

of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported by the Committee on Armed Services, which will be available tomorrow for their review on the Web site of both the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Rules.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

#### UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, a bill called the Unborn Victims of Violence Act has come before this Congress, and it simply seeks to protect unborn children from those who would inflict violence upon them against the will of their mother.

Mr. Speaker, as Americans, there is nothing in this world that we love more than our children. Indeed, one of the great founding principles of this Nation is the God-given duty to protect the innocent and the oppressed and the helpless, especially while they are still little children. Yet we have made no statutory provision on the Federal level to protect unborn children from brutal acts of violence.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in spite of what the pro-abortion groups may say, this bill does not protect those unborn children that may be subjected to the violence of elective abortion. But, Mr. Speaker, perhaps if we can find the humanity to protect expectant mothers and even a few of those, our defenseless little brothers and sisters today, perhaps tomorrow we can find the compassion and the courage to protect them all.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. BURTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

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

There was no objection.

#### MINI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to highlight a security issue that has been overlooked since September 11, 2001. That would be the number of nuclear weapons in the world today.

As I speak here on the floor of this House, the United States has 7,500 nuclear weapons deployed and ready for use. Their destructive power is equal to 80,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs. At the same time, Russia has more than 6,000 warheads scattered across Asia, some of them still on hair-trigger alert. I wonder if any are pointed at this building, this building that we are standing in right now.

Even India, Pakistan, and now North Korea have joined the nuclear club. These countries are motivated to obtain nuclear weapons for several reasons: security, global influence, and pride. These countries are motivated to obtain nuclear weapons because other countries have them or are trying to get them, including the United States. It is a Catch-22 with unthinkable consequences.

But make no mistake: every nuclear weapon built by any country on this Earth was built with money diverted from a school that should have been built, a hospital that should be saving lives, and food that should be feeding the poorest of the poor. The resources that human beings pour into weapons solely intended to facilitate their very own destruction is astonishing.

These weapons threaten not only individuals and nations, but the very existence of humankind. This is a threat that cannot be tolerated. This is the father of all weapons of mass destruction.

That is why I am so disappointed that the Bush administration supports funding research on so-called low-yield nuclear weapons. This is a terrible mistake. Even the so-called low-yield weapons planned by Pentagon bureaucrats will be almost as strong as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. These

low-yield weapons will spew radioactive dust miles into the atmosphere where it falls. It will spew dust of radioactive dust on mothers, babies, brothers and sisters, men and women, all of them innocent, all of them undeserving of a personal nuclear holocaust.

Nuclear weapons are humanity's biggest threat. Their greatest strength is that they corrupt human beings with misguided visions of power and security. We are fooling ourselves if we think more nuclear weapons means greater security and smaller nuclear weapons means guaranteed safety. These are the delusions that only lead closer to nuclear destruction.

Instead of researching the new nukes, we ought to be getting rid of the ones we have. That is why I will soon introduce the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty, NPT, Commitments Act, which calls on the United States to live up to its commitments under the NPT to take immediate steps toward a nuclear weapons convention to eliminate all nuclear weapons.

I ask my colleagues to sign on to my bill, because our world will not be safe from nuclear destruction until we turn the tables on these horrific weapons and destroy them. In the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty which went into effect in 1972, the United States committed to work toward completely eliminating the world's stock of nuclear weapons.

The fact is that as long as these weapons exist, they will spread, bringing the threat of nuclear destruction to all. The only way to keep this from happening is to abolish nuclear weapons entirely and develop a strong, multilateral organization to prevent nuclear weapons from threatening the world ever again.

The Cold War is over; but, sadly, the threat from nuclear weapons has increased. Instead of wasting our resources building more weapons that can never be used and serve only to threaten the very existence of humankind, let us take the path away from nuclear war and toward a lasting peace for our children.

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

(Mrs. MUSGRAVE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the

time of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

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

There was no objection.

#### FCC POISED TO RELAX OR ELIMINATE RULES ESSENTIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF FREE PRESS

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in about 3 weeks, the Federal Communications Commission is poised to relax or eliminate some rules that are essential to the maintenance of a free press.

Under long-standing FCC rules, giant media companies are limited as to how much control they can exert over any one medium market or any one medium generally. That is just good, common sense in American competition. But the Bush Federal Communications Commission is about to throw those sound public interest and market soundness principles out the window, allowing some of America's biggest companies to decide what you hear, when you hear it, what you see, and, in large part, what you think.

