

the Committee considers holding hearings to examine the state of competition in the satellite industry, I believe that Congress, having introduced a new market competitor to the satellite industry, ought to examine whether the many restrictions the ORBIT Act placed on "separated entities"—in effect New Skies—are still necessary to preserve that company's independence and promote competition.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee on these issues. Today, I am satisfied simply to enact H.R. 2312. I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2312.

This bill is very straightforward. H.R. 2312 amends the ORBIT Act and gives the satellite company, Inmarsat, a little more time to complete their Initial Public Offering (IPO). Specifically, this legislation gives Inmarsat a 12-month extension from their pending June 30, 2003, deadline. It also gives the FCC the discretion to grant Inmarsat an additional 6-month extension on top of that if the company can demonstrate a legitimate need.

This legislation is necessary because the ORBIT Act—which was enacted in March 2000—did not anticipate the collapse of the IPO markets, especially in the telecommunications sector. In today's economic climate, Inmarsat cannot complete an IPO.

Without swift action by Congress on this bill, American farmers will face disrupted service of their precision farming technologies that rely on Inmarsat-distributed signals at the end of this month. Currently, many farmers, including many in my home state of Illinois, are utilizing GPS-based guidance systems to improve their productivity and efficiency. These systems enable farmers to more accurately apply seed, fertilizer and other inputs, reduce fuel use, and increase yields while reducing costs.

I want to emphasize that H.R. 2312 does not reopen the battles over the ORBIT law or challenge its underlying public policy. Rather, it simply makes this law workable as we suffer through this continuing down market.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this important and time-sensitive legislation.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2312, which will extend the deadline for Inmarsat to conduct the initial public offering required of it by the ORBIT satellite privatization law. H.R. 2312, introduced by Representatives SHIMKUS and MARKEY, is unopposed.

The ORBIT Act was enacted in March of 2000 to promote a competitive market for satellite communications through privatization of inter-governmental organizations, one of which is Inmarsat. The Federal Communications Commission has since found that Inmarsat has indeed satisfied the privatization criteria of the ORBIT Act.

In addition, ORBIT called on Inmarsat to conduct an initial public offering (IPO) by a date certain—December 31, 2001. However, as that December 2001 deadline approached, it became quite apparent that the volatility in the financial markets in general, and the telecommunications sector specifically, necessitated a grant of additional time within which Inmarsat could conduct its statutorily mandated IPO. As a result, Congress took the prudent step of including language in the Commerce-Justice-State FY 2002 Appropriations bill to provide an additional year to conduct the IPO, and also provide the FCC the ability

to grant a six-month extension if warranted by market conditions. This action was non-controversial.

Unfortunately, the market conditions have not improved to a point where it would be reasonable to require the IPO and the current deadline (June 30, 2003) is now less than a month away. H.R. 2312, the ORBIT Technical Corrections Act, allows Inmarsat until June 30, 2004, to conduct its IPO.

The purpose of this IPO requirement was to substantially dilute the ownership of the privatized Inmarsat by its former owners, many of which are foreign governmental entities, so as to further ensure its independence. I fully supported this goal when we enacted ORBIT, and still do today. Indeed, the action we take today, in my view, is consistent with this policy objective.

If forced to move ahead with an IPO at this time, Inmarsat will probably receive a reduced price for its shares offered. Foreign entities that still own significant portions of Inmarsat would likely be discouraged from offering their ownership interests for sale. Instead of resulting in substantial dilution of prior owners as envisioned by the ORBIT Act, a current year IPO might not achieve much dilution whatsoever. In that instance, Inmarsat would have complied with the procedural requirement of ORBIT without the substantive result that we in Congress sought: dilution of previous government owners. Given the state of the markets, the only way to ensure the dilution sought by ORBIT is to allow Inmarsat to further delay its IPO. That result is good public policy that is also good for the long-term health of the satellite communications industry.

The health of the satellite communications industry and ORBIT's implementation are important to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. We are currently exploring the possibility of holding hearings on the state of the industry in the future. At the appropriate time, we need to examine ORBIT's implementation, and the efficiency of the existing regulatory regime. For instance, New Skies Satellites has fulfilled the requirements of ORBIT and now is a fully independent competitor in the international satellite marketplace. Some have questioned whether it makes sense to hold New Skies to a continuing list of regulatory restrictions and requirements. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to ensure that current law reflects the current realities of the satellite industry. However, today we need to enact H.R. 2312. I thank my colleagues for their support and I urge the prompt passage of this legislation.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2312, the bill just passed.

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

There was no objection.

LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THE ELEVATORS ARE WORKING SO MEMBERS CAN VOTE

(Mr. ABERCROMBIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I and other Members are as anxious as everyone else in here and leadership on both sides to vote in an expeditious manner; but if that is going to take place, then the leadership has to see to it that we are able to get into these elevators and get downstairs and get over here.

