unique cheer, they departed for the western Mass mecca of ice hockey, Cushing Academy. Greenwich, no match for the women of St. Mark's, skated off the Cushing rink 2–0 losers, leaving the Lions to face Middlesex on Sunday for the New England Championship.

St. Mark's came to the game having played Middlesex once during the regular season, beating the Zebra's 2–1, and they knew that it would be an exciting game. From the face off, St. Mark's controlled the puck and frustrated Middlesex with their solid defense, held together by their spectacular goalie Melissa Glaser, who simply would not let the puck into her net. Every attempt made by the Zebras was foiled by Glaser and her defense, which consisted of only three players—Zwerdling, Ingraham, and Kirsten Larsen—who had to play double shifts for the entire game. At the other end of the rink. St. Mark's offense kept up a relentless attack on the Middlesex's goalie. In the first period, the Lions scored twice: first on a tip-in by Gretchen Anderson from a Crowell slap shot, and again on a break away by Amy McNaught. St. Mark's skated off the ice after the period up 2–0, knowing that if they continued their offensive pressure and held back Middlesex they could win the game and the New England Championship. Another Anderson goal assisted by Crowell, during a Middlesex power play, along with many sensational saves by Glaser and her dependable defense, gave the Lions a 3–0 lead at the end of the second period. As Middlesex skated onto the ice before the third period, they were preparing for another fifteen minutes of offensive frustration. As the clock rolled down to 11.6 seconds and Glaser caught a flying Middlesex slap shot, the St. Mark's team seemed to spectators to win the New England's as easily as Glaser snatched that puck into her glove.

Winning the Division 2 New England Prep School ice Hockey Championship culminates a season that brought back the respect St. Mark's women's ice hockey held in the early nineties. With eight experienced players and two aggressive coaches returning for the '98–99 season, expect the team to reunite next year as a might force in the ISL and all of New England.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT LEE ON THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, much has been written and said about the economic growth and political advances made by the Republic of China during the last few years. Taiwan's achievements are respected throughout the world. Much of the credit is due to Taiwan's political leadership.

Taiwan is led by Cornell-educated Dr. Lee Teng-hui, who was elected Taiwan's ninth president and inaugurated on May 20, 1996. His running mate was Dr. Lien Chan. Other government leaders include Foreign Minister Jason Hu and Representative Stephen Chen. While Vice President Lien Chan has worked to maintain stability and respect for the law at home, Minister Hu wisely exerts Taiwan's presence abroad, having recently visited Africa and a number of southeast Asian countries seeking new friends for his country. In the meantime, Representative Stephen Chen has assiduously briefed us on the Hill of all the recent happenings in Taiwan. Representative Chen is a tireless diplomat.

Together, Taiwan's leaders have continued to bring their people economic progress and an improved political climate. The Republic of China is a young dynamic nation and a model for the developing world. On the occasion of President Lee's second anniversary in office, I wish to extend my congratulations to President Lee and his people.

COMPETITION IN THE VIDEO SERVICES INDUSTRY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring a study on competition in video services by the Hudson Institute to the attention of my colleagues.

Price inflation in cable television service is causing some policy makers to suggest renewing rate regulation—that is, re-re-regulating cable prices. While it is the case that there have been notable price increases by some cable systems, to recommend extending price controls is to ignore the realities of the marketplace and the lessons of the past.

It is important to note that these cost increases are authorized under the 1992 Cable Act, which I opposed. Indeed, it is my view that passage of the Cable Act did little to keep down prices, that it resulted in reduced capital investment and a stagnation of services offered by the industry, and that the regulations themselves proved to be a costly and inefficient expense.

The rate regulation imposed by the Cable Act increased the cost of capital to cable systems and prevented many from upgrading their systems. One of the major goals of the 1996 Telecommunications Act was to promote competition and investment in the delivery of video services to the home. Under the Telecommunications Act, rates for cable services beyond the basic tier are to be deregulated three years after enactment. The Act also removed the statutory ban on telephone companies offering video services within their regions.

While competition to incumbent cable operators may not be growing as quickly as anticipated, it is significant nonetheless. The regional telephone company Ameritech is building cable systems throughout the Midwest to compete alongside existing cable operators. Upwards of ten percent of households in the market have Direct Broadcast Satellite service, and wireless cable service is expanding as well. Technological improvements in the area of satellite broadcasting alone promise more choices for video consumers.

Equally as important, the cable industry has been investing to provide competition in new areas, such as Internet access, local telephony, and Personal Communications Services. Cable firms also are leaders in the use of fiber optic and digital compression technology, and have been upgrading their systems to provide customers with a greater range of programming choices.

Having made the case for competition and against price controls, I must add that I am not satisfied with the current state of competition in video services. I believe that it is entirely appropriate for Congress to reexamine program access rules, copyright laws, and other potential barriers to free and open competition. As Vice-Chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications, Trade and Consumer Protection, I am committed to see full-blown competition and choice in video programming.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the following executive summary of the Hudson Institute study to the attention of all Members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 1997 and early 1998, concerns have been raised among regulators, members of Congress, and consumer groups regarding cable television rates. This study analyzes the rationale for new efforts by the FCC to limit rates or impose other regulations on the cable television industry in response to such concerns. It examines the historical record of cable regulation, takes a new look at the state of competition for multichannel video programming, reviews the important capital investment in new digital services by the industry, and assesses the possible impact of new price controls on competition in the wider telecommunications market, including Internet access, telephony, and video programming.

The study finds that, despite current market share of around 85.6 percent (falling to around 75 percent by 2002); dynamic services offered by Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), broadcast television, and other multichannel video delivery systems provide substantial and growing competition for cable television. More than 65 percent of households can receive six or more broadcast channels with a suitable antenna. For many households, DBS offers greater levels of service at prices comparable to or lower than, cable's. DBS appears to provide a good substitute for cable even after accounting for up-front equipment costs. Competing cable systems (overbuilds and Satellite Master Antenna (TV) have become cost-effective and are growing rapidly, especially in the Midwest and Northeast.

The study also finds that past cable regulation, especially rate controls, provided little or no benefit to consumers, and in fact harmed consumers by inducing lower quality of service. On the other hand, periods of less regulation, such as the years between 1984 and 1990, stimulated production of greater quality and wider choice of programming for consumers, produced steady increases in demand for cable, and produced net consumer welfare gains of $3 billion to $6.5 billion per year.

Finally, the evidence shows that the cable industry is in the midst of investing up to $28 billion to improve its infrastructure, including over $1 billion per year to convert to interactive digital services. The entry of cable firms into new businesses such as telephony, Internet, and digital video is improving consumer choice and reducing prices for these services, especially to residential customers; spurring a competitive response from the telephone industry to upgrade its data transmission capabilities; and giving a boost to the introduction of digital television and to competition in the Internet business. An imposition of rate controls similar to those of 1993 and 1994 would undermine the financial basis for the cable industry to enter these new businesses in the near term, and hence weaken competition in the wider telecommunications market place.