

## COMPUTER MILESTONE

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the occasion of a significant scientific achievement. Today, scientists at Livermore National Laboratory have started assembling the world's most powerful computer. This computer, known as ASCI White, delivered to Livermore on 28 tractor-trailer trucks, is capable of 12 trillion calculations per second. Mr. Speaker, that is more than three times faster than the most powerful computer in existence today.

One specific achievement of this endeavor is the collaboration it embodies. ASCI White is the product of work by IBM and our national labs, and the computer will now aid the Department of Energy in the work of simulating nuclear explosions without conducting live tests. Surely, this super computer is a model for the marvelous work that results from strong private-public partnerships.

Mr. Speaker. I submit the following article from the San Francisco Chronicle to be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. And on behalf of this body, I would like to extend our congratulations to IBM, Livermore Lab, and all of the other agencies and individuals who contributed to this superb accomplishment.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, June 29, 2000]

IBM ASSEMBLING EXPLOSIVE NEW SUPERCOMPUTER PROCESSORS TO MIMIC NUCLEAR DETONATIONS AT LIVERMORE LAB

(Carrie Kirby)

Technicians at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have begun assembling the world's most powerful supercomputer, the first sections of which were delivered by International Business Machines Corp. Monday.

The 8,100-processor computer, ASCI White, will be used to simulate nuclear explosions to maintain the nation's weapons stockpile. Exploding real nuclear bombs for testing purposes has been forbidden since the 1996 signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. The testing is required to ensure that the nation's aging stockpile of nuclear weapons still functions properly and is safely stored.

The processors in the \$110 million computer are no different than those found in high-end workstations used for engineering or design. But by putting 8,000 of them together in a box the size of two basketball courts, IBM has created a machine capable of 12.3 trillion operations per second—what scientists call a 12.3 teraflop computer.

Armed with a calculator, it would take a human being 10 million years to complete the number of calculations ASCI White can do in one second. That's three or four times better than the previous titlist for world's most powerful supercomputer, ASCI Blue Pacific, a 3.8 teraflop machine also located at Lawrence Livermore. ASCI White is 1,000 times more powerful than Deep Blue, the IBM supercomputer that beat world chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997, and 30,000 times more powerful than the average personal computer. Its memory could comfortably house the Library of Congress—twice.

ASCI White is named for the Energy Department's Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative.

Tractor trailers brought about a quarter of the massive computer to Lawrence Livermore Monday, and the rest will arrive during the summer. When it is complete, a team of several hundred scientists at Lawrence Livermore will use the computer to conduct the most realistic mock nuclear explosions ever.

Limited memory and computer power meant that previous simulations used a simplified, two-dimensional model to approximate a three-dimensional explosion.

"A one-dimensional problem assumes that the surface of the Earth is uniform—all earth or all water," said David Nowak, the physicist who will lead the ASCI White program at Lawrence Livermore. Two-dimensional models would assume that the Earth is smooth, without mountains, valleys or complicated factors such as air currents. "ASCI White allows us to go to three dimensions."

Nowak has been anticipating getting his hands on the computer for two years, while 1,000 engineers at IBM's Poughkeepsie, N.Y., laboratory designed and built it. Yet he knows that despite its mind-boggling abilities, ASCI White is not powerful enough to simulate the blasts as realistically as scientists want.

"To actually do the problem, we need 100 teraflops," Nowak said. "We think we can get that by 2004 or 2005."

The ASCI program calls for two more supercomputers to be built. The first, with 30 teraflops, will go to Los Alamos, N.M., in about two years. The second, with 100 teraflops, is scheduled to be assigned to Livermore, said lab spokesman David Schwoegler.

## TRIBUTE TO DAN RATTINER

**HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Dan Rattiner, my neighbor and constituent from Long Island, on the 40th anniversary of Dan's Papers.

Dan Rattiner's story is that of many seeking the American dream. As a college student during the summer of 1960, Mr. Rattiner started a small, free, eight-page publication in Montauk, New York. Over time, as Eastern Long Island has grown, this one-man operation has grown into a 50-page publication employing over 40 people. Articles range from serious issue-based essays to coverage of summer in the Hamptons.

Mr. Rattiner's work ethic, dedication, and success represent the very best of Long Island, New York and our Nation. His commitment to journalistic excellence, all the while providing important information to the people of Southampton and Easthampton, is worthy of commendation and praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Rattiner, for 40 years of bringing news with a local flavor to the people of Eastern Long Island. On behalf of the people of Long Island, I would like to thank Mr. Rattiner and the entire staff of Dan's Papers and I wish them the best of luck in the future.

## MEDICARE RX 2000 ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 28, 2000*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4680, the Medicare Prescription 2000 Act. H.R. 4680 is a poor excuse for a prescription drug bill for our Nation's senior citizens.

This Republican bill would force seniors who want prescription drug coverage to get it from private insurance companies. However, the bill provides no guarantee that individual seniors will have access to private insurance plans that cover prescription drug. Furthermore, even when coverage is offered, the premiums, deductibles and co-payments will vary widely, depending upon what plans are available in the area. Millions of seniors will not be able to afford to participate in these private insurance plans.

The Republican bill would provide payments for prescription drugs to private health insurance companies—not patients themselves or their health care providers. Many private insurance companies have unfairly restricted health care for their patients in the past. Now is not the time to give these insurance companies additional government benefits.

H.R. 4770, the alternative prescription drug bill proposed by the Democrats, would provide a guaranteed prescription drug benefit under Medicare to all seniors who want one. This bill would ensure that all seniors who choose to participate would pay the same low premiums and receive the same benefits, regardless of where they live. Moreover, low-income seniors who cannot afford to pay the premiums would not be denied prescription drug coverage under the Democratic alternative.

It is time that Congress make prescription medicines available to all seniors who need them. I urge my colleagues to oppose this Republican giveaway to private insurance companies and support the Democratic alternative.

## HONORING MR. TOM MESSENGER

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 10, 2000*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a man that has devoted his career to protecting the health of people in the great State of Colorado, Tom Messenger. After 30 years of service to the citizens of Colorado, Tom is set to retire this week, bringing to a close what has been a truly distinguished career.

As his family, friends and colleagues celebrate Tom's retirement, I would like to pay tribute to his substantial efforts to improve the quality of life for all Coloradans. His career is eminently deserving of both the praise and thanks of this body.

Tom began his tenure as an environmental health advocate in 1970. He first started as a sanitarian for the Tri-County District Health Department and, after earning a masters degree, started a career at the Colorado Health Department. Early in his career, Tom demonstrated both the integrity and the skill needed to conduct a responsible, responsive and