

which would have been a great step forward.

Through four administrations, from Reagan through Bush to Clinton, and now another Bush, I have strongly recommended and will continue to recommend that we establish new parameters for Federal assistance to education.

In order to reposition the present primitive, almost freakish insistence that the least amount of Federal funding for elementary and secondary education is highly desirable, we must learn from the examples of some of the other industrialized nations. Greater Federal support which moves from 7 percent toward 25 percent of the overall national educational expenditure would not constitute an overcentralized takeover of education. Instead, it would represent a logical need between the extremes of nationalized education ministries and the present 16,000 uncoordinated independent school districts in 50 States in America. In other words, we are in an extreme position. We are at the lower end of support for our school systems, 7 percent of the total education bill, versus some countries which are at the other extreme where the education is totally run by the national government and they get some bad results as a result of that. But let us not remain at that extreme. We should move toward greater Federal participation.

Immediate significant Federal funding initiatives should focus on large nonrecurring capital expenditures like the ones that I have just mentioned in terms of the physical infrastructure.

□ 2245

Priority Federal funding should continue to go to educate the poor and children with disabilities. Special Federal funding must be made available to validate, certify and promote education innovations that work. The best programs and practices must be assisted in establishing some kind of critical mass throughout the Nation, and Federal money is necessary to allow them to do that.

Without bullying states and localities, Congress should continue to promote higher standards for student achievement and for opportunities to learn. Funding to systematically expand support for research, development and dissemination of information must be greatly increased, because none of the states are engaged in that kind of very important activity.

My final word is that society's fullest possible support of public education should not be viewed as a noble gesture or a governmental philanthropic virtue or the mere provision of a safety net for those too poor to pay for their children's education. The far wiser and more productive public policy viewpoint must assume that public education is a necessity vital for the functioning of our very complex cyber-civilization.

This Nation, our great American Nation, literally will not be able to sur-

vive without an adequate and continually updated public education system. Brain power is our best protection for the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 7 a.m.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 7 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4801. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; District of Columbia [DC-T5-2001-01a; FRL-7112-3] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4802. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; Virginia [VA-T5-2001-01a; FRL-7112-5] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4803. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of the Operating Permits Program; State of Hawaii [HI062-OPP; FRL-7111-5] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4804. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of 40 CFR Part 70 Operating Permits Program; Minnesota [FRL-7111-7] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4805. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of Operation Permit Program; Wisconsin [FRL-7111-8] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4806. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of 40 CFR Part 70 Operating Permits Program; Indiana [IN003; FRL-7111-9] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4807. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of 40 CFR Part 70 Operating Permits Program; Illinois [FRL-7112-1] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4808. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; Michigan [FRL-7111-6] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4809. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Minnesota; Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program [FRL-7110-8] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4810. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Approval of Operating Permits Program; State of Vermont [VT-021-1224a; A-1-FRL-7110-2] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4811. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of the Operating Permits Program for the Pinal County Air Quality Control District, Arizona [AZ060-OPP; FRL-7112-8] received November 30, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4812. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program in Alaska [FRL-7113-9] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4813. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of Operating Permits Program; State of New York [NY002; FRL-7113-3] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4814. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Final Full Approval of Operating Permit Program; New Jersey [NJ002; FRL-7113-1] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4815. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program; State of Oklahoma [OK-FRL-7113-7] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4816. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of Operating Permits Program; State of Texas [TX-002; FRL-7113-6] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4817. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Full Approval of the Operating Permits Program; Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona [AZ062-OPP; FRL-7113-4] received December 3, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4818. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental