

H.R. 5252, THE COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5252, the Communication and Enhancement Act. The COPE Act would allow telephone companies to reap the rewards of the cable business with few responsibilities and could also threaten the innovative nature of the Internet. I believe the passage of this bill would be a major setback for consumers, communities, and the public interest.

I think we all agree that there is a need for consumer choice and competition in cable. Currently, most communities are served by the cable industry's quasi-monopolies. However, "competition" in cable shouldn't have the effect of, cutting consumer protections, reducing public broadcasting, and eliminating local rights. "Competition" shouldn't be about providing lucrative markets with several cable service options and leaving those in poorer neighborhoods with low-quality service and the potential for ever increasing cable raising rates.

The COPE Act would put the Federal Communications Commission in charge of what our localities have been successfully handling for years. Do we really think the Federal Communications Commission will do a better job at resolving consumer complaints? Is the FCC going to come out to Skokie, Illinois and take care of problems that may arise concerning the town's public right-of-way? And, does the FCC have the resources—both in budget and personnel—to do so?

I am also greatly concerned that there are not adequate protections in this bill for the Internet as we know it. The telecom industry has already told us that they plan to operate their own form of censorship, slowing down or speeding up delivery of content depending on its relationship to the provider. I am concerned that they could also start blocking email from advocacy groups they don't agree with and shutting down startups that may offer competition to products they provide.

I understand that many argue that the cost of continuing with an open Internet will fall on the shoulder of consumers, and that the Titans of the Internet will get a free ride if we pass a net neutrality provision. However, while the COPE Act would allow the telcos to set up their tollbooths, there are no guarantees, no protections, nothing to stop the telcos from bilking consumers—even if the telcos were to charge Google and Yahoo. They could double dip—and why wouldn't they? One can say that it probably won't happen, but there is nothing in this bill to stop them.

Mr. Speaker, the COPE Act is not the answer to lack of competition in cable service. I urge my colleagues to oppose its passage.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK KOGOVSEK

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Kogovsek, a man of

quiet but firm character who spent his life making a difference in the lives of "underdogs."

Frank Kogovsek was born June 22, 1939 in Pueblo, Colorado, to Frank L. and Mary Blatnick Kogovsek. He graduated from Pueblo Catholic High School in 1957 and went on to the seminary. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1965. His fifth assignment was in La Junta, where he served as assistant pastor of Assumption Church in Bessemer.

He taught at Seton High as well, a Catholic school for girls. At Seton High he reconnected with a former classmate who had become a nun, Leona Reinert. Frank left the priesthood and Leona gave up being a nun and they were married in November 28, 1970 in Lake-wood, Colorado.

Leona fondly remembered his work with students, describing him as a mentor who was "always looking out for the underdog, trying to guide them and educate them as to things available to assist them. He was a kind, understanding, soft-spoken person."

Frank continued to work with underdogs when he and Leona moved to Adams County. He took on a job as a probation officer for the City of Denver. Until 1995, he worked with at-risk youth, mentoring and guiding young people that were mixed up with the law.

Frank and Leona's love of children led them to adopt three of their own. They had a daughter, Jennifer, and two sons, Greg and Jerome. Jennifer fondly remembered her father's love for the simple things in life. "He loved his backyard," she said. "He built a patio when we were kids. He just loved to be outside in summer."

Weakened by Parkinson's disease, Frank succumbed to pneumonia on February 22, 2006 at the age of 66. Frank was a common man that spent his life making an uncommon mark upon individuals that often had nowhere else to turn. I join his family in grieving his loss and commemorating his life of service as an example for all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY FRANK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Henry Frank, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Henry Frank was born in the Republic of Haiti, and was trained as an anthropologist. His research works have taken him all over Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and South America, particularly Bahia, the bastion of the African culture in Brazil.

Dr. Frank has given lectures on the African Preserved Religions in the New World especially Vodou as well as other aspects of the New World Cultures at many Universities and Museums in the U.S. and abroad. For nine years, Dr. Frank was the Assistant Director of Caribbean Studies in the Education Department at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He has also participated in conferences and has given lectures

at several prominent institutions, hospitals and healthcare facilities.

