

America towards becoming a land of equal opportunity, which affords to every man and every woman his or her chance, their golden opportunity to become whatever their manhood, womanhood, talents, and ambitions combine to make them.

That is indeed the promise of America.

#### NOMINEE HELD HOSTAGE

(Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we live in difficult times, as we all know. Yet, in the other body, the nomination of a brilliant young lawyer, Miguel Estrada, is being held hostage. Today is the fiftieth day of that tragic event, the fiftieth day of holding a man hostage using innuendoes and double standards and fake accusations and, again, double standards. A person who got here at 17, who worked, studied, became a brilliant jurist, worked under 2 presidents, one Democrat and one Republican, who deserves to be on the court, on the bench of this country.

Again, I repeat, he is being held hostage, is being held to a higher standard, a different standard than every other judge that has gone through that illustrious body.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day to know that, again, with all of the difficult times and all of the difficult things going on, this one man is not being allowed to have a vote on the other floor.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). The Chair would remind the Members of the House that they should avoid comments which urge action in the other body.

#### FCC SHOULD CORRECT BAD DECISION

(Mr. WHITFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment briefly on the flawed regulatory decision recently announced by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC's approach can be deemed as borrowed from what the railroad industry refers to as trackage rights; that is, using another company's property.

Under the FCC rules, competitors are able to pay a bare minimum to use the incumbent phone company's networks. The prices are set using a complicated formula devised by the FCC and administered by State commissions. It is Federal price controls at their worst.

This approach has two negative effects. First, it discourages investment

in the U.S. network by incumbent phone companies. Why would you invest if someone else is going to be able to use your property? Second, by deliberately underpricing network access, the FCC has discouraged investment in other networks by other firms. It hurts facilities-based competitors who cannot hope to match the FCC-mandated artificially low rates. Even Wall Street has expressed their dismay at this decision.

Mr. Speaker, this country should be encouraging investment, not discouraging it. We should be creating jobs, not discouraging it. I hope that the FCC will correct this bad decision as soon as possible.

#### COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI'S CENTER FOR ECOSYSTEM AND SCIENCE POLICY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the University of Miami for launching its Center for Ecosystem and Science Policy.

This new center, led by its Director, Professor Mary Doyle, will work to ensure that sound environmental decisions are made based on the best scientific knowledge and understanding available. It will combine expertise in government and the environmental sciences in order to positively impact policy creation.

The Center for Ecosystem and Science Policy emphasizes the University of Miami's stance as a first-rate educational institution.

So I highly commend the President of the University of Miami, Donna Shalala, and the Center's Director, Mary Doyle, for taking leadership roles in the field of environmental research and policy.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are requested or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE PROBLEM

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 113) recognizing the social problem of child abuse and neglect, and supporting efforts to enhance public awareness of the problem, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 113

Whereas approximately 3,000,000 reports of suspected or known child abuse and neglect involving 5,000,000 American children are made to child protective service agencies each year;

Whereas 556,000 American children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 1,200 children, 85 percent of whom are under the age of 6 years and 44 percent of whom are under the age of 1 year, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect every year in the United States;

Whereas this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

Whereas Childhelp USA has initiated a "Day of Hope" to be observed on Wednesday, April 2, 2003, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, to focus public awareness on this social ill; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) all Americans should keep the victims of child abuse and neglect in their thoughts and prayers;

(B) all Americans should seek to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect and to give these victimized children hope for the future; and

(C) the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across the United States should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist these abused and neglected children; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) supports the goals and ideals of the "Day of Hope", which was initiated by Childhelp USA; and

(B) commends Childhelp USA for all of its efforts on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 113.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 113 offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

House Resolution 113 recognizes the social problem of child abuse and neglect and supports efforts to enhance public awareness of child maltreatment. The resolution is timely and appropriate, as next week begins National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Every year, approximately 3 million reports of possible child abuse and neglect are made to child protective services. According to the most recent report, it is estimated that 63 percent of