

Don Gordon, an outstanding newspaperman, who has retired after a distinguished career in journalism. Don served the western Kentucky area for 8 years as editorial editor for the Paducah Sun.

Don was born in Overland, MO, and upon graduating high school, served his country in the navy during the Korean war. In 1959, he graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in journalism and has worked for newspapers ever since. Don has been a reporter, city editor, copy editor, and managing editor and has worked for newspapers in Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, and South Carolina, before coming to Kentucky. He and his wife, Zona, moved to Paducah in 1989, to return to a part of the country they love.

Don's interest in writing began at a very early age, and during his school days he was involved in printing neighborhood news and sports sheets. In the years when Don first became a professional journalist, it was very rare for a reporter to be credited with a byline. However, a series of articles Don wrote covering a murder trial so impressed one of his first editors, that he was given a byline for his good work. This was only to be the first of many instances in which Don's work was to be recognized by his peers. While reluctant to mention such things, he has won awards for best editorial from the Kentucky Press Association and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for journalism.

"Excellence" is the word that best describes Don's work. Day after day, he consistently brought public issues into perspective by combining a mastery of the written language and knowledge of a variety of subjects, both local and national. He was a newspaperman's newspaperman.

Retirement in Don's case does not mean that he will be inactive. After 41 years of marriage, he and Zona will now have the opportunity to travel. The West and Alaska beckon. The couple also looks forward to serving as volunteer missionaries. They are active in Trinity Baptist Church, and have been involved in the Gideon Bible Society, and served in jail and prison ministries.

Mr. President, I commend Don Gordon for his outstanding service to western Kentucky. He will be missed by friends and coworkers, and just as importantly, by his many devoted readers. I ask that you and my fellow colleagues join me in recognizing the career of this outstanding Kentuckian, and wishing him well in all future pursuits.●

THE GARTNER GROUP, THE NEW YORK FEDERAL RESERVE BANK, AND DEUTSCHE MORGAN GRENFELL AGREE: POTENTIAL FOR A "MILD GLOBAL RECESSION"

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, we learn today in the New York Times

that an alarming number of companies and governments are failing to cope with the impending year 2000 computer crisis.

A study by the respected Gartner Group, which specializes on information technology, indicates that fully "30 percent of companies worldwide had not started addressing the year 2000 problem," and that of those "88 percent were smaller companies." This is most troubling news. Failure to comply could lead, in the opinion of William J. McDonough, the president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, to a global recession.

Analysts are also predicting that many companies will go out of business when their computer systems fail at the turn of the century. Again I quote the Times article: "Edward Yardeni, the chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, issued a report last week saying that there is a 35-percent chance that the millennium bug will cause 'at least a mild global recession' in 2000."

My first day bill, S. 22, would establish an independent commission, more like a task force, to ensure that the Federal Government will be compliant, and to ensure that awareness and compliance will be raised in the private sector.

I ask that the article from today's Times, "Many Reported Unready To Face Year 2000 Bug," be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, Sept. 25, 1997]  
MANY REPORTED UNREADY TO FACE YEAR 2000  
BUG

(By Laurence Zuckerman)

A new study shows that a large proportion of businesses and government agencies around the world are not properly preparing for the effect that the year 2000 will have on their computer systems, increasing the possibility of potentially serious disruptions as the end of the century approaches.

The study by the Gartner Group, an adviser on information technology, found that 30 percent of companies worldwide had not started addressing the year 2000 problem, or the millennium bug, as it is often called. Of these, 88 percent were smaller companies with fewer than 2,000 employees.

"We are going to see a very large number of small companies in very serious trouble," said Matthew Hotle, an analyst at Gartner, which is based in Stamford, Conn. "They are not going to finish in time."

The research also showed that large institutions, like universities and hospitals, and Government agencies, were far behind in their efforts. "We were expecting that some agencies would have at least made up some ground over the last six to nine months," Mr. Hotle added, "but they are way behind."

The study, which is scheduled to be issued next month at an annual Gartner Group symposium, comes at a time when concern is rising about the potential impact of the millennium bug. Last week, Representative Steve Horn of California, the Republican chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees information technology issues, graded the preparation efforts of 24 Government agencies. Eleven received either D's or F's, including the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Transportation.

In addition, some prominent economists and William J. McDonough, the president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, have warned that failure to cope with the 2000 problem properly could cause a global recession.

The millennium bug dates back to the dawn of the computer age, when computer memory was so scarce that programmers abbreviated the year as two digits. A computer that read "97" as a date assumed it meant 1997. After the turn of the century, those same programs, unless corrected, will read "00" as 1900, disrupting everything from the calculation of interest rates to the shelf life of breakfast cereal. Because the two-digit dates appear in different forms in different software, finding and correcting each program is extremely time consuming and labor intensive.

The Gartner Group has said in the past that fixing existing computer software will cost between \$300 billion and \$600 billion, an estimate that has not been increased as a result of the study. Mr. Hotle said that other estimates, including the costs of new hardware, business interruptions and potential litigation, could push the figure over \$1 trillion.

The study surveyed 2,300 companies, institutions and government agencies in 17 countries. Each was given a rating based on their progress. The results show that most large companies are already well along in their efforts to cope with the millennium bug, led by the financial services industry. Though only 52 percent of companies with more than 20,000 employees were considered well positioned, the figure was nearly 80 percent in the United States.

The problem is that many large companies are becoming increasingly dependent on smaller suppliers that may not be as well prepared. For example, if a crucial parts supplier cannot deliver to a big auto maker, it will not matter that the auto company is year-2000 compliant.

"You are going to see some major slow-downs because of these small companies," said Lou Marcoccio, research director of Gartner's year 2000 practice.

Some analysts have also predicted that a number of companies, already teetering on the edge, will go out of business when their computer systems fail as a result of the bug. Edward Yardeni, the chief economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, issued a report last week saying that there is a 35 percent chance that the millennium bug will cause "at least a mild global recession" in 2000.

While the Federal Government has come under criticism in Congress, the Gartner study found that the United States is far ahead of other countries. Last week, the Office of Management and Budget sent a report to Congress predicting that the cost of fixing the Government's computers would be \$3.8 billion.●

MAJ. GEN. RAY E. MCCOY, USA

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to commend Maj. Gen. Ray E. McCoy, USA, upon his retirement from the United States Army after more than 32 years of distinguished and dedicated service to our Nation.

Major General McCoy, a native son of the Oklahoma farmland, graduated in 1965 from Oklahoma State University, where he received the prestigious Drummond Saber Award as the year's outstanding ROTC graduate. That honor was the harbinger of an extraordinary military career.