

PROMISES VS. PERFORMANCE:
THE 1996 TELECOM ACT REVISITED

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, two years ago, on February 8, 1996, virtually the entire bipartisan leadership of Congress and the Administration gathered to celebrate the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It was supposed to reduce regulation, foster competition, create new jobs, and expand customer choice.

But today, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Federal Government has not delivered on that commitment. Of course, everyone has someone else to blame. However, the fact remains that we have more regulatory roadblocks than ever. At every juncture, the FCC's approach has been to adopt more rules and regulations. Almost all of those actions have been overturned by the courts.

Why should this matter to consumers? Because it means that they aren't getting the benefits of lower prices and more choices.

Mr. Speaker, it's time for someone to get a handle on these runaway regulations, so I'm looking forward to the new commissioners stepping up to the task. My message to the FCC is simple—Congress is still looking for competition and more choice—let's allow the communications marketplace to work for the American people, not the lawyers of the regulatory bureaucracy.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS R. MARCHESE

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, a year ago Monday, on February 9, 1997, Mr. Louis R. Marchese, 65, died at his home in Arlington Heights, IL. I rise today to pay tribute to this fine man on the anniversary of his death.

I was acquainted with Lou Marchese through his son Steven, my Legislative Director for Foreign Operations Appropriations. Lou was a prominent lawyer in Illinois, nationally recognized for his work in the wholesale-distribution industry. More importantly, he was a man of integrity and high moral character.

Lou was the consummate self made man. His beginnings were humble; his parents were first generation Italians. He worked hard to rise above the trappings of poverty, and was the first in his family to attend college.

Education was a priority for Lou, and only took a backseat when he served in the Army during the Korean War. He later used the GI bill to attend law school at DePaul University in Chicago. He began his legal career at the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry and it was there that he developed a lifelong affinity for the needs of the American businessman.

He was active in a number of industries, and was a leader among his peers. He served on the board of directors for many organizations and was instrumental in forming national, regional, and local trade associations to champion the rights of small, family-owned businesses.

During his long and distinguished career, he helped to build the law firm that would later bear his name, Halfpenny, Hahn, Roche & Marchese. Lou's expertise was sought in the areas of antitrust, trade regulation, and interstate taxation. He was well-published and the author of several books on the legal aspects of distribution.

He loved representing entrepreneurial firms, as he knew they were the backbone of a successful national economy. To achieve this end, he created the Distribution Research and Education Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting wholesale-distribution.

Lou won recognition as a leading legal authority in the automotive industry, receiving the industry's leadership award in 1983. He also is one of only two individuals outside of the automotive field to be elected to the Automotive Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, despite all of Lou's many accomplishments, he was proudest of all of his family. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Marge, and his five children, Anne, Mary Ellen, John, Meg, and of course Steve. It is within these fine individuals that his legacy continues today.

I am honored to have known such an outstanding gentleman as Lou Marchese. His sense of humor and commanding presence will be sorely missed by all those whose lives he touched. Lou's death was a great loss to the legal community and to all whom had the pleasure to meet him. I consider myself lucky to have been one of them.

UNFULFILLED PROMISES: THE 1996
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, the etymology of the phrase "buying a pig in the poke" has a rich linguistic history that can be traced back to the 16th century. In those days, as in ours, it refers to "something offered in such a way as to obscure its real nature or worth." The phrase is used these days to describe the growing sentiment regarding the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

When we voted on this legislation two years ago, we were promised a new era on the telecommunications frontier. We were promised better values for our consumers, greater competition, a higher level of local competition, and increased investments in local service facilities.

When this chamber passed the bill, we expected prompt and effective action from the Federal Communications Commission. We expected the FCC to give all consumers more long distance options and a greater array of services, in terms of local telephone and video service choices.

In my view, it seems that the FCC is moving in the wrong direction in allowing companies to compete for long distance services. This has been done at the expense of consumers and the regional Bell companies.

Although this is a tad tedious, the record speaks for itself. The FCC has attempted to subordinate state agencies through mandatory pricing "guidelines" and other requirements. Regrettably, the FCC has been joined by the

U.S. Justice Department's Antitrust Division in expanding the scope of long distance "check-list" items.

