

A lot of marvelous things happen, and the New York State Department of Education announced that day that \$23 million is going to be provided to the School Board of Education of New York. It is not State or city money, it is money that we voted on here in Congress. The Telecommunications Literacy Act provided money to States, and New York State is just releasing the money to the local school districts and New York City Board of Education will get \$23 million. Most of that will be devoted to training teachers and school personnel in how to utilize the information technology.

A lot of good things took place, but the point I am making is that we have a hunger for people out there in the low-income community. Most of them came from the low-income area of my district to join the 21st century and be knowledgeable and be able to survive there and prosper there. We have a group called the Hussein Institute of Technology, as I mentioned before, and they helped me to wire these 23 schools, most of them with assistance of Hussein Institute of Technology and the Bell Atlantic group that provides telephone service to the Brooklyn area. We have wired using volunteers these 22 out of 70 schools in my district.

Our goal is to get everyone in 70 schools wired by December 31 of this year. We are going to do it with volunteers, if we have to, but we like to have the process speeded up by having some funds from the universal fund rate, by having the knowledge out there among the schools that once you get hooked up to the Internet, you do not have a cost that is going to be burdensome. Many schools are reluctant to get wired because, if they are wired to the Internet, they have to pay an ongoing cost. What the E-rate does is pays a big percentage of that cost for schools in my district. None of them would get less than an 80 percent discount because they have so many poor youngsters attending.

You are talking about 80 percent discount to practically all the schools in my district for ongoing telecommunication services. That is what is at stake here. They will lose it, and if that is lost, the budgets of the school districts will not be able to bear this. They will back up and say, look, equipment needs are greatest, we need chalk, we need paper, we need so many other things. We are not going to make a commitment of \$1, of ten cents. We would be willing to make a commitment of ten cents out of every dollar to telecommunication, but we are not going to pay the whole cost, we cannot afford it. And you have a complete choking of the process of bringing opportunity to the school districts.

I said we need leadership. At a time like this we have a window of opportunity. We are not at war in America, we need leadership. The kids of America are to understand that our leadership is not preoccupied with defending the country militarily. We have un-

precedented prosperity in the country. Why can we not open our eyes and understand that investments in education at a time like this is most important?

The Roman empire, which was just a village compared with the American colossus, the American colossus is something beyond an empire, and Rome, as great as it was and as dominant as it was in this time was a small thing. But the Roman empire, they invented a lot of technological devices that we still have. The Romans invented concrete, and the Romans were great masters of technology. They built huge cities. They built the coliseum which still stands, the ruins still stand on solid foundation after thousands of years. The Romans had achieved prosperity in that time comparable to the kind of prosperity we have now.

But the Roman leadership failed, and Rome declined because the leadership was not up to it consistently. At a time when the Roman leadership was at its height technologically and they built the great coliseum, what did they use the coliseum for? Their sport, their favorite sports, were blood sports. They like to see gladiators killing each other. You know, they were unevenly developed. They had great technological development. They were masters of warfare. Nobody could match them militarily. Nobody could match them technologically. But there was something wrong with their compassion and their vision, and they enjoyed watching people kill each other as a sport: Gladiators.

When they were not watching gladiators, they enjoyed watching wild animals tear human beings apart. It is not a fable that the Romans threw the Christians to the lions. They did that. They did that to more than just the Christians. They enjoy watching people being devoured by beasts. The coliseum with all of its intricate engineering has places underneath they engineered for beasts to be put in cages and beasts to be guided out where the people, the technologically-advanced Romans, could enjoy watching the animals rip people apart.

Let us not in America fall into that deep trench of having our technological development outpace our compassion. Let us not steal Internet from the children. Let us stop AT&T. Let us stop all of those who want to steal Internet from the kids in America.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS of California (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today until 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 17, on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. McNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through Tuesday, June 23, on account of family reasons.

Mr. UNDERWOOD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCHUGH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HORN, for 5 minutes, on June 23.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. MURTHA.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Mr. SHERMAN.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. SERRANO.

Ms. SANCHEZ.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. SCHUMER.

Mr. TURNER.

Mr. SABO.

Mr. FAZIO of California.

Mr. KILDEE.

Mr. KLECZKA.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OWENS) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. PACKARD.

Mr. ACKERMAN.

Mr. PAYNE.

Mr. FORD.

Mrs. MORELLA.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCHUGH) and to include extraneous material:)

Mr. SMITH of Oregon.

Mr. RADANOVICH.

Mr. LEWIS of California.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Mr. GILMAN, in two instances.

Mr. DELAY.

Mr. LEACH.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, June 17, 1998, at 10 a.m.