This decision on the part of the Bush administration smacks of back-room politics at its worst. It is a story of how three commissioners are working with corporate-owned media conglomerates to expand their control over what news the public receives. Already one radio company out of Texas, and the owner happens to be a friend of the President, already owns 1,200 radio stations in this country, including a half dozen, at least a half dozen in almost every city in America. Now, these three commissioners are working with corporate-owned media conglomerates to expand their control over the airwaves; and in the process of their decision, there have been no public meetings, no time for elected officials or outside groups to comment on the proposed changes. That has been the FCC's mode of operation the last couple of years.

What is most outrageous is these ownership rules were established to protect and promote a diversity of viewpoints and to encourage economic competition.

This pending decision only fuels the public's perception that the Bush administration has a policy of giving corporations what they want, regardless of the consequences to the Nation.

The energy industry writes the administration's energy plan, companies like Enron. Chemical companies write environmental law. Chemical companies also write safe drinking water laws. Wall Street writes legislation to privatize Social Security. The drug industry writes legislation for prescription drugs. It is over and over and over. Now, the corporate-owned media companies are writing FCC policies.

The Future of Music Coalition, a group representing artists from country music to rock and roll, released a report yesterday showing staggering public opposition to the Bush rule change. This coalition had volunteers review almost 10,000 comments received from the public that the Federal Communications Commission has made public on its Web site. There are an estimated 12,000 comments the FCC received that have not yet been reviewed. But of the 10,000 that have been reviewed, 9,065 citizens unaffiliated with any corporate media, 9,065 said they were opposed to changing this rule. Only 11 individuals wrote into the FCC in support of changing the rule. That is an 824 to 1 ratio.

□ 1430

The public is rightly skeptical of this back-room deal. What the FCC leadership does not understand is that they should be accountable to the very people whose opinions they are simply dismissing, Mr. Speaker.

If the FCC wants to dispute these numbers, then delay the vote, then schedule field hearings, then listen to people, then give this rule change the level of public scrutiny then that all ruling changes like that that affect the public interest deserve.

But if the FCC moves forward in relaxing ownership restrictions, this important agency loses its credibility with American consumers, and American radio and TV listeners and viewers. It violates the very principles on which it was established.

Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, yesterday a group of more than a dozen Democrats held a news conference to discuss corporate control of media. Almost always in news conferences like this media will show up. Yesterday when we held this news conference to discuss the corporate control of media, there was no corporate-owned media there. There was Congress Daily, and there was a small newspaper from Puerto Rico. No New York Times. No Washington Post. No networks. No Fox News. None of the large conglomerates that simply do not want to shine a light on some of the mischief they are creating as owners, as a few large owners of these large media conglomerates.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, on June 7 the Federal Communications Commission's vote to undermine ownership restrictions will take place. We will probably find out on that June 2 date that the Federal Communications Commission just might change its name from FCC, Federal Communications Commission, to FCC, Furthering Corporate Control. That is what this issue is about, a few companies owning large numbers of radio stations, large numbers of television stations, telling the American public only what those corporate interests want them to know.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced

that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 709. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

#### HONORING CHRIS NEWTON AND THE PAPPAS SCHOOL FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

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

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today in the heart of Arizona's Fifth Congressional District in Tempe, graduation exercises at Arizona State University, commencement day, will soon commence. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of this House the endeavors of one who will be recognized and who will don the cap and gown today, even as we send congratulations to all who realize academic achievement on this day at Arizona State. His name is Chris Newton, and today as he puts on his cap and gown, he will take a significant step forward not only for himself, but also for the Pappas School for Homeless Children in Phoenix.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Newton spent the bulk of his young life as a homeless child. And while many different communities offer many different solutions, and, sadly, some here in Washington and others move to cut off the notion of schools for homeless children, this particular institution in Phoenix has done a lot to help a lot of children. But Chris Newton typifies the success.

Chris Newton was not only the first student from Pappas School for the Homeless to go to college, he now becomes the first Pappas student to graduate from college. Chris is no stranger to academic excellence, even as he dealt with the challenges of homelessness. He was the eighth grade valedictorian at Pappas School. He continued his education at Camelback High School and then stepped onto the campus at Tempe.

While debate rages among theoreticians and bureaucrats here in Washington as to the relevance of maintaining, or the alleged stigma of homeless children congregating and gathering together for education, dealing with those challenging needs, Chris offers an affirmation for what has worked for him and others in Arizona. He is quoted in the Arizona Republic in an article that chronicles the challenges he has confronted and the success he has reached: "School is always there. You can always count on it. That is 8 hours a day. Your worries are gone. You think about what you are going to do in class, when recess is, things you will do with friends after school."

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Pappas School for Homeless Children in Arizona is literally an oasis of stability on the desert for these challenged students. It was reaffirmed in the life of