If it says "Members Only" during the time that the bells are ringing, then you have got to either put some signage up or get some people into the elevators that see to it that happens. I cannot see trying to kick people off the elevators who are citizens, trying to come see us, who operate in good faith, and we cannot get here to vote.

Now if you are so anxious to get this thing done in 15 minutes or 17 or whatever it is, that is fine. I will do my best, as I am sure everybody else will; but, Mr. Speaker, you have got to see to it then that we are able to get to do this in the manner in which we are supposedly designated to do it.

If you have elevators that are supposed to be for us during this time, then you are going to have to do things to see we can use them. I am not the only one who was disabled from voting because I simply could not get down here. I could not get here fast enough because these elevators are stuck, and there are all kinds of people on them asking directions and you cannot get down here. If they are on the seventh floor in Longworth or end of the Cannon building, it is just not easy to do that in the 15 minutes, particularly when you are trying to kick people out of your office or get finished with what you have to get done in order to get over here to vote.

I am just asking on behalf of not just myself but any Member that finds himself or herself in these circumstances. Had I been over here, I am sure I would have voted aye, depending on what the wisdom of my colleagues would have directed me to do in the interest of the national purpose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is respectfully noted.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of inquiring of the distinguished majority whip the schedule for tomorrow, and I will be pleased to yield to my friend, the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland, my good friend, the Democratic whip for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, the House will convene on Monday at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business and will consider several measures under suspension of the rules, and a final list of those bills will be sent to Members' offices by the end of this week.

□ 1845

Mr. Speaker, any votes called on those measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, we may consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules as well as the conference report on S. 342, the Keeping the Children and Families Safe Act. Next week we expect to consider several bills under a rule, including H.R. 8, the Death Tax Permanency Act; H.R. 1528, the Taxpayers Protection and IRS Accountability Act; and H.R. 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act.

I would like to note for all Members that we are making a change to schedules that were sent to offices at the beginning of the year, and we do not plan to have votes next Friday, June 20.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the information he provided us. I would like to ask a number of questions about bills that we see on the horizon, to see whether or not they may be scheduled in the near future.

The Associated Health Plans, can you tell us what day we might consider that bill, and how the bill will be considered, and whether or not we will be allowed a substitute and/or amendment?

Mr. BLUNT. If the gentleman will continue to yield, we intend to bring that bill to the floor this coming week, I think on Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. HOYER. Does the gentleman have any information as to whether or not the minority would be allowed a substitute to that bill?

Mr. BLUNT. We look forward to a fair and full debate on that bill. Our rules generally leave that to the Committee on Rules, but if the proposed substitute is within the rules of the House, that is normally the procedure.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's remarks and I hope that we will be able to get a substitute and such amendments as we might deem to be appropriate to be considered by the full House.

On the State tax bill, can you tell us when we might consider that bill and also the status of any rule?

Mr. BLUNT. Again, I have announced that we intend to bring that bill to the floor next week. Again I would expect that would be on Wednesday or Thursday.

Mr. HOYER. Do you know which would come first, the associated health plans or the State tax?

Mr. BLUNT. I do not know which will come first.

Mr. HOYER. The IRS Accountability Act, can you tell us what day we might consider that bill and under what type of rule?

Mr. BLUNT. We are working with the Committee on Ways and Means on that bill and intend to have that bill up the two heavy working days, Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

Mr. HOYER. Medicare prescription drugs, there has been a lot of activity on that, and I know that a lot of work is going on in the Senate and here in the House. Can you tell us about when we can expect to see the Medicare prescription drug legislation considered in the committee of jurisdiction and then on the floor?

Mr. BLUNT. If the gentleman will continue to yield, this is one of the most important topics we will deal with, one of the most important debates we will have this year. Both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce have been working hard for months now on a bill. That bill appears to be very near completion. We hope to have that bill on the floor before we take a district work break later this month.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Appropriations bills, I know we have started to mark up appropriations bills in the committee. When do you expect the first appropriations bills may come to the floor, now that some of the subcommittees are beginning to mark up their bills, and how many bills do you expect to consider before the July 4 district work period?

Mr. BLUNT. As the gentleman knows, the Committee on Appropriations has begun to move forward on these bills. Two bills, Military Construction and Homeland Security, were able to mark up their bills this week. We believe the Committee on Appropriations will have several additional markups in the next week. I would anticipate that we would have some of these appropriations bills on the floor this month.

Mr. HOYER. Lastly, Mr. Whip, the child tax credit, we have just instructed the conference committee to pass the Senate bill out of conference on a bipartisan vote. I do not see the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, but is there any feel when that bill might come out of conference?

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Whip, I do not have any specific feel for that, but I have heard that the other body has indicated a willingness to go to conference fairly quickly on that. I would expect that conference to move in the relatively near future.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, would it be fair to expect that we would consider that conference committee prior to the July 4 district work period?

