

IN HONOR OF JUDITH WEST

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy West, an outstanding New Yorker, on the occasion of her retirement from Local 802 of the American Federation of Musicians.

Judy West has had a long and successful career serving as Director of Public Relations and Legislative Affairs for Local 802 since 1983. Her contributions to the Labor movement in particular, and to society as a whole, have been exemplary and set the standard to which we should all rise.

As an outspoken advocate for all working people, Judy has fought to ensure that Labor's agenda is always at the top of every elected official's list. From her work on exposing the abuses of farm labor in New York State to highlighting the particular concerns of musicians and other performing artists, her persistence and determination on behalf of these causes have become her trademarks.

In addition to her myriad endeavors on behalf of labor, Judy has also devoted her energies to the struggle for civil rights, affordable housing and decent health care for all. She has been so committed because she believes that as a citizen it is her duty to create a more just society for all. Through her unstinting devotion of time and generous use of talents, Judy West has become recognized as one of the most effective advocates of our time.

Mr. Speaker, Judy West may be officially retiring from her job, but I know that she will continue making outstanding contributions in the service of society. Her leadership will be missed, however, she and her family will have the opportunity to spend more time together. I join with all working people in thanking Judy for her tireless advocacy, personal commitment to our community and for her friendship.

IN HONOR OF NICK A. ANDRIOTIS,
PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SAINT
DEMETRIOS CATHEDRAL PARISH
COUNCIL AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF
THE ST. DEMETRIOS SCHOOL
BOARD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Nick A. Andriotis, the former president of the Parish Council at the Saint Demetrios Cathedral and Co-Chairman of the St. Demetrios School Board in Astoria, Queens, New York. Mr. Andriotis will receive this year's Odyssey Award from the Cathedral in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the church. The award will be presented at the church's 73rd Anniversary celebration this month.

Mr. Andriotis has been a tireless activist for the entire Greek-American community of Astoria through his work with the Hellenic Cultural Center and the St. Demetrios School System. He has served as a strong advocate for the preservation of the Greek Orthodox

faith, as well as for Greek culture, traditions, and the Greek language. He is the founder of the St. Demetrios High School, which is the direct product of his vision, determination, and enthusiasm. In fact, the new high school building became a reality due to Mr. Andriotis's valiant efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am immensely proud to have such a community-oriented leader and visionary working to improve the lives of the many Greek and Greek-American residents of New York. This year's Odyssey Award will honor a worthy man and a diligent and faithful member of the Greek-American community. I congratulate Mr. Andriotis on his award and his many years of community service and I am confident that the selfless dedication he has demonstrated toward his friends and neighbors will continue through the work of the Saint Demetrios Cathedral.

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member encourages his colleagues to read the following editorial, from the October 9, 2000, edition of the Norfolk Daily News. This editorial highlights the insufficient answers from the film industry about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film content.

[From the Daily News, October 9, 2000]

MOVIE MAKERS RESPOND WEAKLY

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN PRODUCES LESS THAN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS BY INDUSTRY

The movie industry's responses to congressional concern about targeting younger audiences with inappropriate film fare is unsatisfactory. The practice of using young test audiences is reprehensible.

While Jack Valenti, the veteran political operative who speaks for the Motion Picture Association of America, promised the industry would change the objectionable practice, it is not enough. Ratings ought to change and entertainment ought to be lifted from the gutter.

Mr. Valenti did say that "inappropriate" targeting of children for R-rated movies would stop. That practice has found some filmmakers attempting to appeal to youngsters whose age would disqualify them from viewing.

The Internet figures in this problem as well. For the industry's teen Web sites can be utilized, and there were no promises that marketing of R-rated films would be entirely barred from them.

The president of Sony, parent company of Columbia Pictures, termed the marketing of a violent PG-13 film to a younger audience "a judgment lapse." It would more properly be called a stupid error demanding far more prompt attention than it received. That company is far from alone, however.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, expressed the sentiment of many Americans when she responded to the recent testimony from film executives: If the industry doesn't take steps to keep violent films away from young children, she said, "you're going to see some kind of legislation." There are others who feel just as strongly about the portrayals of casual sex and use of obscene language as they do about gratuitous violence.

The legislative powers seem limited, however, even though the Supreme Court has in-

dictated "community standards" can be allowed to prevail in the contests between pornography and free expression, especially where young people are concerned.