Sadly, all Bell company applications to compete in long distance have been denied. This not only hurts the regional Bell companies, it also harms middle income and lower-income consumers in my Congressional District and across my home state. In Kentucky, for example, more than 60 agreements have been signed between BellSouth and competitors seeking to provide local telephone service to "re-sell" local service. In contrast to federal regulators, those closest to the ground know the value of fostering competition. In other words, state commissions continue to foster local exchange competition.

Across Kentucky we are seeing examples of competitors operating in Lexington and Louisville, where they can capture the more profitable business markets. Yet, we don't see a rush to introduce competitive services for residential customers.

In my view, it appears that there is a flaw either in the statute itself or with the manner in which the FCC is choosing to carry out its mandate. There's no doubt in my mind that we sorely need a collaborative approach by the FCC on this matter. This is what Congress expected when it voted on the Telecommunications Act. We still have this expectation.

In summary, we need an approach that is reasonable, balanced, specific and consistent with the clear intent of Congress. To do so, allows the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to achieve its intended worth and promised value to consumers and telecommunications companies. To do otherwise is to delay, or deny, the once-in-a-generation opportunity for consumers to benefit from a competitive and rapidly changing telecommunications market.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking to us to pass meaningful campaign finance reform in order to restore their faith in the political process. The President of the United States has called for bipartisan campaign finance reform to restore fairness and structure to a system plagued by abuses and unfair advantage. Now, leaders of corporate America have spoken out demanding campaign finance reform to ensure that businesses do not feel obliged to make large campaign contributions. The House still fails to set a date for debate and ultimately, a vote. What group needs to speak out to get the attention of House leadership?

I will continue to deliver daily statements. Individuals and public and private interests will continue to speak out. The Senate will continue to do its job by voting on reform by March 6, 1998. Will the House continue to turn a deaf ear to a growing voice calling for reform? My constituents demand to be heard, they will not take "no" for an answer.

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES FIFTH PRESIDENT

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on February 21st of this year, Our Lady of the Lake University will inaugurate Sally Mahoney as its fifth president. It is an honor for me to recognize and applaud this important event at one of the leading institutions of higher learning in the entire southwest portion of our Nation.

Our Lady of the Lake University is coated in the heart of the 20th Congressional District of Texas, which I have had the honor and privilege of representing in the U.S. Congress for thirty-six years now. For over one hundred years, Our Lady of the Lake University has provided premier education at the same location on the Westside of San Antonio.

The University—or “The Lake” as it is affectionately referred to in San Antonio—was originally established in Texas by the Congregation of the Sisters of Divine Providence. From its inception as a Catholic academy for young women, the Lake has grown into a coeducational institution of world renown, serving an entire region with an offering of scores of areas of study and advanced degrees. As I said on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives some eight years ago on the University Founder's Day, “Our Lady of the Lake University stands alone in its rich history of offering opportunities to groups left out of the mainstream, including women of all ethnic groups and adult students.”

While its enrollment may be small in numbers compared to some other universities, Our Lady of the Lake is big in its impact. It maintains the oldest social work program in Texas at the Worden School of Social Service. The list of University graduates reads as a who's who of those working to make a difference in their communities at the local level and nationally as well. It includes my esteemed colleague in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Ciro Rodriguez, and members of my own staff.

Other graduates include Dr. Gloria Rodriguez of Avance, Mary Jo Alvarez-Rodriguez of Project COPE, Guadalupe Gibson and Dr. Ernesto Gomez of Centro Del Barrio, Rosemary Stauber of the Bexar Country Women's Center, and Louise Locker Elliot of the Elf-Louise program. The list goes on and will only continue to grow, thanks to the strength of the University as an institution and the commitment of those associated with our Lady of the Lake.

As the recipient of an honorary doctoral degree in the humanities from Our Lady of the Lake, I would also like to extend my own personal welcome and congratulations to President Mahoney on the auspicious occasion of her inauguration as the fifth president of Our Lady of the Lake University. President Mahoney takes the reins from my long-time and very dear friend, Sister Elizabeth Anne Sueltenfuss, who served as President of the Lake for the past nineteen years. I trust that President Mahoney will have as long and productive a tenure, as Our Lady of the Lake

continues into its second century of educational service and excellence.

