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high-speed computers and electronics, and high-temperature superconductors for efficiency in electrical devices.

Experimental research in the near absence of gravity produces new insights into industrial processes in materials that cannot be replicated on Earth and contribute to increased understanding of fluid physics and combustion. A better understanding of the combustion process can lead to energy conservation on Earth. As small as a 2-percent increase in burner efficiency for heaters would save the United States \$8 billion per year.

In addition, space science is a catalyst for academic achievement. It is important to note that trends of U.S. college students majoring in science and engineering track closely with the funding trends of the U.S. space program. Teachers and communities across the Nation are already using space station concepts in the classroom, and in the future will have experiments on Alpha. These experiments will be conducted from their classrooms on the ground. Students will transmit and receive data, manipulate equipment remotely, and evaluate the experiments through interpretation of the data.

Support for the space station Alpha is important to America's future.

CONGRATULATING REV. LAWRENCE C. ROBERTS ON HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1994

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues an event which took place this past Sunday in my home State. It was the celebration of the 35th Pastoral Anniversary of Rev. Lawrence C. Roberts at the First Baptist Church of Nutley.

Many know Reverend Roberts for his extraordinary musical talents. He was the first black gospel record producer in the country with Savoy Records in 1954. He produced many great gospel artists including the Ward Singers, the Banks Brothers, Dorothy Norwood, and the famed Caravans with Albertina Walker. Over the years he has performed professionally and has shared the stage with such greats as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Sammy Davis Jr., Roberta Flack, and Ray Charles.

Rev. Lawrence Roberts has been fortunate to have family and friends who have nurtured him throughout life. This nurturing has allowed him to open his arms, heart, and home for those that need that little extra attention, that smile of reassurance or understanding. Reverend Roberts not only shares his talent, he makes a point to share his knowledge. He has lectured at high schools, colleges, and the Smithsonian Institute.

The accolades that have been bestowed upon Reverend Roberts have not changed this man. He continues to take time out to be "Uncle Lawrence" to the young people of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure my colleagues join me in congratulating Rev. Lawrence C. Roberts on his anniversary and offer their best

wishes to him, his family, and his congregation.

TEENAGE SMOKING

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 1994

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a column by Eric Zorn which ran in the Chicago Tribune on July 10, 1994. The column, "Let's Snuff Out Teenage Smoking," is right on target.

[From the Chicago Tribune, July 10, 1994]

LET'S SNUFF OUT TEENAGE SMOKING

(By Eric Zorn)

Surveys tell the story: The 400,000-some new tombstones planted each year for those who have died of smoking-related causes are a collective monument to the enduring stupidity of teenagers.

The kids aren't doing the dying, of course. Tobacco takes years to complete its ugly work. But they are by and large the ones taking those first drags, inhaling their way into a powerful addiction (or, if you believe the industry panjandrums, a pleasurable habit that just happens to be terribly hard to break) that takes a huge toll on the individual and society.

Smoking is an unwise practice, for soads of reasons I need not repeat here. For it to continue among about a quarter of the population as it does, unwise people must join in to replace the quitters and diers in great numbers—people who, say, don't really believe in their own mortality, who can't imagine the idea of deferred disease and whose immature judgment is, in many areas, enshrined into the law.

In short, teenagers.

The vast majority of new smokers each year are teens. Figures from the Office on Smoking and Health within the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that four out of five adults who now smoke started before they were 18. A recent U.S. surgeon general's report said the average age of first cigarette is 14.5, and of becoming a daily smoker is 17.7.

The same report said it is very rare for people to take up smoking after 30. The unstated reason is obvious: People know better by then. They've read the studies and fear the weed. They've realized that their bodies deteriorate fast enough without deliberate poisoning. They can see the future and want to be in it.

And though there isn't always a direct correlation between one's wisdom and one's level of formal education, note that only 14 percent of college graduates smoke, compared with 22 percent of those who didn't finish high school. The New Republic reported last week that only 7 percent of the Harvard class of '89 smokes.

By all lights, with its strong associations with youth and lack of wisdom, smoking ought to be viewed as just another one of those dumb things kids do, like throwing toilet paper on trees, playing ding-dong-ditch or driving around in endless circles with the car stereo cranked all the way up. A phase. A rite of passage. Something to grow out of and laugh about later.

Adults ought to be as embarrassed to ask to sit in restaurant smoking sections as they would be to ask to sit with patrons who are playing drinking games until they vomit or pass out.

