

going to have the kind of influence that we would like to see, and, as the gentleman from Ohio said, private sector initiated, advertisers pressuring, encouraging broadcasters to do the right thing, because they, that is, those advertisers, want to be associated with the right thing, with that kind of programming.

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As the Family Friendly Forum states in their mission statement: we support a wide range of programming options, and we will continue to advertise on shows that appeal to different target audiences, but we want to ensure the existence of a family-friendly television environment, particularly in the early evening time period.

And most importantly, they are establishing a development fund to finance TV scripts, underwriting scholarships for students interested in exploring family-friendly programming, and granting awards for excellence in this area. They held their first awards ceremony just last Thursday, as the gentleman from Ohio pointed out. It is something that should be applauded and encouraged.

The WB Network has already taken up the challenge. In August, WB CEO Jamie Kellner and Andrea Alstrup, vice president of advertising for Johnson & Johnson, on behalf of the Forum agreed to identify writers to produce new scripts that will entertain and engage family audiences.

As my colleagues know, the V-Chip is an important device to have built into TV sets, and by the beginning of next year, that is, January of the year 2000, every television set that is sold in the United States will have a V-chip built into it. We sell 25 million TV sets a year in the United States. But the V-chip is really only a way by which parents, in programming it, can block out the programming they do not want their children to be exposed to. In no way can the V-Chip put good programming on the air.

What is happening here, what is being encouraged by the advertisers of the United States, is encouragement given to the networks, to the cable industry, to the satellite industry to put good programming on that parents can sit their children down in front of with the parent sitting there with them and watch as a family. It is something that should be encouraged. It is something that this resolution, I think, correctly identifies as just the kind of trend that we should be encouraging here in the Congress.

I want to again congratulate my friend from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF).

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time. I rise in support of this resolution. I have long been an advocate for

more family-friendly programming on television. American children spend much of their time each week in front of a TV, and it is important that at least some of the programs available to them are devoid of the gratuitous sex and violence that so frequently pollute prime TV. I really believe the sponsors should not be allowed their advertising deduction when they sponsor programming which is clearly over the line for family audiences. We in the House should be encouraging the television industry to clean up its act, and I am happy to support this resolution today.

Again, I thank the gentleman for having yielded this time to me.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution because it encourages TV networks, studios, and the production community to produce more quality family programs. In a time of extreme violence and graphic situations on television, I am proud to support this measure. We need to encourage any voluntary efforts by the entertainment industry to clean up prime time TV.

Traditionally, prime time television was concentrated in the early portion of the evening TV schedule—7 or 8 pm. During this time, families would watch television together, usually with dinner or shortly thereafter while the children were still awake. The programming that was aired during these hours focused on the family unit.

Recently, this trend has changed dramatically. Most of the networks do not air any family programming at this time, or such programming has been limited to certain nights of the week, such as Sunday. Gone are the days of an entire family sitting around the television set.

The traditional family programming has been replaced with violence, sexual situations and profanity. Thankfully, the industry's internal system of checks and balances has weighed heavily in favor of the family's return to prime time.

The Family Friendly Programming Forum, established this year by 30 advertisers, encourages the networks to develop family friendly programming for families to view together. In addition to encouraging more family friendly programming through advertising revenues, the Forum will establish a special fund to finance scripts written for such programming.

The Forum will also establish a scholarship program to encourage student interest in family friendly programming. Such efforts will send a powerful message to television producers, network executives and other advertisers that consumers deserve better programming for their families and that advertisers will be more selective in sponsoring certain programs.

I support this effort because families deserve to have a time to sit and watch television together. Parents should ultimately maintain control over the television and what programs are acceptable in the home, but the networks do have some responsibility to promote a more positive alternative to the sex and violence currently seen in prime time.

Advertisers are in the unique position to provide that internal check—advertising dollars that can send the message that parents want more programming geared for family viewing. I strongly support internal industry checks on television content and I support the efforts of

the Family Friendly Programming Forum. I urge my Colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time either, so I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H.Con.Res. 184.

The question was taken.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS—MES- SAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit herewith a report of the activities of the United Nations and of the participation of the United States therein during the calendar year 1998. The report is required by the United Nations Participation Act (Public Law 79-264; 22 U.S.C. 287b).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 13, 1999.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1906, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1906) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Mexico?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I will not object, but I do want to take this time simply to point out that the minority was not told until a very few minutes ago that these motions were going to be made at