

kids exploring the Internet and the World-wide web there is a growing trend of advertising and promotional material. Oftentimes the corporations use such techniques as up-to-the-minute sports scores, games and contests to promote their type of alcohol. With all the advertising that is going on, there is a growing influence upon youth today. What the corporations have in mind is that, if they gear their ads towards young adults, they will start to drink at a younger age. Once they start to drink, soon the corporation will have a lifelong customer. Our main concern about ads today is that they are giving us an unrealistic view about what alcoholic beverages are and what they can do to you.

Congressman Sanders, after hearing this information, we leave it in your hands to make proposals to remedy this problem, such as placing more responsibility on the alcohol companies to direct their ads at older and more mature audiences, instituting stricter penalties to those who procure alcohol for teens, as well as those teens who try to purchase it, and initiating a stronger community involvement with alternatives to alcohol, such as rec centers, sports leagues, and school-related affairs.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Excellent.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIDEO COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT OF 1998

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman BILLY TAUZIN (R-LA) in introducing this bill today. The legislation we are proposing today will help to promote competition to our nation's cable monopolies and will help to provide consumer protection.

The legislation will promote greater competition to cable monopolies in a couple of important ways. First, the bill will expand program access rules to reflect the highly-concentrated nature of the current cable programming market and enable competitors to obtain the programming they need to compete effectively. Program access is a key provision that is the lifeblood of many of cable's fledgling competitors. The program access provisions are expanded to include all cable programming, not only programming that is from vertically-integrated programmers and delivered via satellite. Exclusive programming arrangements for incumbent operators may be permitted, but only by obtaining a public interest waiver from the FCC for such channels as locally-produced and locally-originated cable news channels, for example.

Second, the bill will establish a low-cost basic tier so that Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) consumers—or potential DBS customers—who today cannot receive local TV channels as part of a DBS service may obtain a lifeline basic tier over the cable wire. This will permit consumers to obtain their local channels in a way that will affordably complement their satellite service. Both the program access and low cost basic tier provisions will help to promote greater competition to cable monopolies. I also want to note at this point that I look forward to working with Chairman Tauzin on legislation that will allow satellite competitors to broadcast local TV sta-

tions back into local markets via satellite. Hopefully Congress can address that issue as well in the near future.

With respect to consumer price protections, the bill seeks to protect consumers by permitting local franchising authorities to certify that an incumbent cable monopoly is not offering consumers an acceptable range of choices and thereby retain FCC consumer price protections for an additional year. This does not mean that the bill is mandating a la carte cable offerings, but rather it means that we'd like to see a greater range of cable programming packages, or "mini-tiers," that cater to particular programming interests of consumers.

This approach also attempts to deal in part with the faulty premise of the FCC's so-called "going forward" rules, which went into effect in 1995 and reversed the good job the Commission had been doing up until that point and which has saved consumers approximately \$3 Billion. The premise of the Commission's rule change was that the cable monopolies needed an incentive to launch new cable programming channels. The new rules allowed for programming costs to be passed on to consumers, plus operators were allowed to charge an extra 20 cents per subscriber per month on top of that for each of up to 6 new channels. Cable operators responded by adding more channels and today claim the high cost of providing those channels as part of the rationale for why cable prices are increasing so drastically.

One obvious result of the FCC's adjustments to its rates is that too many cable consumers are paying excessive monopoly rents to cable operators who blissfully allow their programming units to let costs rise because the cable operator is allowed under the Commission's rules to simply pass these costs along to cable subscribers. No need to ask advertisers to shoulder part of the burden—all of it can go on the cable bills of many working Americans or those on fixed incomes. (Most American companies see their stock prices rise when they are able to announce that they are effectively controlling their costs. Cable companies gleefully see their stocks rise as they fail utterly to hold the line on their programming costs.)

Yet this failure to control programming costs also means that incumbent vertically-integrated programmers cannot only pass these inflated costs on to their customers, but also means that the costs borne by new entrants competing against them get inflated as well. These higher programming rates unnaturally inflate the costs of competitors attempting to take on the entrenched cable club. This is clearly anti-competitive.

In addition, the FCC's "going forward" rules also wound up forcing many consumers to pay more for programming that they have little to no interest of ever watching. The grievance of paying for unwanted programming on a 35-channel cable system is exacerbated when we move to a 60 or 80 or 100 channel universe. A more robust marketplace would help ensure that consumers would not have to pay for all of these unwanted channels and would more adequately reflect the programming demands and desires of different cable consumers.

