

continue to save for retirement. This is a major step in the right direction. I applaud this effort.

Last year, the Republicans included a provision in their Balanced Budget Act which would have allowed employers to raid the retirement funds of their employees. President Clinton specifically mentioned that provision, among others, including Medicare and welfare, as a reason for vetoing the bill. This bill contains provisions that are designed to deter employers from engaging in such behavior. This emphasizes our strong commitment to protect and preserve the pensions of hard-working individuals.

Another good feature of this bill is the provision that would ensure that workers of companies which go out of business or workers who left an employer many years earlier would be able to collect their retirement benefits from these employers through the Pension Benefit Corporation [PBGC]. PBGC will act as a clearinghouse for the terminated plans of these employers. This will help many of our workers who otherwise may have no other way of collecting these funds. This provision will have a very positive impact on many workers at a time when they need it most. I strongly support this effort.

I have always supported portability in our pension system. I am very pleased to see that the administration will be taking additional steps to improve the ability of an employee to take his or her retirement account to a subsequent employer. I welcome this effort.

In conclusion, I reiterate my support for this bill, and I look forward to working toward making its goals become reality.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE ON ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker: It is with great pleasure that I rise today to salute Albertus Magnus College on its 70th Anniversary.

Albertus Magnus was founded in 1925 by the Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, Columbus, Ohio. It was the first Catholic residential liberal arts college for women in New England.

The College has established a tradition of setting precedents in educational innovation. The New Dimensions Program was established in 1994 and enables students to work and maintain family commitments while obtaining a degree in business administration in only two years. The Tri-Session Plan was implemented in 1993 and allows students to complete their degree program in three years by attending three sessions per academic year instead of two. Although the program is intense and academically rigorous, students are able to save valuable time and money. The program has been cited by leading educators as model to control the ever-rising cost of a college education. These are only two examples of the College's mission to make a liberal arts education both intellectually challenging and accessible.

Throughout all the changes and reforms, Albertus Magnus has remained steadfast in its commitment to the pursuit of knowledge and

the liberal arts. Albertus Magnus is dedicated to guiding undergraduates on their academic and intellectual journey. The College strives to provide students with the tools to build their own paradigm for understanding and interpreting the world. Students are taught to engage in the analytical process as they try to understand and then question traditional schools of thought. Graduates of Albertus Magnus leave with the knowledge that life is a journey and that they must never cease to question and explore what they believe to be true.

I am pleased to wish Albertus Magnus congratulations on the 70th Anniversary. I am confident that under the strong leadership of President Julia McNamara the College will move into the 21st century at the forefront of education.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 16 and Wednesday May 21, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 176 and 184.

Had I been here, I would have voted "no" on rollcall 176, and "yes" on rollcall 184.

I ask unanimous consent to have my statement appear in the appropriate place in the record.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. IAN EDWARDS

HON. GREG GANSKE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to the recent travels of Dr. Ian Edwards, president of Toastmasters International.

Dr. Edwards' trip in early May was the first ever presidential visit to the Toastmasters National Capitol District 27. He was elected president of Toastmasters International in 1995 and has been a Toastmaster for over 18 years.

Dr. Edwards and his family currently live in west Des Moines, IA and I am pleased to have such an accomplished public speaker in my district.

#### THE DATABASE INVESTMENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ANTIPIRACY ACT OF 1996

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Database Investment and Intellectual Property Antipiracy Act of 1996, a bill to encourage continued investment in the production and distribution of valuable new databases.

Electronic databases, and other compilations of factual material, are absolutely indis-

pensable to the American economy on the verge of the new century. These information products put a wealth of data at the fingertips of business people, professionals, scientists, scholars, and consumers, and enable them to retrieve from this haystack of information the specific factual needle that they need to solve a particular economic, research, or educational problem. Whether they focus on financial, scientific, legal, medical, bibliographic, news, or other information, databases are an essential tool for improving productivity, advancing education and training, and creating a more informed citizenry. They are also the linchpin of a dynamic commercial information industry in the United States.

Developing, compiling, distributing, and maintaining commercially significant databases requires substantial investments of time, personnel, and money. Information companies must dedicate massive resources to gathering and verifying factual material, presenting it in a user-friendly way, and keeping it current and useful to customers. U.S. firms have been the world leaders in this field. They have brought to market a wide range of valuable databases that meet the information needs of businesses, professionals, researchers, and consumers worldwide. But several recent legal and technological developments threaten to cast a pall over this progress, by eroding the incentives for the continued investment needed to maintain and build upon the U.S. lead in world markets for electronic information resources.

Here in the United States, the 1991 Supreme Court decision in *Fiest Publications v. Rural Telephone Service Co.* marked a tougher attitude toward claims of copyright in databases. While reaffirming that most—although not all—commercially significant databases satisfy the "originality" requirement for protection under copyright, the Court emphasized that this protection is "necessarily thin." Several subsequent lower court decisions have underscored that copyright cannot stop a competitor from lifting massive amounts of factual material from a copyrighted database to use as the basis for its own competing product. Database producers are concerned that some of these cases may also cast doubt on the ability of a database proprietor to use contractual provisions to protect against unfair competition from such "free riders."

In Europe, a 6-year legislative process culminated earlier this year in the issuance of a European Union Directive on Legal Protection of Databases. Among other things, the Directive creates a new, non-copyright form of legal protection for databases, to supplement copyright. But it denies this new protection to U.S.-originated databases unless the United States is found to offer "comparable" protection to European databases. When fully implemented in 1998, the European Directive could place U.S. firms at an enormous competitive disadvantage throughout the entire European market.

At the World Intellectual Property Organization, a growing international consensus supports development of a new international treaty on noncopyright protection for databases, with the possibility of action as early as December 1996. Indeed, this week in Geneva, U.S. negotiators are putting forward a draft for such an international instrument.

In cyberspace, technological developments represent a threat as well as an opportunity