

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT AND RAILWAY LABOR ACT AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to consideration of Calendar No. 417, S. 1788, the right-to-work bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. In light of the objection, I move to proceed to S. 1788.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1788, the National Right To Work Act.

Trent Lott, Orrin Hatch, Paul Coverdell, Judd Gregg, Jesse Helms, Lauch Faircloth, Connie Mack, John Warner, Don Nickles, Robert F. Bennett, Hank Brown, Phil Gramm, Strom Thurmond, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Richard Shelby, Bob Smith.

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 12 noon on Wednesday, July 10, and that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, June 27, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,118,682,872,218.91.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,303.19 as his or her share of that debt.

CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, although I was pleased to have had the opportunity to join with Senators FAIRCLOTH and KENNEDY as an original cosponsor of S. 1890, the Church Arson Prevention Act, I remain saddened by the fact that this bipartisan legislative effort was even necessary.

To think that the Congress of the United States must take action to stop the vile and revolting destruction that we have seen occurring at places of worship throughout this nation is a troubling through, indeed. It is simply incomprehensible to me that anyone in this country could be so depraved that they would consider, let alone carry out, such deeds against the House of the Lord.

Sadly, though, since January 1995, there have been fires at 75 churches nationwide. And while many of these acts of religious terrorism have taken place in the South, the fact is that any activity of this kind is an attack on all Americans, all churches, and all faiths. Not one of us is spared the effects of these dehumanizing incidents. This is why it is important that we stand together, all of us, to speak with one voice in condemning these cries of unspeakable dimension. Each of us, in this body and throughout this nation, must demonstrate a collective intolerance for this destruction.

I would hope that all Americans—be they Christian, Jew, Muslim, or even atheist—take time to remember that this nation was founded on the principle of religious freedom. Many of those who set sail upon uncharted and dangerous seas nearly 400 years ago, who landed on shores they knew nothing about, and who undertook unimaginable risks, did so for one overriding reason: religious liberty. Indeed, this most fundamental right is the very first to be protected in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Mr. President, I believe that all of us have a responsibility, and those of us in this body a sworn duty, to defend this legacy. Thus, I urge every American to join me in condemning these terrible acts of violence: For if we are unwilling to condemn them then we are silently condoning them.

REGARDING FCC AUCTIONS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I wanted to take a moment of the Senate's time

to discuss the issue of spectrum auctions. Specifically, I want to discuss the potential for the Federal Communications Commission to auction channels 60 to 69.

The American people expect the Congress and the FCC to manage this country's public assets in a responsible manner that ensures the greatest benefit to the public as a whole. Unfortunately, both the Congress and the FCC stewardship of this Nation's spectrum—one of the most valuable public resources—has been uneven at best.

To date over \$20 billion has been raised by spectrum auctions. This \$20 billion is being used to pay down the deficit and to fund needed Government programs. The American people benefit from these auctions in that they allow innovative companies to offer new and exciting services and reduce the need on taxes.

As my colleagues know, there is considerable debate as to how to allocate broadcast ATV licenses. The Congress should and I hope soon will act on this issue and give the FCC the appropriate guidance necessary on that issue. However, such guidance is not neither needed nor required for the Commission to act on the issue of auctioning channels 60 to 69.

Although there are stations that operate between channels 60 to 69, those entities can be relocated or share other spectrum and still operate. In the long run these entities will not be adversely affected by being forced to relocate.

During a recent hearing of the Commerce Committee, I inquired of the FCC Chairman as to whether a transition from analog to digital television could occur seamlessly while still auctioning channels 60 to 69. Mr. Hundt informed me that FCC engineers foresee no problems with this auction simultaneously occurring while a transition to digital TV occurs.

Based on that evidence, I can see no reason whatsoever for an auction of channels 60 to 69 not to occur. Any effort to thwart an auction of these channels is being done in direct contradiction of the needs of the best interests of the American people.

The last time the Commission had a similar issue before it the Commission decided—correctly I believe—to auction a block of spectrum previously held by a company named ACC. This auction fairly allocated the spectrum and resulted in a \$682.5 million windfall for the American taxpayer.

Deciding to vote to auction that spectrum should have been an easy decision. However, it proved to be very controversial. Some have indicated that the decision to auction channels 60 to 69 may be equally vexing.

Mr. President, I sincerely hope that the FCC will see clear to do the right thing and auction these channels. This proposed auction will undoubtedly result in new revenues to the Treasury. If the Commission decides not to auction, I hope the Commission will correctly identify its action as a ripoff of the American taxpayer.