From 1982 to 1990, Dr. Frank served as a scholar for the New York Council for the Humanities program, "Speakers in the Humanities". In April 1990, he was appointed Consul General of Haiti in New York in the government of Mme. Ertha Trouillot, the first woman president of Haiti. From 1986 to 1990, Dr. Frank served as the Executive Director of the Haitian Neighborhood Service Center (HNSC) in NYC while simultaneously serving as a lecturer on African/Caribbean Culture and History for the NYC Council for the Humanities.

Dr. Frank has participated in many radio and TV programs in the U.S. and Europe. He appeared on French and German television and was a specialist on African Preserved Religion in the Americas and narrator for FINNISH TELEVISION in Finland. He was a consultant for the Vodoo segment of the series "In Search of Vodoo by Landsburg Productions". The program was first aired on WNBC-TV. He also was a consultant for WABC-TV in the 20/20 segment on "Zombification". He appeared with Wade Davis, the author of *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, as a guest on *The Geraldo Rivera Show* in opposition to the film of the same name. Dr. Frank was a consultant for the fabulous exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York entitled, "The Sacred Art of Haitian Vodou" that was on view from October 10, 1998 to January 3, 1999 and attracted 70,000 viewers. He also gave numerous lecture presentations and participated in panel discussions in conjunction with the exhibit. He continually serves as a consultant for that scientific and cultural institution.

Since April 1991, Dr. Frank has been the Executive Director of the Haitian Centers Council, a consortium of eight Haitian Centers nationwide. It is important to note that the Haitian Centers Council (HCC) offers the most comprehensive HIV/AIDS education and prevention program to the Haitian community at large for over 20 years, but not exclusively. It also provides services to other Caribbean and minority communities including French-speaking Africans. The organization has a 16 unit residential facility with support services for people with AIDS (PWA). In collaboration with the NYC Department of Education and United Way of NYC, HCC conducts programs for high school students pertaining to academic enhancement, cultural and historical enrichment, leadership, and socialization skills. HCC also provides a comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention program to the Haitian community at large and other minority communities. Under Dr. Frank's direction, HCC has been on the forefront of immigration issues, and the protection and defense of Haitian immigrant rights in the U.S. and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Henry Frank, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Frank's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

CONGRATULATING BOXER
BERNARD HOPKINS

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate celebrated boxer Bernard Hopkins on his illustrative career spanning 18 years and 53 fights as the former WBA, WBC, IBF, and WBO undisputed middleweight world champion and light heavyweight world champion.

At the age of 41, Bernard Hopkins accomplished what few other boxers were able to do successfully. A 3-to-1 underdog, Hopkins jumped two weight classes and soundly defeated light heavyweight champion Antonio Tarver, who previously had a 24-4 record. Hopkins' victory over Tarver quieted critics who claimed Hopkins was overly ambitious in his desire to challenge Tarver for the light heavyweight championship, and secured his place in the boxing world as one of the best pound-for-pound fighters in history.

Overcoming adversity as an underdog is a situation in which Hopkins is well familiar. Born and raised in North Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bernard Hopkins grew up in an environment surrounded by poverty, hardship, and violence. A repeat juvenile offender at the age of 13, Hopkins was a frequent visitor to a detention facility for juveniles in Philadelphia. By 17 years of age, Hopkins estimates that he appeared before a juvenile offender judge at least 30 times. After being charged with his eighth felony for strong-armed robbery, Hopkins was convicted and served in an adult detention facility until the age of 22. It was in prison where Hopkins found religion and his inspiration to dedicate his life to boxing.

