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Citation: 6 Bernard D. Reams Jr. & William H. Manz Federal
Law A Legislative History of the Telecommunications
of 1996 Pub. L. No. 104-104 110 Stat. 56 1996
the Communications Decency Act S1368 1997

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Wed Mar 20 19:03:39 2013

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ANTITRUST AND COMMUNICATIONS REFORM ACT OF 1994

SPEECH OF
HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 22, 1994

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support today of H.R. 3636—the National Communications, Competitive and Information Infrastructure Act. This is a procompetitive bill which will help advance the development of telecommunications technology and the information superhighway.

I wish to congratulate Chairman MARKEY and ranking member JACK FIELDS and their staffs for their work in developing a bill on this difficult and complicated issue that has bipartisan support.

I am a supporter of H.R. 3636 and strongly believe that we should permit the local exchange telephone companies to provide video services. Competition will bring new services to consumers and will serve to hold down prices.

This legislation will also give telecommunications companies the financial incentives necessary to install fiber optic lines, high-capacity switches and other broadband technology throughout the local networks. This last mile of the information superhighway will be put in place much more quickly with the passage of H.R. 3636.

Competition clearly works. And I want my constituents to have choices—both in cable television services and in telephone services. H.R. 3636 will ensure fair and open competition for both services. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CLAYTON PARKER FOR ESSAY IN DEFENSE OF SPACE STATION

HON. RAUFER M. HALL

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 23, 1994

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Clayton Tolle Parker of Paris, TX, whose third-place winning essay in the Eddie North Parker Essay Contest focused on the space station as a means of promoting the economic security, and thus national security, of the United States and the free world. The contest was sponsored for the 4th year by the Northeast Texas Air Force Association.

Mr. Karrer cites the developments in robotics, communications, construction, and medicine derived from the space program and develops an economic argument in support of the space station. He writes, "The new or improved products plus the international alliances that can be gained through our space station would be very powerful weapons in our continuing trade wars, weapons that would be far more advantageous than any armaments of missiles in space could ever be."

"The new and improved partnerships and products Space Station Freedom could create for our nation would definitely help our country change the type of economy under which it operates, and that successful change would

be the greatest support of our national security and the security of other nations that could be achieved," he continues.

"In fact," Mr. Karrer concludes, "that kind of support would allow our nation to win what might be its most important battle: the battle to make our economy number one in the world."

As a supporter of the space station, I commend Mr. Karrer for his interest in this timely issue. I also would like to pay tribute to his Paris High School English teacher, Sandra Gifford, for encouraging students to participate in this essay contest, and to Neil Houser, Dennis Mathis, and Day Davis of the Northeast Texas Air Force Association for promoting this event.

Mr. Karrer was recognized at the Northeast Texas Air Force Association Banquet on February 11 in Commerce, TX. A Paris High School senior, he is the son of Ray and Carolyn Karrer of Paris.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1995

SPEECH OF
HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 28, 1994

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4898) making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes:

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the DeLay amendment.

The Labor, Health and Human Services appropriation bill for fiscal year 1995 prohibits the Secretary of Labor from using any funds to implement or administer the final Davis-Bacon helper regulations. The DeLay amendment strikes this burdensome provision from the bill.

Under current policy, union workers on federally funded projects are divided into various classifications. Helpers are unskilled workers who work under the direct supervision of higher skilled journey-level workers. If a contractor wants to hire an unskilled worker then the contractor must pay the helper the same wages as the skilled worker. Approximately 75 percent of all construction work is performed by contractors who use semiskilled helpers.

Over a decade ago, the Department of Labor initiated regulations to allow the use of semiskilled helpers on Davis-Bacon projects. After years of administrative review and litigation the courts affirmed that the Department of Labor's helper regulations were fully consistent with the language and purpose of the Davis-Bacon Act—that Federal contracts should reflect the local market, and that the Federal Government should not use its power to impose a wage structure on the local market. Unfortunately, congressional intervention prevented the regulations from taking effect.

Estimates show that if the helper classification were to become widely used on Davis-Bacon projects, 250,000 jobs would be created and the Federal Government would save

\$600 million a year. Furthermore, construction industry advocates indicate that the helper classification would open up the job market to many individuals who are not currently employed in this area including minorities, women, the disadvantaged, and many entry-level workers.

Vote for the DeLay amendment. Vote for the opportunity to benefit workers, contractors, and taxpayers by allowing the use of helpers on Davis-Bacon projects.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1995

SPEECH OF
HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 1994

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4898) making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1995, and for other purposes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, the Heffley amendment represents the most dangerous form of direct government censorship. It targets a particular station for the broadcast of a particular program that someone in the government did not like.

There will always be programs on public broadcasting stations that any one of us might object to for some reason. But we cannot allow the government to censor programming or editorial decisionmaking of public broadcasting stations.

A commentator on a Pacifica radio station made statements during a program that were objectionable. They set ground rules, and the commentator chose not to appear again on the air under those rules. The station offered reply time to those who objected to the comments. The station responded to this event in a reasonable manner.

While I also object to the statements allegedly made on this program, I must strongly object to any effort to place the government directly in the role of a censor of programming. This violates our national commitment to freedom of expression and freedom of the press from direct government censorship.

While we must demand accountability. While we must, and do, demand objectivity and balance from public broadcasters. We must say no to efforts to target any particular program, station or newscast from direct political retaliation. This is government censorship in its most virulent and destructive form and I strongly object to the acceptance of this amendment by the committee without debate and without a vote.

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