

time of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

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

There was no objection.

FCC POISED TO RELAX OR ELIMINATE RULES ESSENTIAL TO MAINTENANCE OF FREE PRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in about 3 weeks, the Federal Communications Commission is poised to relax or eliminate some rules that are essential to the maintenance of a free press.

Under long-standing FCC rules, giant media companies are limited as to how much control they can exert over any one medium market or any one medium generally. That is just good, common sense in American competition. But the Bush Federal Communications Commission is about to throw those sound public interest and market soundness principles out the window, allowing some of America's biggest companies to decide what you hear, when you hear it, what you see, and, in large part, what you think.

This decision on the part of the Bush administration smacks of back-room politics at its worst. It is a story of how three commissioners are working with corporate-owned media conglomerates to expand their control over what news the public receives. Already one radio company out of Texas, and the owner happens to be a friend of the President, already owns 1,200 radio stations in this country, including a half dozen, at least a half dozen in almost every city in America. Now, these three commissioners are working with corporate-owned media conglomerates to expand their control over the airwaves; and in the process of their decision, there have been no public meetings, no time for elected officials or outside groups to comment on the proposed changes. That has been the FCC's mode of operation the last couple of years.

What is most outrageous is these ownership rules were established to protect and promote a diversity of viewpoints and to encourage economic competition.

This pending decision only fuels the public's perception that the Bush administration has a policy of giving corporations what they want, regardless of the consequences to the Nation.

The energy industry writes the administration's energy plan, companies like Enron. Chemical companies write environmental law. Chemical companies also write safe drinking water laws. Wall Street writes legislation to privatize Social Security. The drug industry writes legislation for prescription drugs. It is over and over and over. Now, the corporate-owned media companies are writing FCC policies.

The Future of Music Coalition, a group representing artists from country music to rock and roll, released a report yesterday showing staggering public opposition to the Bush rule change. This coalition had volunteers review almost 10,000 comments received from the public that the Federal Communications Commission has made public on its Web site. There are an estimated 12,000 comments the FCC received that have not yet been reviewed. But of the 10,000 that have been reviewed, 9,065 citizens unaffiliated with any corporate media, 9,065 said they were opposed to changing this rule. Only 11 individuals wrote into the FCC in support of changing the rule. That is an 824 to 1 ratio.

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The public is rightly skeptical of this back-room deal. What the FCC leadership does not understand is that they should be accountable to the very people whose opinions they are simply dismissing, Mr. Speaker.

If the FCC wants to dispute these numbers, then delay the vote, then schedule field hearings, then listen to people, then give this rule change the level of public scrutiny then that all ruling changes like that that affect the public interest deserve.

But if the FCC moves forward in relaxing ownership restrictions, this important agency loses its credibility with American consumers, and American radio and TV listeners and viewers. It violates the very principles on which it was established.

Interestingly, Mr. Speaker, yesterday a group of more than a dozen Democrats held a news conference to discuss corporate control of media. Almost always in news conferences like this media will show up. Yesterday when we held this news conference to discuss the corporate control of media, there was no corporate-owned media there. There was Congress Daily, and there was a small newspaper from Puerto Rico. No New York Times. No Washington Post. No networks. No Fox News. None of the large conglomerates that simply do not want to shine a light on some of the mischief they are creating as owners, as a few large owners of these large media conglomerates.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, on June 7 the Federal Communications Commission's vote to undermine ownership restrictions will take place. We will probably find out on that June 2 date that the Federal Communications Commission just might change its name from FCC, Federal Communications Commission, to FCC, Furthering Corporate Control. That is what this issue is about, a few companies owning large numbers of radio stations, large numbers of television stations, telling the American public only what those corporate interests want them to know.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced

that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 709. An act to award a congressional gold medal to Prime Minister Tony Blair.

HONORING CHRIS NEWTON AND THE PAPPAS SCHOOL FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today in the heart of Arizona's Fifth Congressional District in Tempe, graduation exercises at Arizona State University, commencement day, will soon commence. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of this House the endeavors of one who will be recognized and who will don the cap and gown today, even as we send congratulations to all who realize academic achievement on this day at Arizona State. His name is Chris Newton, and today as he puts on his cap and gown, he will take a significant step forward not only for himself, but also for the Pappas School for Homeless Children in Phoenix.

Mr. Speaker, Chris Newton spent the bulk of his young life as a homeless child. And while many different communities offer many different solutions, and, sadly, some here in Washington and others move to cut off the notion of schools for homeless children, this particular institution in Phoenix has done a lot to help a lot of children. But Chris Newton typifies the success.

Chris Newton was not only the first student from Pappas School for the Homeless to go to college, he now becomes the first Pappas student to graduate from college. Chris is no stranger to academic excellence, even as he dealt with the challenges of homelessness. He was the eighth grade valedictorian at Pappas School. He continued his education at Camelback High School and then stepped onto the campus at Tempe.

While debate rages among theoreticians and bureaucrats here in Washington as to the relevance of maintaining, or the alleged stigma of homeless children congregating and gathering together for education, dealing with those challenging needs, Chris offers an affirmation for what has worked for him and others in Arizona. He is quoted in the Arizona Republic in an article that chronicles the challenges he has confronted and the success he has reached: "School is always there. You can always count on it. That is 8 hours a day. Your worries are gone. You think about what you are going to do in class, when recess is, things you will do with friends after school."

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the Pappas School for Homeless Children in Arizona is literally an oasis of stability on the desert for these challenged students. It was reaffirmed in the life of

Chris Newton, and it continues for so many others today.

