

from Massachusetts will be recognized after we hear from the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

VISIT TO THE SENATE BY THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT, PRESIDENT HOSNI MOHAMMED MUBARAK

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts. I have the honor of presenting to the Senate, after I ask unanimous consent that we stand in recess for 5 minutes so the Senators may greet him, the distinguished President of Egypt, President Mubarak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess for 5 minutes.

Mr. HELMS. I thank the Chair.

RECESS

Thereupon, at 5:13 p.m., the Senate recessed until 5:19 p.m.; whereupon the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNETT).

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I see other Members here who wanted to speak.

I just finish with this thought about the Star Schools Program. In many different parts of the country, we do not have the highly qualified, highly skilled teachers, high school teachers, for example, in physics, in mathematics, in a number of the languages, with the change of demography and the cutting back pressures on local schools.

What we have seen, I know in my own State and generally throughout New England, is when there are pressures on the school districts there may be a handful of very talented students in a particular class who want to take the advanced math but there is so much difficulty in getting that teacher, and so few students—in many instances brilliant students who want to take it—that the school does not provide that kind of education opportunity. And that is true in pocket after pocket, particularly in many of the rural areas of Massachusetts, and throughout New England.

This program provides the best math, science, physics, chemistry, biology teachers, who instruct those few students that go to these learning centers so those individuals will be able to take their courses at the appropriate level. So they will continue their interest in these areas, which are enormously important in terms of our national interests, for our scientific base and for our research and development.

It has been an enormously successful program. It has had the very strong support of Senator COCHRAN, and others have spoken very eloquently about it. I have had the chance to visit centers in his State of Mississippi to see what it has done in terms of a number of the rural communities in the South.

It is something that is enormously valuable. We are talking here of several millions of dollars. But those several millions of dollars have enormous importance and consequence in one of the aspects of education, and that is technology and technology training. One of the important parts of the Daschle amendment restores that funding. That is the part of that Daschle amendment which I think is enormously important. We will have an opportunity, when we reach the Daschle amendment, regardless of that outcome—I am hopeful it will be accepted, but if not—to come back and revisit that at another time.

I will come back to this when some of my colleagues have finished their remarks.

I yield the floor.

LITTLE DELL LAKE, UT

Mr. BENNETT. I wish to bring to the attention of the chairman a small matter that is of importance to me and the people of my State. It involves a correction in cost allocation of the recently completed Little Dell Lake project in Utah. The Army Corps of Engineers acknowledged that an adjustment in cost allocation is warranted and is in the process of designing recreation facilities and redoing the cost allocation between the Federal and local participants of this project.

We expect the correction to be finalized in a revised agreement between the Department of the Army and the non-Federal sponsors toward the end of fiscal year 1995. This is a matter of equity. The non-Federal sponsors of the project paid for 100 percent of the costs allocated to water supply and 25 percent of the costs allocated to flood control. However, because the local sponsors were inappropriately asked to cost share the joint costs of recreation, the costs for recreation quadrupled and were unaffordable. This raised the costs for water supply and flood control by several million dollars. This error was only recently discovered and the Assistant Secretary of the Army has expressed a willingness to correct the matter.

Is it the understanding of the chairman that the inclusion of recreation facilities, the reallocation of costs, and the adjustment in the Federal and non-Federal cost sharing can be accomplished with funds heretofore appropriated?

Mr. DOMENICI. Given the facts in this matter, it would be appropriate to include recreation and adjust the Federal and non-Federal shares of the total project cost. The project is essentially complete and, as I understand it, has already provided significant flood

control and water supply benefits since the dam was constructed.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the chairman and would urge that the revised local cooperation agreement be consummated in fiscal year 1995 and that the funds be reprogrammed in the current fiscal year as well.

Mr. DOMENICI. I agree with the Senator from Utah that the revised local cooperation agreement and reprogramming should be accomplished this year with funds currently available to the corps.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the chairman.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I will be very brief.

I would like to respond to some comments made by the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, Senator PRESSLER, a few minutes ago on his conversation with the Vice President of the United States earlier today. I checked with Vice President GORE, and I am told that he did not tell Senator PRESSLER that the President would veto the telecommunications bill.

The Vice President told the distinguished Senator from South Dakota that he would like to see changes in certain provisions of the bill before he could recommend it to the President for his signature. I mention this because only the President issues veto threats, as the Vice President pointed out.

But the Vice President is not the only person who is concerned about certain provisions of this telecommunications bill.

The telecommunications bill that the Commerce Committee has reported will have an enormous impact on multi-billion-dollar cable, phone, and broadcast industries, and the economy of this Nation.

It was introduced just 3 days ago, and the report explaining what the Commerce Committee had in mind with this complex bill was filed late Thursday night.

This bill is a far different bill from S. 1822, which was reported last year.

First, this bill allows RBOC entry into long-distance phone service without a formal Department of Justice role in analyzing the competitive impact.

Second, I have questions about taking the lid off cable rates, and whether sufficient attention has been paid to the special problems of small, rural cable companies.

In fact, I suspect virtually every person that is on cable in this country would have some concern about just taking the lid off the cable rate, because I have not met many cable users who feel they are not paying too much.

Further, I have questions about some provisions in the bill that preempt State laws on judicial review of State

regulatory commission decisions, and on dialing parity for intra-LATA calls.

