CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
Proceedings and Debates of the 96th Congress
LD-4(Rev.Nov.78)

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

BILL H.R. 3567 | DATE July 30, 1979 | PAGE(S) E 4007

REMARKS: by Mr. Luken

THE SOFT DRINK FRANCHISOR BILL

HON. THOMAS A. LUKEN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 1979

● Mr. LUKEN. Mr. Speaker, it is an infrequent occurrence when there are about 300 cosponsors of a bill in the House. It is probably even more unusual when this same bill receives no action in committee.

This is the situation we are faced with concerning the bill, H.R. 3567, the Soft Drink Interbrand Competition Act introduced by our colleagues, Mr. HALL of Texas and Mr. MOLLOHAN of West Virginia. The fact is that this bill has received no action in the Monopolies Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee despite the overwhelming support of the House membership.

It is for this reason that I am writing to the chairman of the Monopolies Subcommittee and the Judiciary Committee, Mr. RODINO, and ask that he hold hearings immediately on this bill and the several others that have been referred to his subcommittee. As many of my colleagues know, action has already begun in the Senate where a similar bill has almost 80 cosponsors.

As the author of another bill on the same subject, H.R. 3573 and a cosponsor of H.R. 3567, I feel that this action by the Judiciary Committee is a first step to amend a wrong action taken by the Federal Trade Commission. These FTC decisions would have forced soft drink bottlers to offer an unlimited number of franchises in a given geographic area. The effect would have been utter chaos in the soft drink industry and would have done significant harm to the small businessmen who now are providing excellent service as soft drink franchisers.

These are the sort of bills that the American people expect the House to act on. We are all tired of the intervention into the private sector by uncontrolled Government agencies. The chief culprit in this is the Federal Trade Commission. The House must send a message to the Federal Trade Commission that these sort of interventionist regulations and rules must stop. Our free enterprise system will work much better with less regulation not more. This sort of regulation, promulgated by the FTC will reduce competition. It will allow for the major soft drink companies to take over the distribution of their product rather than leaving it with the small businessman.

This bill cries out for action and I will be contacting the chairman of the House Monopolies Subcommittee and the House Consumer Protection Finance Subcommittee in the hopes that action will begin shortly. A clear and impressive majority of House Members have spoken on this and action is necessary.●