Mr. BLUNT. It is always difficult to expect anything out of a conference committee, but it is certainly possible it could happen that quickly; but it is possible that is a little quicker than the conference could move. That would

be some time within the next 2 weeks. I do not think that is impossible, but I think it might be a little optimistic.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I would simply say from our side of the aisle, and I know I speak for the leader and myself, in light of the fact that the House has urged the conference committee to report out the Senate bill, and in light of the fact that the Senate passed it 94-2, it would seem to be a relatively easy matter if the conferees followed the instructions of the House to pass the Senate bill. I believe the Senate would probably concur in that judgment, and we could have a bill out of here perhaps as early as next week.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. I would only say that the motion to instruct was a much narrower decision than the vote on the bill itself. There were many Members not making that vote. Certainly the motion to instruct did carry, but perhaps it was because of those elevators that Members were stuck in.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, I do not know about everybody else, but of course had the gentleman who complained made the vote, we would have had one more vote on our side, as the gentleman indicated.

Mr. BLUNT. I would not want to overclaim where our votes were, but I was told we had more people in the elevator getting here. I think the gentleman's comments about time and ability to get to the floor were well taken, and I am sure the Speaker and the leaders on both sides of the aisle will take that under serious consideration.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I missed the vote as well. There was a thunderstorm. I was caught in traffic, and I had no idea that such a quick gavel would be called on such an important vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, it is almost an avalanche of support for the position of this side, and some enlightened souls on your side of the aisle, and so perhaps we ought to conclude before we have such an overwhelming majority that there will be no alternative but to follow those instructions.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. By the speed of some of the things we do, my friend, a couple of Members stepping up in 10 minutes of time is almost an avalanche. The gentleman may be right about that.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2003

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

ROADLESS RULE REVISION AND ALASKA

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the decision earlier this week by the Bush administration to roll back protection for over 14 million acres of pristine forestland in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in Alaska, the crown jewels of our national forest system.

In its most blatant example of catering to corporate special interests to date, the administration has once again put its wealthy contributors before the health and safety of our environments. Whether it comes to the stewardship of our precious forestlands, it appears the administration's priority is the timber industry, first and foremost, not the taxpayers or the environment. This decision, which was the result of a settlement with the State of Alaska, was made despite over 2.2 million comments and 600 public meetings and hearings on the roadless policy, the vast majority in support of protecting the Tongass and the Chugach, which is home to America's last great rainforest.

Just as damaging, the decision will allow individual States to seek additional exemptions, eroding national protections for 58.5 million acres of pristine national forests in 39 States.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation that I have introduced, the Alaska Rainforest Protection Act, and the Inslee-Boehlert National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act.

HONORING PASTOR CHARLES MCGOWAN

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a man who has been a role model for me and my 2,500 fellow church members in how to honor the Lord and serve our brothers and sisters. He has shown us the path to both living a life of service and leaving a legacy of service.

Charles McGowan, the senior pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, is retiring. His decades of service to congregations and his mission outreach are a testament to the good a single man can do when firmly planted in a place by God. Under Pastor McGowan's leadership, we have developed a strong extension training site for the Covenant Theological Seminary. And in a time when we seek international understanding, our congregation, guided by Pastor McGowan, has forged a Ukraine partnership that has led to the Ukraine Biblical Seminary in Kiev.

Not only has Charles served his country as a man of God, he has served his country as a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, Military Intelligence. Pastor McGowan and his wife Alice found time to raise a family of four children. Charles and Alice McGowan have shared generously with us. Theirs is truly the story of a life of grace, a life dedicated to others, and to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT ATANASIO HARO MARIN

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Sergeant Atanasio Haro Marin, who lost his life in service to our Nation during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today was his funeral. He came from a city I represent in Baldwin Park.

He was a member of Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery, 4th Infantry Division of Fort Hood, Texas. Today I pay tribute to him, to his loved ones, to his family for the safety and freedom and protections that he gave us. Let us not forget the other soldiers that are there that are also protecting our freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members of Congress please join me in extending my sincerest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Atanasio Haro Marin, and would ask that all Americans join me in remembering our soldiers at this time.

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COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FRANKS of Arizona) laid before the House the following communication

from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby appoint Mr. Joseph cooper of Baltimore, Maryland to the Advisory Committee On The Records Of Congress for a term of two years.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

REPORT ON ADMINISTRATION OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the Biennial Report to Congress on the Administration of the Coastal Zone Management Act by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for fiscal years 2000 and 2001. This report is submitted as required by section 316 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1451, *et seq.*).

The report provides an overview of the Coastal Zone Management Act and describes progress in addressing the major goals of the Act; partnerships to enhance coastal and ocean management; and research, education, and technical assistance.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 12, 2003.

REVIEW OF ALL FEDERAL DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Small Business, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 2202 of the Public Law 107-273, I hereby transmit a report prepared by my Administration detailing the findings of a comprehensive review of all Federal drug and substance abuse treatment, prevention,