

"blank" passages when relying on mechanical recordings. In contrast, information was also submitted at this time which suggested that the stenographic method will become even more cost-effective in the future as a result of improvements in recording technology.

These findings from the 103d Congress were confirmed last term when the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property again conducted its own hearing on H.R. 1445, the precursor to the bill I am introducing today; and later, when the Committee on the Judiciary reported H.R. 1445 to the full House.

Mr. Speaker, I have never entirely understood why Rule 30 was changed in the first place. Like many others, I have found that experience is the best teacher; and it has been my experience that no one in my district was displeased with the application of the law prior to 1993. I visit my district frequently and maintain good relations with members of the bench and bar, and not one attorney or judge ever complained about the operation of Rule 30 to me before 1993.

I am pleased to continue my ongoing support for reinstating the pre-1993 law on Rule 30 by sponsoring this bill.

STARR SUBPOENAS THE PRESIDENT'S MEN WHO STAND IN THE LINE OF FIRE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today we have learned that the Independent Counsel Ken Starr has issued a new subpoena for the testimony of Special Agent Larry Cockell, a plainclothes Secret Service officer who is in charge of the President's personal security detail. This new turn in Mr. Starr's endless investigation raises an important question: why didn't he subpoena this plainclothes agent earlier this year before he went to court over whether the Secret Service should give confidential information to the grand jury.

Perhaps Mr. Starr was concerned that the court might take a different view of his arguments against the Secret Service's privilege if it knew the full scope of his intentions with respect to questioning the Secret Service. It is disturbing that two courts have had to examine the issue of a secret service privilege without being informed that Mr. Starr also intended to question plainclothes Secret Service agents in addition to the uniformed Secret Service agents.

Plainclothes Secret Service agents are unique in that they enjoy intimate access to the President and are responsible for his physical safety in public crowds and other places where the risk of harm is the greatest. In the event of an assassination attempt, they are truly in the line of fire.

Seeking to question those agents raises a different set of issues which the courts have not yet been confronted with. Mr. Starr's latest subpoenas frustrate the orderly judicial resolution of the important issues raised by his unprecedented requests for the testimony of uniformed Secret Service agents.

The Secret Service argument in support of a privilege against testifying seems more reasonable than Starr's argument that the attor-

ney-client privilege did not survive the death of the client. In both cases, there was little available precedent and the arguments were based on policy considerations. If Starr's attorney-client privilege argument was not frivolous and deserved Supreme Court review, it must be said that the Secret Service's sincere arguments in support of their protective function is just as legitimate.

It seems Mr. Starr is determined to deny the Secret Service the same opportunity for Supreme Court review that he has sought for himself. He has already forced the Secret Service to seek a stay of his subpoena in court while it pursues its request for judicial review.

It has been reported that Starr may ask Secret Service personnel to testify about conversations between President Clinton and his attorney Robert Bennett concerning the Paula Jones case. This would create a potentially tragic Catch-22 situation in which the Secret Service has an obligation to guard the President, but Mr. Starr argues that their presence eliminates the President's attorney-client privilege. It is unreasonable, unfair and unprecedented for Mr. Starr to force the President to compromise his Secret Service protection in order to receive confidential advice from his private attorney.

To its credit, the Secret Service strongly believes that their duty to protect the President is far more important than Mr. Starr's inquiry into what any of them may or may not have witnessed in the course of carrying out their responsibilities.

It is unseemly and inappropriate for Mr. Starr to continue to force the Secret Service to forego the judicial review that it believes is absolutely appropriate in order to carry out its mission of protecting the President. Mr. Starr got to go to the Supreme Court on his privilege issue and he lost. Why doesn't the Secret Service, which is trying to protect the life of this and future Presidents, get to go to the Supreme Court? What Mr. Starr is trying to do with this latest subpoena is to get the testimony he wants before the arguments about privilege can reach the Supreme Court. This new subpoena is a tactical maneuver to avoid the full judicial review of these issues of enormous national importance. They are legal maneuvers that violate a fundamental sense of fairness and are really unnecessary to the execution of his statutory responsibilities.

It is obvious to everyone that any further review will be handled in an expeditious manner, just as the courts have already done. A fair-minded prosecutor would welcome a complete Supreme Court review of the privilege asserted by the Secret Service and efforts to thwart such review only serves to increase the doubts that many have about the legitimacy of this investigation.