Citing his time of incarceration as a "blessing," Hopkins boxed in prison and turned pro shortly after his release. Despite suffering several early career losses, Hopkins quickly gained the reputation of being an "old school" type fighter, dispatching his opponents mercilessly with speed and precision. By the end of 2000, Hopkins defended his IBF title 12 times without a loss, while beating upper-echelon fighters such as John David Jackson, Glencoff Johnson, Simon Brown, and Antwon Echols. Perhaps the most defining fight of Hopkins boxing career occurred when he defeated six-division titleholder Oscar De La Hoya for the undisputed middleweight championship with a jarring knockout blow in the ninth round.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Bernard Hopkins for establishing his place in boxing history as one of the most prolific professional fighters of all time.

A TRIBUTE TO GWENDOLYN
TOWNS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn community. It behoove's us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will

join me in recognizing her impressive accomplishments.

Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns attended college in her home State of North Carolina where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technological State University. Later, she earned a masters degree in Guidance and Counseling from Brooklyn College, and obtained postgraduate credits from Pace University.

She has advocated for quality education for children and adults through her work with several organizations including the Women's House of Detention and NYC Public Schools where she spent over 30 years training both students and teachers to fulfill their potential.

Mrs. Towns continues her leadership and commitment to education issues as a member of various national and local committees. Her accomplishments include raising over \$850,000 for undergraduate and graduate scholarships as chairperson of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Spouses Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament. In the 10th Congressional District, she administers the General Mills/CBC Spouses scholarship program, which provides financial resources to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral candidates pursuing careers in a health-related profession.

Additionally, Mrs. Towns serves on the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, and as President of the Interfaith Medical Center Auxiliary where she coordinates Toys for Tots and insures that each patient is remembered during the holiday season. As co-chair of the Interfaith Medical Center Foundation's annual fund raising ball, she is helping to ensure that the hospital continues to grow to meet the community's needs. Mrs. Towns is also affiliated with the NYC Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Concerned Women of Brooklyn, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Boys and Girls High School Women's Day (Women on the "High"), Bridge Street Martin Luther King Day Award, Barber Scotia College, New Lots Lion Club, NAACP and Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Most importantly, she and her husband, Congressman ED TOWNS, are the proud parents of two children: Assemblyman Darryl Towns and Deidra Towns Blount. They have five grandchildren: Kiara, Jasmine, Kristian, Trinity and Dale.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns as she offers her talents and philanthropic services for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Gwendolyn Towns' selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE JUDICIARY, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5576) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Hooley-Hulshof-Skelton amendment to increase funding for the HIDTA program. For the past 5 fiscal years, the HIDTA program has essentially been level funded at \$226 million. Our amendment increases the fiscal year 2007 amount by \$8 million for a new total of \$235 million. This increase is offset by reducing the bill's funding level for the National Archives by \$8 million, which will leave Archives with an estimated \$1.4 million increase over last year's funding level.

I would like to thank the gentlelady from Oregon for working with my office on this amendment. I know Oregon has a significant meth problem just like Missouri, and I'm glad that we can work together to combat this horrific drug. I also would like to thank my good friend from Missouri, Mr. SKELTON, for his support.

Methamphetamine use and production is a serious problem in my home State of Missouri. Since 2002, Missouri has led the Nation in the number of reported clandestine meth labs. These labs are an insidious problem. Not only are these labs highly volatile and prone to explosions, they create environmental hazards and pose significant health risks for those living in surrounding areas. The highly toxic by-product that meth makers leave in their wake pollutes the environment and groundwater, leaves homes uninhabitable and puts law enforcement and clean-up crews in peril.

But most importantly, we must take every step possible to stop the spread of this drug because of the terrible toll it is taking on people in our communities. Sadly, I think it is safe to say that all my colleagues are all too aware of the irreparable harm this drug takes on the physical health of its users. Many of you have seen the before and after photographs of these emaciated, scarred—both mentally and physically—and often toothless users.

The recent enactment of the Combat Meth Act was a step in the right direction. This law is a preventive measure designed to limit meth makers access to cold medicines containing pseudoephedrine, which is a common precursor to meth. While I am hopeful that this law will help curb domestic production, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to combat meth trafficking. That is why it is so crucial we continue to provide funding for law enforcement programs, such as HIDTA.

This joint endeavor between Federal, State and local law enforcement has been highly effective in combating the trafficking of illegal