Finally, I am concerned that some provisions in this bill undercut privacy protections for online communications and law enforcement's ability to conduct necessary court-authorized wiretapping to fight crime.

As ranking member on the Antitrust Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, these are questions on which we should have a hearing. There has been no hearings on the final version of S. 652 that was just introduced. These are issues that the people of Vermont deserve time to look at and consider, before the Senate rushes into consideration.

I have no interest in delaying telecommunications reform, and hope that we pass much-needed legislation in this session of Congress. But I do want time to make sure that any legislation we pass is the best we can make it. We owe this to the American people and the industries involved.

I think there are issues that should be answered.

THE DASCHLE AMENDMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the bill we are debating today is not about future cuts in programs to reduce our deficit.

What this bill does is cut funding that States, schools, parents, youth and children were assured of last September.

And these cuts are not going to reduce the deficit, but will go to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy.

In the middle of the year, Congress is taking away funds that States are using to implement major reforms to improve our children's education.

Taking away funds from towns that have already set their school budgets for the year.

Taking away funds from programs that bring local police to work in schools to prevent drug use.

Taking away from parents that are counting on child care so that they can go to work.

Taking away from AmeriCorps participants and the communities that they work in around the country.

This bill has brought our communities to a screeching halt. I question the logic of cutting these programs now; 6 months after the fact.

I support efforts to restore funding to important education programs for disadvantaged children, programs which are designed to prevent drug use and create a safe school environment, education reform, Head Start, child care, AmeriCorps, and other programs that educate and invest in America's children and families.

Decisions to cut these programs are based solely on shortsighted politics.

The sad thing is that the House has made it clear that cuts in these programs are not going to deficit reduction.

Instead, the cuts we are making today in programs that give children the skills to compete in the next cen-

tury are going to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. In fact, the wealthiest 12 percent of Americans would receive over half of the benefits under the House proposed tax cuts.

I hope that we will be able to restore logic and common sense to the cuts we are making in this bill.

Mr. KERREY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, on the same subject which the Senator from Vermont discussed, the Senator from South Dakota, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, earlier came to the floor and indicated that S. 652, the Telecommunications Act of 1995, would not be able to be considered on the floor before the Easter recess as a consequence of the administration, namely the Vice President, as someone who had indicated that the bill was going to be vetoed.

Mr. President, to be clear, while I did not put a hold on this bill, I agreed to allow the debate to proceed. I was tempted to put a hold on the bill and not allow it to proceed. I will not, and would not allow the debate to proceed and at the same time give unanimous consent to limit the debate. That made it difficult to consider this piece of legislation and enact it, pass it by the Senate, before the Easter recess.

So if the chairman of the Commerce Committee is looking for the person to identify as the individual who made it impossible to move this before Easter, he has no further to look than the junior Senator from the State just to his south.

This is a very important piece of legislation. I am by no means hostile to the idea that we should reform the 1934 Communications Act. I am not hostile to that idea. I believe that reform can be of enormous benefit to our people. It can create new jobs. It can improve the quality of our education and make it more likely that our citizens can become informed.

But, Mr. President, this is a piece of legislation that is unique in many ways. Indeed, the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, the chairman of the committee, said on this floor earlier that it has broad national support, or something to that effect. Yesterday, he said much more accurately that this is not really on the people's minds at the moment.

That is a more accurate statement, Mr. President. I have maybe 2 million household lines in the State, a million households total, so there is probably a million times two residential lines in the State.

I just finished a campaign for reelection where very few people came to me and said: Gee, I am going to vote for you, but I need to know your position on the deregulation of telecommunications. I need to know where you stand on this, Senator, because I am unhappy with my service. I do not like my long distance service or I do not like my local telephone service or I do

not like my cable service or I do not like what is going on.

They may have some concern at the margin, but no call for a radical restructuring of the regulatory environment which this piece of legislation represents.

Again to be clear, I think it is appropriate for us to consider some rather dramatic changes in the law to permit in particular much more competition at the local level. I would love to see an environment where the entrepreneur, that small business person that starts off in business, can come knocking on my door or call me up or write and say I want to sell you information services; I want to sell you voice; I wish to sell you video; I am going to sell you text. I would love for them to be able to sell them in an unrestricted environment.

This legislation, in my opinion, does not permit that. It pretends to but in my judgment it does not permit it. In many ways, it combines the worst of both worlds, a regulatory environment without the kind of competition that I think is needed.

So I thank the chairman of the committee, who has been very generous in allowing one of my staff people, though I am not on the the Commerce Committee, to participate in the deliberation of the determination of what this bill is going to look like along with the ranking member, Senator HOLLINGS of South Carolina.

I hope they do not view me as being hostile to this piece of legislation, but I object to the identification of the administration being the problem. As far as this piece of legislation not moving prior to recess, I am, I suspect, as responsible as anybody around here because I want this to have a full and open debate. I want us to evaluate title I, title II, title III, title IV. I want us to think about what we are doing and make sure the public is informed. We are about to give them, I think, substantial change. I think they can, if it is done right, be pleased with the results. But just as great a risk, Mr. President, is that we could get in a hurry around here and pass something, think that we are deregulating, think that we are creating competition but, in fact, we accomplish neither of those two rather worthy objectives.

So I look forward to the debate. I hope that when we come back after the recess there is an opportunity for S. 652 to be brought to the floor, and I look forward to the opportunity of bringing up amendments and getting a full and open debate on this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this bus sensor on the floor with me during my speech.

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