A TRIBUTE TO MIDDLE SCHOOL 45

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on July 7, 1998 while the House was in recess, I had the privilege of receiving, in my district office, a group of thirteen students from Middle School 45 who won first place in the K-8th grade cat-

egory in the National Chess Tournament held in Phoenix, Arizona from April 30 to May 2. I am submitting for the RECORD some remarks I made during their visit.

It gives me great pleasure to be with such a wonderful group of gifted and talented South Bronx students from Middle School 45. Oscar Bedoya, Ariel Uriarte, Bianey Morillo, Rafael Ortiz, Eliexer De Jesus, Joel Nolasco, Juan De Jesús, Jorge Pérez, Trung Nguyen, Sarun Sin, Trung Bui, Granit Gjonbalaj and Reasy Suon, under the leadership of coach Félix López, you won first place in the K-8th grade category among 62 teams who participated in the National Chess Tournament held in Phoenix, Arizona from April 30 to May 2.

You have demonstrated an outstanding skill, for which you have become role models in our community. We are proud of your accomplishments and I hope that you will continue succeeding in chess and also in academics. I also encourage you to take full advantage of the possible opportunity that some universities offer to chess champions to earn scholarships for their higher education. You are terrific examples for future chess players.

I would like to applaud teachers César Solís and Georgina Pierre for being with us today but, more important, for their tireless work in helping these students reach their potential.

I also would like to commend the National Scholastic Chess Foundation for sponsoring the chess program at Middle School 45, which includes weekly chess classes for 500 students. Their teaching and support were invaluable for what you have achieved.

I have the privilege of representing the 16th district of New York where Middle School 45 is located, and I am delighted by your chess team's success.

All of us here congratulate Middle School 45, the administration and faculty, and you, the students whose ambition and hard work will make this great institution a tremendous source of pride and success for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Middle School 45, to the administration and faculty, and to the students whose ambition and hard work will make this great institution a tremendous source of pride and success for years to come.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2676, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act Conference Report (H.R. 2676).

Continuously, I hear from my constituents who ask this Congress to address ways to simplify filing, and improve IRS customer assistance and service. I have long advocated that the IRS should be overhauled to better serve taxpayers and run more like a business. I believe that the Conference Report we are voting on today effectively addresses these concerns.

This landmark legislation establishes an independent review board which will oversee

IRS administration, management and execution of IRS laws, which should help the agency run more effectively. Six of the nine members of this review board will come from the private sector with expertise in customer service, federal tax laws and organizational development. The remaining three members would be the Secretary of the Treasury, the IRS Commissioner and a representative from the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU). Their goal will be to recommend options which will improve overall effectiveness in customer service.

I also want to highlight several provisions of the Conference Report which are aimed at protecting taxpayers rights. This bipartisan Conference Report now places the burden of proof on the IRS rather than the taxpayer in tax disputes that come before a U.S. Tax Court judge. This agreement also requires the IRS to make available to taxpayers clarifications, definitions and explanations on a variety of matters. Also falsification or destruction of documents, or violating the civil rights of a taxpayer will now result in the dismissal of the individual responsible, and will permit taxpayers to sue the government if any of these charges can be proven.

Often, I hear from my constituents that filing federal taxes is too complex, and as a former small business owner I agree that filing federal taxes is unnecessarily confusing and time consuming. The Conference Report addresses this concern by calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to establish an electronic commerce advisory group policy that promotes paper-less filing. Under the Conference Report, the advisory group will study ways to increase taxpayer use of electronic filing and work on a plan to meet the goal of 80 percent electronic filing by 2007. I am especially pleased that this tax simplification provision was included in H.R. 2676.

This bill, which requires the IRS to be more accountable to all taxpayers, is a step in the right direction. Let us move forward on the widespread agreements that exist to substantially reform the IRS. That is why I urge my colleagues to vote for passage of this Conference Report today.

HOMEOWNERS PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Homeowners Insurance Protection Act which will amend the Truth in Lending Act and stop the abusive practice of overcharging homeowners for private mortgage insurance.