But, of course, it is not that way. Tens of millions of adults keep right on smoking

well after they have become wise, deliberative and otherwise cautious, well after they have turned the volume down and started eating high-fiber foods. Such is the power of the nicotine addiction (pleasurable habit).

Smoking drains our health-care system of \$30 billion a year, according to a federal report released Thursday. Additional related social costs nearly double that figure, the report said.

We can further tax, shun and sequester adult smokers to try to break tobacco's grip. But clearly the only way to make significant long-term progress is to get tougher with teen smokers, an estimated million of whom join the yellowed-finger crowd each year.

"If we stop adolescents from smoking, the effects will be dramatic," promises Michael Erickson, director of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health.

A preliminary version of new federal regulations on tobacco and minors due out in final form this summer suggests that states establish retail licensing programs for tobacco sales. Such a license could be suspended or revoked if the merchant sells to youths, much like a liquor license.

The federal regulations will not contain sanctions against the young smokers themselves. But, as the Tribune reported Tuesday, a growing number of suburbs have started to levy fines of up to \$50 to teens caught smoking.

Good starts. Still too wimpy. As far as minors are concerned, tobacco should be like alcohol—a serious, adult product with serious consequences for kids caught using it. Suspended driver's licenses. Community service. Big fines. And the law should be equally harsh with those who sell or distribute tobacco to adolescents.

Such a policy would pay off in the long run in a variety of ways. Perhaps it would even take some of the prohibitionist heat off adult smokers who, by legal custom, have gained the maturity and judgment to make their own decisions—even stupid ones.

BUILDING OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM SLATTERY

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1994

Mr. SLATTERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3626 and H.R. 3636. These landmark bills are essential in aiding our Nation as we travel down the information superhighway. I congratulate Chairman DUGGELL and Chairman BROOKS, along with Subcommittee Chairman MARKEY and their staffs, for their diligence in bringing this legislation to the floor.

H.R. 3626 would allow the regional Bell Telephone Companies gradually to enter the long-distance business. The companies could also enter into telecommunications equipment manufacturing, based on legislation I authored, and could provide information services. This legislation includes important provisions requiring future Bell manufacturing affiliates to operate in the United States and to make every possible effort to buy component parts from U.S. companies.

I am pleased that H.R. 3626 also includes an amendment I offered to help thousands of community newspapers across the country have a better chance to get on board the information superhighway.

July 12, 1994

The National Newspaper Association, the oldest and largest newspaper trade association in the United States, believes this could be the most important legislation to affect community newspapers throughout the Nation. By guaranteeing them fair access, fair rates, and fair competition, this legislation gives them nothing less than a license to the future. Without it, they could be ignored or actually driven off the information superhighway.

These newspapers often provide the social, political, and economic ties that bind communities together. Many are going through tough times. They face competition and disappearing ad revenue everywhere they look. Now at least they can face the electronic future with confidence that if this bill becomes law, they're bound to get a fair shake. The law requires no less.

I also want to call attention to the provisions of this legislation which address access by the disabled. In the past, most technological innovations in the area of information and telecommunication services have been developed without considering the needs of individuals with disabilities.

In keeping with the spirit of the Americans With Disabilities Act mandate to bring about the complete integration of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of our society, H.R. 3638 and H.R. 3628 would ensure that advances in network services deployed by local exchange carriers, and advances in telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment developed by Bell manufacturing affiliates, will be accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities, unless the costs of providing such access would result in an undue burden or an adverse competitive impact.

H.R. 3638 directs the Federal Communications Commission to undertake inquiries regarding the provision of both closed captioning and video description services of video services, and further directs the Commission to establish regulations to require an appropriate schedule of deadlines for the provision of closed captioning.

We have finally set the stage for full access—access which is long overdue—to video programming for these populations.

Additionally, I worked with my colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Committee to include provisions which will help to provide a fair and equitable marketplace for small cable operators.

For example, the legislation would promote competition by removing State and local barriers for new telecommunications services. It would also allow joint ventures, mergers, and acquisitions to occur in areas with population of 10,000 or less, or when the cable system or systems in the aggregate serve less than 10 percent of the households in a Telco's service area. Representatives of small cable operators have advised me of additional issues that need to be addressed as this legislation moves forward. For example, there is a need to require all providers of cable services to comply with the same franchise requirements as local cable operators. Furthermore, certification of compliance with the interconnection and access requirements should be demonstrated through a public process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to resolve these outstanding issues so we can ensure that rural America has full access to the information superhighway.