But we do not have anything remotely close to a competitive cable marketplace today. And the current marketplace is so overwhelmingly concentrated in the hands of monopolies that

the cable club has little interest in catering to consumer choice.

That's why we are introducing this bill today. Chairman Tauzin and I have lived this cable odyssey together for many, many years. We are familiar with the industry—both its promise and its problems. And we are familiar with all of their tired arguments as to why rates keep going up and up even as inflation stays at near record lows. Chairman Tauzin has been driven in his pursuit of promoting cable competition and so have I. The legislation that Chairman Tauzin and I are proposing today will help address pending cable problems. It says that cable systems are deregulated on March 31, 1999 unless a local franchising authority certifies that the incumbent cable company does not offer an acceptable level of choices in the programming offered to consumers. This means that local franchising authorities can help ensure that consumers get additional, smaller programming packages and do not have to take all of the unwanted programming.

Right now, cable rates are rising multiple times the rate of inflation. The massive assault on cable markets that we had expected from the phone companies has not materialized and, except in a few scattered communities across the country, the phone industry has largely pulled back from plans to enter the market in a big way. And we have this deregulation date looming in March of next year. I want to applaud Chairman Tauzin for the leadership he is demonstrating in taking on this vitally important issue for consumers, for the economy and for innovation. And I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this proposal.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM BOYD OWEN

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. America is strong because of its millions of citizens who work hard and provide futures for themselves and their families. They build professions, businesses, jobs, and they build strong communities through endless hours of service.

It's my privilege today to recognize one of those individuals who has been a leader in his profession, his community, and a respected and revered father and grandfather, William Boyd Owen.

Born in Dellwood, North Carolina on August 16, 1918, W. Boyd Owen was the youngest of three physician brothers in a medical family which spans several generations and includes his son, William B. Owen Jr., a Haywood County, North Carolina orthopedic surgeon.

Boyd attended Canton, North Carolina public schools before entering Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina where he displayed many talents. Young Boyd played basketball, and played the saxophone and clarinet with an orchestra while in college. In 1939, he played for Wake Forest in the very first post season NCAA basketball tournament. After graduation, he entered the Wake Forest Medical School, later transferring to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he earned his medical degree at the age of twenty-three.

Dr. Owen interned at Philadelphia General Hospital, then entered the United States Army Medical Corps in 1943. He remained in the medical corps until 1946, attaining the rank of major. He served in Hawaii, the United States and the Philippines, and after leaving active duty, he remained in the inactive reserves for six years.

In 1946, he opened a general medical practice in Waynesville. In 1947 he "covered" the Canton practice of his older brother Dr. Charles Owen. Meanwhile his own practice grew until he built the present Owen-Smith Clinic in 1954 after being joined by Dr. A. Heyward Smith. In 1962 he was elected to the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, serving for six years including the last year as president.

Dr. Owen's career has spanned the time period when he could not get a new car because of war-time conditions and he was paid with chickens and wood, to present-day medicine which utilizes computers, lasers and high-tech surgical procedures. He is a member and founding fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, life member of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practitioners.

Dr. Owen has been a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees since 1954, longer than any living member. He served on the Trustee Athletic Committee as chairman and was also on the Executive Committee. In 1991, Dr. Owen was made a life trustee. For two decades he belonged to the Wake Forest President's Club, and he worked as class agent for several medical classes. Dr. Owen was president of the Bowman Gray Medical School Alumni and earned a citation for distinguished service. In 1989, he chaired the Medical Center Board which encompasses the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Active in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Dr. Owen has served as deacon, trustee and chaired a variety of committees. He has been a member and former president of the Lions Club, the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce, the "30 Club" and is now a member of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Owen recently retired after fifty-one years in active practice and resides in Waynesville. His wife of more than 50 years is the former Helen Bryan. Their four children are: Elizabeth Owen Taylor, William Boyd Owen, James Griffin Owen and Mary Owen Davis. All four children graduated from Wake Forest University as did his wife, Helen. Helen's father, D.B. Bryan, was Dean of Wake Forest College for 26 years. He is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren one of whom is now enrolled at Wake Forest University.