Private mortgage insurance has given millions of Americans the opportunity to become homeowners. This is a valuable service that mortgage industry provides, however, most homeowners are unclear about their rights under this insurance. Many Americans believe that private mortgage insurance insures them, when in fact it insures the lender while the homeowner pays the premium. As the practice stands, homeowners who have paid off 20 percent of their loan no longer need the insurance, but they do not realize it and continue to pay the premium throughout the life of their mortgage. In some cases, 20 to 30 extra

years of payments. For an individual who pays \$350 per year on a 30-year mortgage, that can mean paying an extra \$7,000 to \$10,000 of unnecessary premiums.

This legislation will bring about two simple reforms. It will require full disclosure of a homeowners' right to cancel the insurance once they have down 20 percent on their home. It will also require the mortgage lenders to inform consumers at least once a year of their cancellation rights. Both of these requirements must be provided by the creditor at no extra cost to the consumer.

This bill will protect the rights of homeowners from overpaying unnecessary premiums while maintaining the important role of private mortgage insurance in promoting home ownership. Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

COLUSA BASIN WATERSHED INTEGRATED RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know all too well, some of our most contentious public policy debates concern the management of natural resources. We have all spent many, many hours arguing over conflicting economic and environmental needs, especially in the West.

Fortunately, a new approach to natural resources management has emerged. It emphasizes compatibility rather than conflict. It relies on consensus to develop solutions. It seeks to provide multiple benefits to the environment and to urban and rural communities.

The Colusa Basin Watershed Integrated Resources Management Plan embodies this new approach. It is a comprehensive water management program that will provide flood protection and increase surface and groundwater supplies while enhancing wetland and riparian habitat for wildlife in a million-acre watershed in the Sacramento Valley of California.

I am pleased today to introduce the Colusa Basin Watershed Integrated Resources Management Act, which will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to participate in this innovative program.

Over many decades, devastating floods have repeatedly struck the Colusa Basin, resulting in the loss of life and costly damages to public and private property. In 1995, the Basin suffered an estimated \$100 million in flood damage. Flooding in early 1997 again caused serious losses, and today the region is counting the cost of flooding caused by recent storms.

Local authorities know that reducing peak storm flows is the key to preventing widespread damage. A few years ago, they began to bring together representatives of the agricultural and urban communities, environmental interests, and state and federal agencies to develop a plan that would control peak storm flows, increase water supplies and enhance the environment.

The initial plan was outlined in October 1993, a reconnaissance study was completed the following year, and a stakeholder's task force conducted a series of public workshops to identify goals for the program. What emerged from this collaborative process is a

plan for construction of several small-scale, environmentally-sound flood control and groundwater recharge projects. Site selection and environmental analysis for these projects are underway.

The legislation that I am introducing today will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to the program in the form of cost-sharing with local authorities. The Colusa Basin Watershed Integrated Resources Plan is strongly supported by local governments, and it is compatible with other federal environmental restoration and water management programs in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

“EVERYONE WINS WITH THE
A.D.A.!”

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to celebrate the eight anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the most sweeping nondiscrimination legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) has opened doors for 49 million Americans, providing hope that they will one day achieve complete social and economic integration. To celebrate this achievement, hundreds of people will gather in San Diego's Balboa Park on July 25, 1998 as part of our region's Disability Independence Day.

The theme of the San Diego observance is apt—“Everyone Wins with the A.D.A.!” The A.D.A. has created jobs and ensured access to public buildings—basic human rights that should be guaranteed to all Americans. We have all benefited, now that people with disabilities can access the workplace, can shop at their local stores, and can visit museums and other public places. We no longer have to be ashamed, now that government buildings or health care centers are open to all citizens. And we can all feel protected—because any one of us could become disabled at any time.

Although Congress passed this historic law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, the real heroes are the women and men who fought for the most basic rights in the years and decades before the A.D.A. was passed and those who have challenged the capacity of their communities' infrastructure since its passage. Disabled Americans continually demonstrate how successful people can be once barriers are knocked down!

The victory of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act belongs to thousands of disabled Americans in San Diego and all over the nation, who fought a courageous and commendable fight along with their families, friends and advocates. But the celebration belongs to all Americans because we now have the ability to celebrate together!

As a society with the promise of equal access for all, we must unite to root out areas where this promise is not yet a reality. In honor of Disability Independence Day, let us rededicate ourselves to ensuring that, truly, “everyone wins with the A.D.A.”