In this situation, with movie complexes overbuilt and family movie nights rare, a rational reaction would find the industry doing all it could to tell interesting stories with at least a little less violence and graphic sex. It was possible in the earlier days of television and films.

The industry ought to find a way to reverse the trend toward coarseness and crudity. It could start by raising its standards, revising its inaccurate and unreliable ratings, and leaving more to the viewers' imaginations.

THE FIREARMS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SAFETY ACT OF 2000

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss legislation I introduced just before the August recess, H.R. 5012, the Firearms Research and Development Safety Act of 2000. This legislation would enhance the research and development tax credits permitted to firearms businesses to accelerate and explore further what has been termed as Smart Gun Technology, or as some prefer to call it, "Firearm Personalization Technology." In fact, at a later date, I intend to amend the legislation in committee to reflect that terminology.

My proposal increases the research and development tax credit, determined under the applicable rules of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (which is usually 20%), to 30% for smart gun technology research and development. It also quantifies this benefit is only available to federal firearms licensees, and it is not available for use on monies received in the form of a grant. Additionally, the base used to determine allowable expenses for the credit is at 100% of a firm's, corporation's, or individual's expenditures for the years 2001, 2002, and 2003, instead of the incremental increase as under current procedure.

These enhancements are intended to do exactly what ought to be done in terms of encouraging innovation and development in safety technology for firearms. That is, the marketplace ought to determine these innovations, and ultimately their acceptance by consumers, law enforcement, and, indeed, even the military in some cases.

The role of the government ought not be to mandate the use of this technology, but rather to encourage and foster its development. Regrettably, much has been said about "Smart Gun," or "Firearm Personalization," technology, and the panacea some claim it to be in preventing unauthorized access to firearms by felons, violent individuals, or other persons who should not have access to a firearm. The truth is, there are many different approaches to safe gun storage, any of which may be valid depending on the particular circumstances faced by the owner or authorized user.

Mandating the integration of an internal locking system in a firearm is simply not going to prevent determined individuals from gaining

access to a gun and misusing it. As in other approaches to safe gun use, training and education are paramount, so each individual owner can develop a strategy for the safe storage and use of their firearm. "Firearm Personalization Technology" assists in doing just this, and if the marketplace responds favorably to these innovations, gun technology will change.

My bill simply allows the gun industry an enhanced opportunity to accelerate work in this field, and to explore whether or not consumers will respond favorably to safe, reliable and practical innovations in gun technology.

Naturally this type of innovation research is not inexpensive. As Members are aware, the industry has been under enormous economic stress, due largely to the anti-gun policies of the current Administration and to frivolous law suits being filed against the industry by anti-gun interests. Precious resources the industry could be devoting to technological innovation have been used to defend its lawful and responsible businesses. Perhaps this credit will help the industry get back into the business of developing better products, instead of having to devote its resources to defending the lawful manufacture, sale, and use of its products.

In order to encourage this technology, my legislation has an additional provision which exempts that part of the firearm which is enhanced or added and devoted solely to the addition of Firearm Personalization Technology, from the federal excise tax on firearms. For example, if a firearm normally costs \$500, and \$500 worth of electronic components are added to the firearm for Firearm Personalization Technology, the \$500 enhancement would be exempt from the federal excise tax. A \$50 savings on a \$1,000 gun may not seem much at first glance, but as many in the industry will tell you, guns are very price-sensitive commodities, for which consumers make a decision to buy or not to buy, based on surprisingly small price differences.

In closing, let me say, Mr. Speaker, while there are certainly obvious sharp divisions in this Chamber on private firearms ownership in our country, I believe my colleagues on both sides of the aisle should be able to support improvements in gun technology which are voluntarily pursued by the manufacturing community, with little rather than more government involvement. Allowing market forces to determine innovation in the field, is the natural and correct way progress ought to occur.

DATABASE PROTECTION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for an important issue that will require the full attention of Congress in the coming year—database protection. While I am disappointed that consensus could not be reached this year on legislation to protect the right of individuals and organizations to protect their databases from the outright theft of their products, I am hopeful that the 107th Congress will act expeditiously on this issue when it convenes in January. A database anti-piracy law is an imperative for an information society

that is growing ever more dependent on the Internet and on the information available in electronic databases.

