

of a unilaterally declared Palestinian state is particularly offensive. It is also an affront to official U.S. policy. The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 codified that "Jerusalem should be recognized as the capital of the State of Israel."

In light of Chairman Arafat's repeated threats to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state, and due to the lack of clarity in the Administration's position on this issue, it is important that Congress urge the President to state explicitly that a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood is in contravention to longstanding U.S. policy and is a violation of the Oslo Accords, and the United States will oppose and refuse to recognize such as action.

REGARDING THE "TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1998" (H.R. 3888)

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" (H.R. 3888).

Enactment of the "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" is critical to end the problem of "slamming," that effects more than 20,000 consumers a year, according to the General Accounting Office. This legislation imposes a set of requirements that, when implemented by the industry, will eliminate the financial incentive for any carrier to make illegal changes in a consumer's selection of his or her telecommunications carrier.

Equally important are changes that I pressed for and that were made to the bill when it was marked up by the full Commerce Committee. This legislation avoids imposing burdens that will be as extensive or intrusive as some traditional rules and regulations placed on the telecommunications industry, while taking away the financial incentive for a carrier to engage in "slamming."

The "Telecommunications Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1998" takes the approach of encouraging telecommunications providers to abide by a code of conduct that includes a self-policing mechanism. While this type of code is a common practice in many industries, it has yet to be adopted by telecommunications providers in the context of protecting consumers from "slamming." H.R. 3888 encourages the industry, under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission, to put in place the requirements of such a code. Under the code approach, the Commission shall engage in limited and minimal regulatory oversight; it will serve as a backstop, ensuring the proper code provisions are in place and, where appropriate, punishing those who willfully violate the code. By agreeing to adhere to the code, carriers can avoid more burdensome regulation and the significant civil penalties that can be imposed against companies that fail to follow the code and "slam" unsuspecting consumers.

This bill strikes the proper balance and I believe it will stop the unacceptable practice of "slamming." I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF ROBERT E. CHASE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join the family and friends of Robert E. (Bob) Chase and commend him on his retirement at the end of this month as Assistant City Administrative Officer for the City of Los Angeles.

Bob, is retiring after 41 years of distinguished service during which he served the citizens of Los Angeles and four mayors—Norris Poulson, Sam Yorty, Tom Bradley and Richard Riordan. Soon after he first joined the city in 1957, Bob rapidly rose in the city administrative office, being named to the position of assistant city administrative officer and executive officer in 1971 in recognition of his management skills. These same skills earned him recognition within the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration, which elected him president in 1975.

Bob's record tenure as Executive Officer of the city administrative office has been a source of stability and reassurance to the city's residents. Indeed, the office has been at the center of all of the major events and changes which have shaped the city of Los Angeles. Most importantly, the administrative office enjoys a nationally-recognized reputation overseeing the fiscal affairs of the nation's second largest city—due, undoubtedly, to Bob's talents and those of the fine staff he assembled.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that Bob Chase is a constituent. He is an example of the high quality of public servants who serve the city and one of many who devote considerable time and effort to build a strong and stable community.

I know Bob is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sallie, and their family. From time to time, I understand he will also hone his already formidable skills at golf. In all these future ventures, I wish him the very best and, again, join in thanking him for his service to the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

CELEBRATING BURBANK MIDDLE SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Burbank Middle School on their 50th Anniversary. This wonderful school has been serving the community of Houston, Texas faithfully for 50 years, and is well deserving of recognition and praise.

Burbank Middle School is truly a model school that has a distinguished student body and staff.

Burbank was dedicated on September 20, 1949, with 1,700 students, parents, teachers, and school administrators in attendance.

The building's original cost was \$2,250,000. This was a large investment in those days and demonstrates the commitment that the residents had for quality education.

The dedication of the cornerstone was performed by past school board president Ewing

Warlein. During the ceremony, he said: "This great structure is dedicated to education in the finest sense of the word and is not only a monument to education, but a monument to the American way of life, to free enterprise and our constitutional form of government. This building is dedicated not only to the education of the children in this district but also to the boys and girls of generations yet unborn."

Education is the key to our children's future and the key to our country's continued success. The teachers and staff at Burbank Middle School also believe this and have worked hard to ensure that all their students have an opportunity for quality education.

The twenty-first century will bring new challenges for our young people, and we have an obligation to educate them to deal with these challenges. With the leadership of the parents, teachers, and staff of Burbank Middle School, we can accomplish anything.

For years, families have known this school as a living monument in the community, making it a good place to study and learn. I am certain that the strength of this community would not be what it is today without the commitment of this school. I am honored to congratulate the members of the Burbank Middle School for making it a source of community pride for the past 50 years.

HURRICANE RELIEF FOR PUERTO RICO RESIDENTS

HON. STEVE R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 1998

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend my deepest sympathies and offer my support to those on the island of Puerto Rico who have suffered losses due to the damage caused by Hurricane Georges. I would also like to clear up some confusion regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal agency currently working to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by the hurricane.

I recently learned that erroneous reports regarding the funding of FEMA have been circulating in Puerto Rico. Some in the Commonwealth have stated to the press that funding for the FEMA program is obtained from local taxes and user fees within Puerto Rico and thus, the inhabitants of Puerto Rico are being forced to fully fund the FEMA relief efforts on their own. These reports are completely untrue.

On the contrary, the funds for FEMA come from the U.S. Treasury general fund and are appropriated by the Appropriations Committees in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The general fund is supported by the collection of federal taxes and federal user fees from citizens of the mainland of the United States. Thus the burden of FEMA relief efforts is not being incurred solely by citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

I urge all of my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in continuing efforts to aid our fellow American citizens in