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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT W. NEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 323. An act to redesignate the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument as a national park and establish the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, and for other purposes.

S. 376. An act to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes.

S. 416. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey to the city of Sisters, Oregon, a certain parcel of land for use in connection with a sewage treatment facility.

S. 606. An act for the relief of Global Exploration and Development Corporation, Kerr-McGee Corporation, and Kerr-McGee Chemical, LLC (successor to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation), and for other purposes.

S. 700. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Ala Kahakai Trail as a National Historic Trail.

S. 768. An act to establish court-martial jurisdiction over civilians serving with the Armed Forces during contingency operations, and to establish Federal jurisdiction over crimes committed outside the United States by former members of the Armed Forces and civilians accompanying the Armed Forces outside the United States.

S. 776. An act to authorize the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for the preservation of the Loess Hills in western Iowa.

S. 1027. An act to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes Resources Conservancy, and for other purposes.

S. 1257. An act to amend statutory damages provisions of title 17, United States Code.

S. 1258. An act to authorize funds for the payment of salaries and expenses of the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

S. 1259. An act to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 relating to dilution of famous marks, and for other purposes.

S. 1260. An act to make technical corrections in title 17, United States Code, and other laws.

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution condemning Palestinian efforts to revive the original Palestine partition plan of November 29, 1947, and condemning the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for its April 27, 1999, resolution endorsing Palestinian self-determination on the basis of the original Palestine partition plan.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-277, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, who consulted with the Speaker of the House and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House, announces the designation of Allan H. Meltzer, of Pennsylvania, as the Chairman of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

PORTLAND ACCESS SITUATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, my goal in Congress is to make sure that the Federal Government is a constructive partner in promoting livable communities. Today, increasingly, an important part of promoting livable communities deals with the Internet connection that our cities and counties have with the rest of the world.

The Federal Government has played a very constructive role in assisting schools and libraries with the E-Rate. It has provided an important resource for over 32,000 communities over the last 3 years and potentially up to \$4 billion in these first 2 years.

Just as important as the leadership for schools and libraries with the E-Rate, Congress and the FCC now has the opportunity to ensure that communities have access to the Internet service providers of their choice with cable broadband networks.

This leadership is going to be increasingly important in the future as cable systems are concentrated around the country. Only L.A. and New York are expected to have more than one cable system provider in the next year.

An important chapter of this discussion is being played out in my community where the city of Portland and Multnomah County became the first local jurisdictions in the country to require competition on this high-speed Internet connection. As part of an approval for AT&T's purchase of the local TCI cable, the city and the county required that they allow nonaffiliated ISPs access to their broadband network.

They argue that this step was necessary in order to preserve consumer choice. Without open access, consumers who wish to use high-speed

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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