

ways it can. However, we have been down this road before, and our most recent attempt was met with a resounding rebuke from the Supreme Court. The Communications Decency Act was declared unconstitutional by a unanimous vote, and I harbor serious concerns that this bill will meet the same fate.

While the notion of regulating materials which are deemed "harmful to minors" sounds appealing, it raises many practical concerns. Who decides what materials are "harmful to minors?" Should the standard be community-based, or national? If local judgments about the suitability of materials differ around the country, how can a global medium such as the Internet respond to these different views? For example, will the Internet sale of mainstream movies and sound recordings be subject to the most conservative community's view of what is harmful to minors, exposing itself to civil and criminal penalties in the process? If a chill is placed on the sale of these materials, what will be the practical effect on the growth of electronic commerce?

These questions and many more should be addressed before we rush to adopt an easy fix to a complex problem. The Supreme Court is likely to force Congress's hand on these matters, and reiterate its demand for a more thorough evaluation if and when this legislation is enacted.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Child Online Protection Act.

It is our duty to protect America's children from online pornographers.

Kids in America know computers. They are being raised in an age where information is at their fingertips at the flip of a switch and a click of the mouse.

While Internet access is an incredible enhancer of learning, our kids are also put in danger of exposure to pornographic materials.

The Child Online Protection Act would require operators of commercial adult World Wide Web sites to take steps to restrict children's access to pornographic materials.

Opponents of this bill will claim that we are attempting to federally censor the Internet. This is simply not true. The bill simply requires commercial providers to place materials that are "harmful to minors" on the other side of adult verification technology.

Let's protect our children and make the Internet more family friendly by passing the Child Online Protection Act today.

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) the principal author of the bill and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) who has indeed improved it so much with the privacy provisions.

Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3783, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A Bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require per-

sons who are engaged in the business of distributing, by means of the World Wide Web, material that is harmful to minors to restrict access to such material by minors, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 505. An act to amend the provisions of title 17, United States Code, with respect to the duration of copyright, and for other purposes.

S. 2561. An act to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act with respect to furnishing and using consumer reports for employment purposes.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-790) on the resolution (H. Res. 579) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 131, WAIVING ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REMAINDER OF 105TH CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY BILL OR JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING GENERAL OR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 105-791) on the resolution (H. Res. 580) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J.Res. 131) waiving certain enrollment requirements for the remainder of the One Hundred Fifth Congress with respect to any bill or joint resolution making general or continuing appropriations for fiscal year 1999, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LEGISLATION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 575, I announce

the following suspension to be considered today:

S. 505.

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4104, TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 579 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 579

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 4104) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the United States Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed rule for the conference report to accompany H.R. 4104, the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999 waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report will be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very dear friend and my colleague from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) for yielding me the customary half-hour, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule and oppose the conference report. I realize we are nearing the end of our session and I understand that tempers are growing very short, but I am also very disappointed to hear that my Republican colleagues on the Treasury-Postal conference committee have deleted some Democrat-supported provisions, and it appears that they did so without any Democratic participation.

As late as yesterday afternoon, discussions between Democrat and Republican conferees were ongoing and all indications were that the conference report would pass with a bipartisan majority. But this morning without so much as a notice of meeting, my Democratic colleagues learned that these Democratic provisions had been taken