Companies that compile the complex information for these databases put a tremendous amount of work into developing an accurate, understandable resource bank for private or public use. This is a lengthy, expensive, and ongoing process that deserves to be protected. Individuals, companies, and organizations that work hard to compile information for the benefit of their consumers should be protected under our laws. It is not acceptable to allow a "data pirate" to steal the product of someone else's hard work and profit from it, while causing the original compiler market harm. Our nation's intellectual property laws have long recognized the importance of rewarding work with legal protection, and this is one area where the law needs to be improved to keep up with advances in technology unforeseen by earlier generations of lawmakers.

In the district I represent, the consequences of inaction are very real. I have a background in small business and real estate, so I know that importance of this legislation. From the local realtor to the database company that employs thousands in my state, not acting to provide legal recourse to the victims of data piracy, significantly affects jobs and commerce in Central Ohio.

I am concerned that without legislation to protect their databases, there is no incentive to devote time, capital, and resources to the creation and maintenance of dependable and accurate databases. People from all walks of life utilize these databases everyday for information on medicine to information on real estate. Society will be severely affected if these information systems cease to exist. Without legislation to protect them, the lack of incentives for creating and maintaining databases of accurate information will eventually lead to the non-production of these important data compilations.

In the next Congress, we can develop legislation that will protect database producers and still allow consumers the same access to the free flow of information for legitimate purposes. Developing sound legislation on database anti-piracy will be a top priority for me in the 107th Congress. I look forward to working with Mr. COBLE, Chairman of the Judiciary Courts and Intellectual Property Subcommittee, the Commerce Committee, and the House Leadership on this important issue.

AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 24, 2000

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman LEACH and Mr. LAZIO, and my colleagues on the House Banking Committee for their tireless work on moving legislation that brings some much-needed reforms to the overall housing industry. S. 1452 will enhance home ownership throughout the country.

Furthermore, I am pleased to see that many provisions of H.R. 1776, the Housing and Eco-

omic Opportunity Act, have been included in the S. 1452. As my colleagues may remember, H.R. 1776 passed our chamber earlier in the year by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote of 417 to 8. However, there is one particular omission that concerns me. Unfortunately, this omission may ultimately have an impact on the number of families who will realize the American Dream of homeownership.

The provision that has been omitted from S. 1452 is Section 102 of H.R. 1776. Section 102 requires that the Federal government perform a housing impact analysis before it issues new regulations. The impact analysis would determine if a significant negative impact on affordable housing would result from those new regulations. "Significant" would be defined as increasing consumers' cost of housing by more than \$100,000,000 per year.

Further, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1776 stipulates that the private sector would have an opportunity to submit an alternative to the proposed regulation if it would have less of a negative impact on the cost of homeownership. As with the other provisions in Title I of H.R. 1776, the goal of the housing impact analysis is to alert federal agencies and the general public of the impact of regulation on housing affordability.

Ultimately, the objective would be to help bring down the cost of a home by minimizing regulations that pose a barrier to homeownership. The housing impact analysis addresses this issue by requiring the Federal government to perform an "internal check" of sorts in a quest to see if the regulation might be constructed in a better way that would not lock some individuals out of homeownership.

I see this internal check as a positive action, Mr. Speaker, and I am concerned that this worthy provision, a provision 417 of my colleagues supported, was left out of the legislation that comes before us today. I hope that this concept does not die with the closing of the 106th Congress, but is reviewed again next year, with the commencement of the 107th.

RECENT VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of Congress a recent letter from United States military leaders regarding the recent violence in the Middle East. The letter follows:

We, the undersigned, believe that during the current upheavals in Israel, the Israel Defense Forces have exercised remarkable restraint in the face of lethal violence orchestrated by the leadership of a Palestinian Authority that deliberately pushes civilians and young people to the front lines.

We are appalled by the Palestinian political and military leadership that teaches children the mechanics of war while filling their heads with hate. We are appalled by Palestinian "military commanders" who place armed adults amid civilian rioters, including children, and then callously use the inevitable casualties as grist for their propaganda mill. The behavior of those Palestinians, who use civilians as soldiers in a war, is a perversion of military ethics.

What makes the US-Israel security relationship one of mutual benefit is the combination of military capabilities and shared