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route from Memphis to Birmingham. These funds do not take resources away from the transportation trust funds, and are matched by each State.

I understand the concern of the gentleman from Wisconsin and support eliminating Federal programs that are inefficient and wasteful. However, a closer look at the facts will demonstrate that funding for the ARC is crucial for the infrastructure and economic development of many rural areas including my congressional district.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the Klug amendment and support H.R. 2203.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NO ELECTRONIC THEFT [NET] ACT OF 1997

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the No Electronic Theft [NET] Act of 1997, along with three of my colleagues from the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary, Representatives COBLE, FRANK, and CANNON. I would like to thank not only Chairman COBLE and ranking member FRANK for supporting this important legislation, but also a new and very valuable member of the subcommittee, CHRIS CANNON of Utah.

This legislation will close a loophole in our Nation's criminal copyright law, and will give law enforcement the tools it needs to bring to justice individuals who steal the products of America's authors, musicians, software producers, and others. Additionally, the bill will promote the dissemination of creative works online and help consumers realize the promise and potential of the Internet.

The Internet is a tremendous opportunity. Its growth and development are contributing to the economic expansion we have enjoyed in the last few years. Its true potential, however, lies in the future, when students and teachers can access a wealth of high quality information through the click of a computer mouse, and businesses can bring the benefits of electronic commerce to consumers. Before this can happen, creators must feel secure that when they use this new medium, they are protected by laws that are as effective in cyberspace as they are on main street.

The NET Act of 1997 clarifies that when Internet users or any other individuals sell pirated copies of software, recordings, movies, or other creative works, use pirated copies to barter for other works, or simply take pirated works and distribute them broadly even if they do not intend to profit personally, such individuals are stealing. Intellectual property is no less valuable than real property. As an example of the problems that creators are currently facing, I have attached an article from the Electronic Engineering Times, discussing the theft of recordings on the Internet.

Pirating works online is the same as shoplifting a video tape, book, or computer program from a department store. Through a loophole in the law, however, copyright infringers who pirate works willfully and knowingly, but not for profit, are outside the reach of our Nation's law enforcement officials. This bizarre situation has developed because the authors of our copyright laws did not and could not have anticipated the nature of the Internet, which has made the theft of all sorts of copyrighted works virtually cost-free and anonymous.

The Internet allows a single computer program or other copyrighted work to be illegally distributed to millions of users, virtually without cost, if an individual merely makes it available on a single server and points others to the location. Other users can contact that server at any time of day and download the copyrighted work to their own computers. It is unacceptable that today this activity can be carried out by individuals without fear of criminal prosecution.

Imagine the same situation occurring with tangible goods that could not be transmitted over the Internet, or an individual making millions of photocopies of a best-selling book and giving them away. Imagine copying popular movies onto hundreds of blank tapes and passing them out on every street corner, or copying your personal software onto blank disks and freely distributing them throughout the world. Few would disagree that such activities are illegal—that they amount to theft and should be prosecuted. We should be no less vigilant when such activities occur on the Internet. We cannot allow the Internet to become the "Home Shoplifting Network".

The NET Act of 1997 makes it a felony to willfully infringe a copyright by reproducing or distributing 10 or more copyrighted works, with a value of at least $5,000, within a 180-day period, regardless of whether the infringing individual realized any commercial advantage or private financial gain. It also clarifies an existing portion of the law that makes it a crime to willfully infringe a copyright for profit or personal financial gain. It does so by specifying that receiving other copyrighted works in exchange for pirated copies—bartering, essentially—is considered a form of profit and is as unlawful as simply selling pirated works for cash. In other words, if you take a pirated work, such as a software program, and trade it on the Internet and eventually barter to the point where you have a $5,000 portfolio of software, the bill considers such bartering to be a criminal act—just as if you had sold the stolen software for $5,000. In addition, the NET Act expressly calls for victim impact statements during sentencing and directs the sentencing commission to determine a sentence strong enough to deter these crimes.

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world leader in intellectual property. We export billions of dollars' worth of creative works every year in the form of software, books, video tapes, sound recordings, and other products. Our ability to create so many quality products has become a bulwark of our national economy. By closing this loophole in our copyright law, the NET Act sends the strong message that we value the creations of our citizens and will not tolerate the theft of our intellectual property.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO COL. THOMAS DICKINSON OF BROWN COUNTY, OH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 1997

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, Brown County, OH will celebrate the 100th birthday of its oldest veteran, Col. Thomas Dickinson, tomorrow at the American Legion Hall in Georgetown. Colonel Dickinson has been an active member of the American Legion for 65 years and is a past commander of the Georgetown Post. His life story is a truly remarkable example of patriotism and service.

Colonel Dickinson tried for 18 months to enlist in the Army during World War I, but was told by Army doctors that his flat feet and bad heart would keep him out of the service. Nonetheless, he kept trying, and was finally allowed to enlist as a private in 1940—at the age of 43. He served in Europe during the war, in 1946, became Commissioner of Foreign Claims for Berlin. After leaving the military in 1947, he was recalled in 1949 and was sent to Korea in 1951, where he served as a public information officer. During his service in World War II and Korea, he earned 15 service medals, including the Bronze Star.

He retired from active duty in 1955, and began work as a legal adviser with the Army Corps of Engineers in 1960. His work with the Corps brought him to Georgetown, and he has kept his home in Brown County ever since, where he and his wife, Eloise, live on U.S. 52 along the Ohio River. I wish him an enjoyable 100th birthday and many more to come.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2169) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes:

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the transportation appropriations bill. First, I thank Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SABO for their excellent work and dedication to the transportation needs of our country and my State.

I would like to address an issue important to my State. In Rhode Island we are in the process of rebuilding our economy. Restructuring our transportation system is critical to the success of that rebuilding. The funding provided in this bill will help Rhode Island in developing a world-class transportation system that includes rail, road, and air transportation.

I would like to mention one project that will have a positive impact on my State and New England. The project is the re development of Quonset Point/Davisville, a 3,000-acre former naval facility in North Kingstown, RI, into a major industrial center in the Northeast.

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