We received much information about Chris and his undertakings. Ernalee Phelps, who is the director of resources development at the Pappas School, spoke glowingly of Mr. Newton. She writes, "He could have blamed the world for his problems or chose another way by turning into another generation of homelessness, but through the giving of others and the Pappas Scholarship Foundation he was given the chance to succeed. Having said that, we recognize that to receive a scholarship is one thing, but to honor it and treasure it is another. He had to follow through with attending and keeping up with the classes. He could have given up at any time but he didn't. Sometimes society makes it easier for individuals who have already struggled with homelessness to fail." The sad fact is some will fail, but "Chris knew that it takes determination to succeed."

Mrs. Phelps continues, "I have had the honor to know this young man for 7 years now. Chris never gave up, got angry, blamed anyone or asked me for a handout. He is always friendly, courteous and respectful. If Chris were my own son, I could not be more proud of him."

Chris says, quoting Mr. Newton now, "I tell kids you have to be open-minded. There are always obstacles, but do not let them stop you. I know people have set high expectations for me, and I never wanted to disappoint them."

Mr. Speaker, Chris Newton is not disappointing. He is achieving. Congratulations to Chris Newton, today a graduate of Arizona State University and an alumnus of the Pappas School for Homeless Children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE NETHERLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a true and trusted ally, the Netherlands. It is a relationship that predates our Republic's founding and prospers into our Republic's future.

Our commodious ties span from Henry Hudson's 1609 Dutch East India Company voyage to today's annual trade of more than \$18 billion. And in our pursuit, protection, and promotion of peace, the Dutch and the American people have always been and always will be the bravest of friends.

Recent notable examples of our common courageous bonds include Afghani-

stan, where the Dutch sent their own brave soldiers to eradicate terror networks, and in Iraq where they yet again lent their manpower and now pledge their aid and support to help the newly liberated people of Iraq to grow their Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending our sincerest gratitude to our Dutch friends for all they have done for us and for all the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MOTIVATING CHINA—JAPAN'S NUCLEAR OPTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on the departure of the South Korean President, we have to look at the North Korean situation with new eyes. I think it is clear that U.S. pressure on North Korea will not be effective since North Korea is a very poor country under 50 years already of U.S. economic sanctions. There are few, if any, U.S. options to bring effective nonmilitary pressure to bear. It is also clear that the South Korean Government will not issue new effective pressure on North Korea. But Chinese pressure can be effective.

China is the primary donor to North Korea, and despite cool relations, China supports North Korea to prevent a collapse. China so far has rejected pressure because it fears any pressure may hasten the very collapse of North Korea they intend to prevent. Therefore, finding a motivation for China to help generate effective pressure from North Korea is asking the question, what do the Chinese regard as worse than risking a North Korean collapse? And the answer is the potential of Japanese nuclear armament.

Few of us have realized that Japan owns more plutonium than in the United States nuclear arsenal. Japan has a large nuclear power program. It is seeking to reduce its reliance on foreign uranium by recycling nuclear fuel that will make its plutonium stockpile grow even larger.

Today Japan owns 38 tons of plutonium, 5 tons located in the country and 33 tons at its European processors. That is enough for 7,000 nuclear weapons. Japan is also accelerating its production of plutonium. Once the Rokkasho-mura reprocessing plant comes online in 2005, Japan will be able to produce 100 tons of plutonium by 2015. North Korea recently complained in public about 206 kilos of missing plutonium from Japan's Tokai-mura facility.

Japan is also rethinking its defense policy. Prime Minister Koizumi is leading efforts to expand Japan's defense role. Japan's self-defense force won Diet approval recently of purchasing long-range strike aircraft, including four 767 tankers; power projection, including the formation of an air brigade; and missile defense, including software, hardware and AEGIS class cruisers.

Japan's perception of the North Korean threat is growing. North Korea shot a No Dong missile over Japanese territory in 1994. They shot a Taepodong missile over Japan in 1998. In December Japanese Coast Guard vessels clashed with North Korean spy boats.

There is a nuclear debate beginning in Japan. In April, opposition leader Ichiro Ozawa openly discussed the nuclear option. In May, Chief Cabinet Secretary Fukuda generally hinted at revising defense doctrine. And last month, Defense Minister Ishiba stated Japan might conventionally strike North Korea first.

Japan is also developing delivery vehicles. Japan's H-2 civilian rocket program is very advanced, and Japan is participating in missile defense focused on software, nose cones, infrared seekers, warheads and rocket motors.

All of these facts should be shared at the highest level with Japanese leaders. We can help China to understand that if North Korea fully develops a nuclear arsenal, Japan may develop a deterrent.

Japan's nuclear arsenal would quickly outpace China's. France's nuclear submarine costs just \$13 billion and would be well within Japan's means. And Japan nuclear armament would encourage other Asian nations to also arm, even Taiwan.

These facts should be shown to be clear that the Chinese should act clearly to diffuse the North Korea crisis.

Article 9 of Japan's Constitution commits to no use of war to resolve international disputes. And it takes a two-thirds vote of both houses to amend the Constitution. Support for Article 9 in Japan now in the face of the North Korean threat is just 50/50. Japanese Prime Minister Sato formally studied a nuclear weapons program in 1967, and Japan would have to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty that it ratified in 1977.

Some have said the Japanese reactor-grade plutonium would not be fully usable, but the U.S. detonated a reactor-grade plutonium device in 1962, and in order to discourage other countries from using plutonium as a fuel, President Carter declassified data on the feasibility of a reactor-grade plutonium for nuclear weapons in 1976.

We need to help China understand that other Asian nations maybe forced to develop a nuclear deterrent. To curb this crisis, China must act, otherwise there will be an historical reversal of power in Asia, something the Chinese should realize and seek to avoid.