the way government operates, essentially effecting a "virtual" re-engineering of government. This paradigm shift requires systems based on function and the needs of the citizen rather than agency jurisdiction. If the government integrates processes across agency boundaries, the public will experience government as a seamless web of offerings. Federal services and information on the Internet can even be consolidated with those of state and local governments.

The "E-Government Act of 2002" will facilitate this transformation to a government organized more appropriately according to the needs of the public. The bill requires agencies to link their e-government initiatives to key customer segments, and to work collectively in doing so. The E-Government Fund provides necessary funding for inter-agency projects, overcoming the difficulty in securing appropriations for cooperative endeavors. The Federal Internet Portal provides "one-stop shopping" for citizens, businesses, and other governments: information and services will be integrated according to the needs of all users, all of it accessible from a single point on the Internet. The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government will oversee and promote this vital transformation.

Among its many provisions, the E-Government Act would: establish an Office of Electronic Government, headed by a Presidentially-appointed Administrator within the Office of Management and Budget; authorize \$345 million over four years for an E-Government Fund to support interagency e-government projects; improve upon the centralized Federal Government online portal that now exists so that it is more user friendly and establish an online directory of Federal web sites, organized by subject matter; require Federal courts to post opinions and other information online, and regulatory agencies to conduct rule-making over the Internet; improve recruitment and training of information technology professionals in Federal agencies; and encourage electronic interoperability so that different agencies can communicate with one another more efficiently.

We have taken care to include significant privacy protections and we extend and improve successful information security provisions due to expire this month. The Thompson-Lieberman Government Information Security Reform Act, which was enacted at the end of the last Congress, has provided a sturdy management framework for protecting the security of government computers. Congressman DAVIS has authored a new version of the legislation, updating it and improving it.

As we are also in the process of debating homeland security legislation, it is worth noting that the E-Government Act is directly relevant to the goal of ensuring improved homeland security. The E-Government Act will give the Federal Government the tools and structure to transform its IT systems, one of the greatest vulnerabilities of agencies now tasked with homeland security missions. As we've seen through dozens of depressing revelations over the last year, we have desperate need for more effective information systems at agencies like the FBI, CIA, Department of State, the INS, and state and local authorities. The E-Government Act will help the Federal Government get that job done, by establishing more effective IT man-

agement, establishing mandates for action, and authorizing funding.

The bill will also substantially enhance the ability of the Federal Government to quickly provide information and services to citizens to help them prepare for, and respond to, terrorism, natural disasters, and other homeland threats. In the hours and days after the terrorist attacks of September 11, Americans flooded government websites in record numbers, seeking information more targeted than what the media was providing: what was happening; how they should respond to protect themselves from possible future attacks; how they could help victims; and how people who were victims themselves could seek assistance. The E-Government Act will substantially enhance the ability of the Federal Government to quickly provide information and services to citizens to help them prepare for, and respond to, terrorism, natural disasters, and other homeland threats.

Mr. President, Congress's passage of this legislation will result in a better Government and a stronger America.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2458) was read the third time and passed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 124

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, with the concurrence of the Republican leader, may at any time proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 762, H.J. Res. 124, the continuing resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—AUTHORIZATION TO FILE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the sine die adjournment of the 107th Congress, the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to file, and the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to receive, a report in either classified or unclassified form, or both, solely on the committee's investigation into the intelligence community's activities before and after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, on one of the following days: Friday, December 20, 2002, or Thursday, January 2, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate

completes its business tonight, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m., Monday, November 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each regarding retiring Members; and at 12 noon the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 18, 2002, AT 11 A.M.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:21 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2002, at 11 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 15, 2002:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARY CARLIN YATES, OF OREGON, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

THE JUDICIARY

MICHAEL W. MCCONNELL, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KEVIN J. O'CONNOR, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.