SALUTING MENTHA MITCHELL
VARNER

HON. BILL K. BREWSTER

OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 12, 1994

Mr. BREWSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a woman from Oklahoma who has achieved excellence and dedicated her life toward quality education and community service, Mentha Mitchell Varner.

Mrs. Varner, from Ardmore, OK, has accomplished several firsts in her lifetime as an educator, administrator, and community leader. She taught school 40 years and was with the Ardmore Early Childhood Center for 3 years. In 1966, she was the first black teacher, after integration, to work in the Ardmore City School System. She was acclaimed one of the best teachers in the State.

She also taught home nursing for the National American Red Cross, Carter County Chapter, for 10 years, and has served in many positions for the chapter for more than 53 years.

She has always been a trailblazer. She was the first black student to live in an integrated dormitory on the campus of Oklahoma State University in 1954; and she was responsible for black boys and girls being accepted to attend the Oklahoma American Legion and auxiliary boys and girls State conferences.

In 1965 she was an instrumental leader in establishing the National Head Start Program in Ardmore, OK. Volunteering her time, she headed the drive to raise money to renovate the old Dunbar School as a permanent home for the program. The building was renamed for her in 1989.

Mrs. Varner has held many leadership positions in the Oklahoma Negro Teachers Association, the Ardmore Classroom Teachers Association, and the Oklahoma Education Association.

Presently, she is a board member of the Carter County Chapter of the National American Red Cross, the United Way of Southern Oklahoma, the Ardmore City Schools Enrichment Foundation, and the HFV Wilson Community Center. Further, Mrs. Varner is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post #264, Carter County RSVP, the NAACP, the First Baptist Church of Ardmore, and the TAPP organization.

Mrs. Varner is also a member of the local district, and State Democratic Party, the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce, Carter County Retired Teachers Association, and the National Retired Teachers and Persons Association.

She is a life member of Langston University's National Alumni Association and Ardmore Douglass High School's National Alumni Association.

Mrs. Varner has been instrumental in helping many students attend college, by arranging for scholarships, and even giving her own money.

In 1991, she received the Living Legacy Award from the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, in Washington, DC. Her life's work and many accomplishments led to her being selected for the prestigious award.

At 60 years of age, Mrs. Varner remains active with community work, volunteering, writing, consulting, and often lecturing.

I want to wish her well and congratulate her for many years of service, leadership, and friendship to the residents of Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to join the residents of Carter County, the city of Ardmore, and the State of Oklahoma in saluting Mentha Mitchell Varner.

A BILL TO CREATE THE SMALL
BUSINESS ACCREDITED LENDERS
PROGRAM

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 12, 1994

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill which, if enacted, will allow one of the Federal Government's most effective small business programs to serve that key sector of our economy even better. The bill authorizes the Small Business Administration [SBA] to implement on a nationwide basis an Accredited Lenders Program within its 504 loan-guarantee program—a program which already is delivering outstanding benefits to the Nation's small businesses.

By creating an Accredited Lenders Program, or ALP the SBA can achieve an important goal: It can speed the turnaround time for thousands of small businesses applying for 504 loans. Anyone who talks regularly with small business people knows that waiting for credit very often can mean the difference between an important deal happening and its falling through. That means jobs which either will or will not be created.

The purpose of the 504 program is to help small businesses expand with long-term capital for physical plant and equipment. Under the program, the SBA guarantees loans made by local Certified Development Companies [CDC's] to small businesses. The small businesses in turn must obtain 50 percent financing through private financial institutions and must also provide 10 percent equity themselves.

Demand for the program has been skyrocketing during the past several years, as has the number of jobs it creates. According to the National Association of Development Companies [NADCO], the 504 program and its predecessor 503 program have funded over 13,000 small businesses since 1981, creating over 350,000 jobs. The SBA's Allan Mandel calculates that—because of the very low, 0.5-percent Federal subsidy rate on the privately underwritten debentures which fund the CDC loans—this program actually creates or retains jobs at the amazing rate of approximately \$49 in taxpayer expenditure per job. When we talk about Federal Government support for small businesses, SBA's 504 program clearly is a major success story.

This bill would simply apply to the 504 program a concept already in operation in SBA's 7(a) loan-guarantee program—the agency's largest program. The idea also is in operation in a pilot project being conducted by the SBA with a select group of 504-program CDC's. The concept is to rely during SBA's guarantee-approval process on the credit analysis conducted by a qualified professional staff of lenders with an established record of utilizing the program successfully, rather than requiring SBA loan officers to duplicate that credit anal-

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