

H.R. 5252, THE COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITY, PROMOTION, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5252, the Communication and Enhancement Act. The COPE Act would allow telephone companies to reap the rewards of the cable business with few responsibilities and could also threaten the innovative nature of the Internet. I believe the passage of this bill would be a major setback for consumers, communities, and the public interest.

I think we all agree that there is a need for consumer choice and competition in cable. Currently, most communities are served by the cable industry's quasi-monopolies. However, "competition" in cable shouldn't have the effect of, cutting consumer protections, reducing public broadcasting, and eliminating local rights. "Competition" shouldn't be about providing lucrative markets with several cable service options and leaving those in poorer neighborhoods with low-quality service and the potential for ever increasing cable raising rates.

The COPE Act would put the Federal Communications Commission in charge of what our localities have been successfully handling for years. Do we really think the Federal Communications Commission will do a better job at resolving consumer complaints? Is the FCC going to come out to Skokie, Illinois and take care of problems that may arise concerning the town's public right-of-way? And, does the FCC have the resources—both in budget and personnel—to do so?

I am also greatly concerned that there are not adequate protections in this bill for the Internet as we know it. The telecom industry has already told us that they plan to operate their own form of censorship, slowing down or speeding up delivery of content depending on its relationship to the provider. I am concerned that they could also start blocking email from advocacy groups they don't agree with and shutting down startups that may offer competition to products they provide.

I understand that many argue that the cost of continuing with an open Internet will fall on the shoulder of consumers, and that the Titans of the Internet will get a free ride if we pass a net neutrality provision. However, while the COPE Act would allow the telcos to set up their tollbooths, there are no guarantees, no protections, nothing to stop the telcos from bilking consumers—even if the telcos were to charge Google and Yahoo. They could double dip—and why wouldn't they? One can say that it probably won't happen, but there is nothing in this bill to stop them.

Mr. Speaker, the COPE Act is not the answer to lack of competition in cable service. I urge my colleagues to oppose its passage.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK KOGOVSEK

**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2006*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker I rise today to pay tribute to Frank Kogovsek, a man of

quiet but firm character who spent his life making a difference in the lives of "underdogs."

Frank Kogovsek was born June 22, 1939 in Pueblo, Colorado, to Frank L. and Mary Blatnick Kogovsek. He graduated from Pueblo Catholic High School in 1957 and went on to the seminary. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1965. His fifth assignment was in La Junta, where he served as assistant pastor of Assumption Church in Bessemer.

He taught at Seton High as well, a Catholic school for girls. At Seton High he reconnected with a former classmate who had become a nun, Leona Reinert. Frank left the priesthood and Leona gave up being a nun and they were married in November 28, 1970 in Lake-wood, Colorado.

Leona fondly remembered his work with students, describing him as a mentor who was "always looking out for the underdog, trying to guide them and educate them as to things available to assist them. He was a kind, understanding, soft-spoken person."

Frank continued to work with underdogs when he and Leona moved to Adams County. He took on a job as a probation officer for the City of Denver. Until 1995, he worked with at-risk youth, mentoring and guiding young people that were mixed up with the law.

Frank and Leona's love of children led them to adopt three of their own. They had a daughter, Jennifer, and two sons, Greg and Jerome. Jennifer fondly remembered her father's love for the simple things in life. "He loved his backyard," she said. "He built a patio when we were kids. He just loved to be outside in summer."

Weakened by Parkinson's disease, Frank succumbed to pneumonia on February 22, 2006 at the age of 66. Frank was a common man that spent his life making an uncommon mark upon individuals that often had nowhere else to turn. I join his family in grieving his loss and commemorating his life of service as an example for all of us.

A TRIBUTE TO HENRY FRANK

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 16, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Henry Frank, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community. It behooves us to pay tribute to this outstanding leader and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his impressive accomplishments.

Henry Frank was born in the Republic of Haiti, and was trained as an anthropologist. His research works have taken him all over Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and South America, particularly Bahia, the bastion of the African culture in Brazil.

Dr. Frank has given lectures on the African Preserved Religions in the New World especially Vodou as well as other aspects of the New World Cultures at many Universities and Museums in the U.S. and abroad. For nine years, Dr. Frank was the Assistant Director of Caribbean Studies in the Education Department at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He has also participated in conferences and has given lectures

at several prominent institutions, hospitals and healthcare facilities.

From 1982 to 1990, Dr. Frank served as a scholar for the New York Council for the Humanities program, "Speakers in the Humanities". In April 1990, he was appointed Consul General of Haiti in New York in the government of Mme. Ertha Trouillot, the first woman president of Haiti. From 1986 to 1990, Dr. Frank serve as the Executive Director of the Haitian Neighborhood Service Center (HNSC) in NYC while simultaneously serving as a lecturer on African/Caribbean Culture and History for the NYC Council for the Humanities.

Dr. Frank has participated in many radio and TV programs in the U.S. and Europe. He appeared on French and German television and was a specialist on African Preserved Religion in the Americas and narrator for FINNISH TELEVISION in Finland. He was a consultant for the Vodoo segment of the series "In Search of Vodoo by Landsburg Productions". The program was first aired on WNBC-TV. He also was a consultant for WABC-TV in the 20/20 segment on "Zombification". He appeared with Wade Davis, the author of *The Serpent and the Rainbow*, as a guest on *The Geraldo Riviera Show* in opposition to the film of the same name. Dr. Frank was a consultant for the fabulous exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History in New York entitled, "The Sacred Art of Haitian Vodou" that was on view from October 10, 1998 to January 3, 1999 and attracted 70,000 viewers. He also gave numerous lecture presentations and participated in panel discussions in conjunction with the exhibit. He continually serves as a consultant for that scientific and cultural institution.

Since April 1991, Dr. Frank has been the Executive Director of the Haitian Centers Council, a consortium of eight Haitian Centers nationwide. It is important to note that the Haitian Centers Council (HCC) offers the most comprehensive HIV/AIDS education and prevention program to the Haitian community at large for over 20 years, but not exclusively. It also provides services to other Caribbean and minority communities including French-speaking Africans. The organization has a 16 unit residential facility with support services for people with AIDS (PWA). In collaboration with the NYC Department of Education and United Way of NYC, HCC conducts programs for high school students pertaining to academic enhancement, cultural and historical enrichment, leadership, and socialization skills. HCC also provides a comprehensive Domestic Violence Prevention program to the Haitian community at large and other minority communities. Under Dr. Frank's direction, HCC has been on the forefront of immigration issues, and the protection and defense of Haitian immigrant rights in the U.S. and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Henry Frank, as he offers his talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Henry Frank's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.