TRIBUTE TO THE BOROUGH OF SEASIDE PARK ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in tribute to the 100th anniversary of the Borough of Seaside Park, New Jersey. Seaside Park is celebrating their 100th anniversary on March 2, 1998, and will be holding a ceremony on Thursday, March 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the regular meeting of the Town Council. Other events will take place this summer, including an Ocean Mini-marathon swim on August 15, a Dinner Dance on August 21, and a Centennial Parade on August 22, to be followed with a fair with children's games and music.

The history of Seaside Park began in the late 1800's, and early settlers found the area so beautiful, they planned to create a park; thus the name Seaside Park. The early settlers were self-reliant people, and through their efforts they built a strong and vibrant community. In those early days, residents hauled sand to create the first roads, and many residents kept cattle, horses, and chickens.

In 1872, the U.S. Life Saving Service was established, with William O. Miller as the first captain. The Life Saving station became the Coast Guard Station with the founding of the Coast Guard in 1915. Today, the station serves as a meeting facility and is home to the borough offices.

Train service to Seaside Park began July 4, 1881, when the train made its first run from Philadelphia to Seaside Park. The railroad station, built in 1882, is now the site of the Municipal Complex.

In 1899, the Seaside Park Yacht Club was built. Seaside Park's famous Sewell Cup for catboats was originally presented by U.S. Senator William Sewell during opening race ceremonies in 1900. The Sewell Cup is still raced today.

In 1913, Seaside Park's Volunteer Fire Department was established. That year, the company built their first vehicle, a horse drawn hose truck. A large iron gong was rung whenever there was a fire, and residents responded. The gong is presently located outside the firehouse at the Municipal Complex. In 1938, the Tri-Boro First Aid Squad was formed. The squad originally covered the area from Lavallette to Barnegat Inlet.

In 1973, Seaside Park adopted its official Borough Seal. The seal is divided into three parts, representing the trinity of land, sea and air, which are symbolized by the native beach plum, striped bass and a sea gull. The colors of the seal are blue for nobility, gold for preciousness, and white for purity.

Mr. Speaker, today the Borough of Seaside Park prides itself on its excellent beaches, its quality of life, and its community spirit, where neighbors know and care about each other. I would therefore like to recognize all of the citi-

zens of Seaside Park and their Mayor, John Peterson, Jr., and the Centennial Committee Chairperson, Ms. Nancy Carlson, for their ongoing and continuing pride and love for their town. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Borough of Seaside Park on this historic milestone, and wish them a happy, prosperous and successful next century.

HONORING DR. NORA KIZER BELL

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct privilege today to honor a remarkable woman and the newest president of Wesleyan College in Macon, GA, Dr. Nora Kizer Bell.

On December 23, 1836, the Georgia legislature ratified the charter of the Georgia Female College and empowered its president to “confer all such honors, degrees, and licenses, as are usually conferred in colleges or universities”—making it the first college in the world chartered to grant degrees to women. The college was founded through the efforts of a group of Macon citizens and the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, expressing their commitment to the higher education of women.

The Georgia Conference assumed responsibility for the college in 1843, and by an act of the state legislature changed its name to Wesleyan Female College. The “Female” was eliminated from the name in 1917, but Wesleyan has remained a women's college throughout its history.

Wesleyan is also the birthplace of the first two Greek societies for women, the Adelphean Society in 1851 (now Alpha Delta Pi) and the Philomathean Society in 1852 (now Phi Mu).

In 1928 the Liberal Arts College was moved from its original College Street site to the new Rivoli campus in north Macon. The historic College Street building continued to house the School of Fine Arts, which consisted of the Conservatory of Music and the departments of art, theatre, and speech. In 1953 the School of Fine Arts, too, was moved to the present campus.

This is the extraordinary history of the institution that is about to inaugurate an extraordinary new president. In 1997 Wesleyan College named Dr. Bell its twenty-third president, to succeed Robert Kilgo Ackerman. Dr. Bell is a Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College. She earned the master of arts from the University of South Carolina and the doctor of philosophy from the University of North Carolina.

In 1998, one hundred sixty-two years after the college's founding, the president who confers degrees on the graduates of Wesleyan will also be the first woman to serve in that capacity. This is a great day for post-secondary education, women educators, Wesleyan College, and the City of Macon.

I am proud to represent Wesleyan College and I commend Dr. Bell and her faculty and administration on their commitment that Wesleyan College continue to provide the best education for tomorrow's leaders.