IN CELEBRATION OF AIRLINE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airline United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, on its 50th Anniversary. On

August 30th, Airline Church will celebrate fifty years of faith, love, and friendship. My family has attended Airline Church for many years now, and I want to personally thank the entire congregation for their fellowship and their contributions to our community.

In 1948, forty-four Houstonians gathered under the leadership and vision of Reverend C.E. Clark to form Airline United Methodist Church. Airline today has expanded from its humble beginnings in surplus Army barracks to become a multi-structure facility with a membership of 700 individuals. While Houston and the United States have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, Airline has remained true to its original mission: to be faithful to God and to provide for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the community.

The strength and longevity of Airline United Methodist comes from its people, their faith, and the relationships they build within our church family. The United Methodist Women encourages its members to study how the Methodist Church is at work in the world and the United Methodist Men participate in several service projects. Planning for the future, Airline youth fellowship seeks to instill Christian values in our younger members in order to prepare them for the challenges that today's youth face.

Airline United Methodist Church believes that its mission extends beyond the membership to the entire community. In collaboration with other Houston food programs, the Society of St. Stephen's operates a food pantry and serves as a food distribution point. At Thanksgiving, Church members furnish meals to local families, and at Christmas, both children and adults provide presents and meals for families identified by the local school district and for children whose parents are incarcerated. Today, church members have established a multicultural program designed to reach out to a rapidly changing community and our church services are translated into Spanish. In recognition of its evangelism efforts, Airline United Methodist Church has twice been presented with the Copeland Evangelism Award by the Texas Annual Conference.

Airline United Methodist's 50th Anniversary is both a milestone and a beginning. This celebration provides us the opportunity to review what has been accomplished through faith in God and to look forward to all that lies ahead.

THE JUSTICE FOR ATOMIC
VETERANS ACT OF 1998—H.R. 4368

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Justice For Atomic Veterans Act of 1998. This legislation will grant a presumption of service-connection for illnesses which have been identified as being significantly or suggestively increased in persons who have been exposed to radiation risk activities to those men and women who, during the course of their military service, were subjected to unknown doses of radioactive material.

Under present law, veterans who engaged in radiation risk activities during military serv-

ice are entitled to a presumption of service-connection for some illnesses, but must prove causation by "dose reconstruction estimates" which many reputable scientists have found fatally flawed. By VA estimates, only about 50 veterans have been able to show the requisite reconstructed dose to establish service-connection.

It is certainly not these veterans who are responsible that accurate records of their exposure were not kept and maintained. In addition, many veterans have been unsuccessful in obtaining access to even the inadequate medical records relating to their exposure during military service. In some cases, records have reportedly been lost. In other cases, records of radiation-related activities were classified and not made available to the veterans seeking compensation. It is also well known that many veterans were not provided with adequate protection to the radiation exposures to which they were subjected during their military service.

Our atomic veterans were put in harm's way in service to our Nation. But our government failed to collect the data and provide the follow-up that would enable our atomic veterans to effectively pursue claims for the harms which resulted. I agree with the statement in the 1995 final report of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments:

When the nation exposes servicemen and women to hazardous substances, there is an obligation to keep appropriate records of both the exposures and the long-term medical outcomes.

We failed to keep the records of the exposures of our atomic veterans. They should not suffer for our neglect. Let us right the injustices visited on our atomic veterans since the days of World War II. Presumption of service-connection for illnesses which are likely to be due to radiation risk activity should be enacted. I thank the Members who have agreed to be original cosponsor of this legislation and urge all other Members to support this legislation.

TO DESIGNATE JULY 6TH AS
"PALOMAR MARKET DAY"

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. and Mrs. James Mellos, a couple in my district whose retirement symbolizes the end of an era.

Since May of 1927, the Mellos family has owned and operated the Palomar Market Liquor & Grocery store located at 1802 W. Washington Street in San Diego, California. Mr. James D. Mellos, his brother Mr. Louis Mellos, and his cousin Mr. George Antonopoulos, started this business which the family has successfully owned and operated for 71 years—through the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the Cold War. According to the Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Palomar Market has the unique recognition of holding the oldest off-sale liquor license in the State of California. Mr. James Mellos, Jr. worked at Palomar Market since he was nine years old, continuing a family tradition of serving the Mission Hills Community which lasted over four decades.