

Tintinnabulation" of May 29, 1790, when church bells throughout the State heralded the outcome of the vote on ratification.

Mr. President, I ask to have reprinted in the RECORD proclamations of Hope Day 1995 by Gov. Lincoln Almond and David F. Roderick, Jr., mayor of Newport.

The proclamation follows:

THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND—PROCLAMATION

Whereas, on May 29, 1790, Rhode Island became our country's thirteenth state, fulfilling the hope of our nation's forefathers who sought unity and upheld the motto "E Pluribus Unum"—"One Composed of Many"; and

Whereas, while Rhode Island led the thirteen original colonies in rebelling against the tyrannical rule of England with the destruction of the British revenue sloop "Liberty" in 1769 and the burning of the schooner "Gaspee" in 1772, it would not seek democracy and its status as an independent state until May 29, 1790; and

Whereas, while Rhode Island was the last of the original thirteen colonies to ratify the federal constitution, our founding fathers—Dr. John Clarke and Roger Williams—were instrumental in creating the Great Charter granted by King Charles II on July 8, 1663, assuring Rhode Island's complete religious freedom, an antecedent to the Bill of Rights; and

Whereas, on this fourteenth commemoration of "Hope Day," all of Rhode Island should stand proud in recognizing that on this great day back in 1790, federal unification became complete and the thirteen original colonies had become one nation;

Now, therefore, I Lincoln Almond, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Do Hereby Proclaim, May 29, 1995 as Hope Day.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT—PROCLAMATION

Whereas, in May of 1776, Rhode Island became the first of the thirteen original colonies to rebel against the tyranny of King George III, by declaring its independence from the Crown on May 4, 1776; and

Whereas, with the Revolutionary War won, it was not until fourteen years later, on May 29, 1790 that Rhode Island signed the Constitution, making it the official document of law in the land; and

Whereas, in recognition of the Ratification of the Constitution, church bells rang out through the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations; and

Whereas, in recognition of that day, the fourteenth annual commemoration of Hope Day and in celebration of USA Day in Newport, Now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That I, David F. Roderick, Jr., Mayor of the City of Newport in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim May 29, 1995, during the Memorial Day observance, to be Hope Day & U.S.A. Day in the City of Newport, and invite all cities and towns in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to join with us in celebrating the 205th birthday of the Constitution of the United States.●

CELEBRATING THE 1965 ALUMNI CLASS OF CHARLES SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL 30-YEAR CLASS REUNION

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recog-

nize the 1965 alumni class of Charles Sumner High School on their 30-year class reunion. Charles Sumner High School, located in St. Louis, MO, is one of the oldest high schools west of the Mississippi River founded in 1875.

Sumner High has been one of the most prestigious schools in the Midwest, concentrating on educating students for a college curriculum. The alumni of Sumner high are very proud and distinguished people. It is with fond memories that the Class of 1965 recognize and remember their Alma Mater as "No Substitute for Excellence."

Mr. President, the 1965 alumni class of Charles Sumner High will be celebrating their 30-year class reunion on June 16-18. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 1965, and hopes for continued success in the future.●

KID'S APPRECIATION DAY

● Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the importance of establishing a Kid's Appreciation Day to pay tribute to the children of this Nation. The question that is on the lips of children is "If there's a Mother's Day and a Father's Day, why isn't there a Kid's Day?" This is met with the standard response "Because every day is Kid's Day." Well, Mr. President, nothing could be further from the truth.

The children today deal with problems that were unfathomable when we were growing up. When I was young, one of my biggest worries was making it home to dinner on time. In many places today, kids worry more about dodging bullets, drug dealers, and whether they will live to see adulthood. Some children rarely see their parents who must hold two jobs in order to put food on the table.

There is nothing as valuable on this Earth than our children. We are handing these children the impossible task of dealing with problems that we have failed to solve. I know that having a Kid's Day won't solve these problems. But it would show our children that we appreciate them. I know the children of Arkansas want to be appreciated. A fine young lady named Vivian Rose has taken it upon herself to lead the children of my State toward this goal. She has presented this idea to Gov. Jim Guy Tucker who gives it his full support. I praise both of them for their efforts and commend them on their leadership in Kid's Appreciation Day.

Children are our most valuable asset and deserve to be valued on a special day. A Kid's Day would not only show our appreciation and gratitude but would instill in them a sense of comfort that they would hold dear. It would make children feel important and wanted instead of neglected. This holiday would give kids a chance to spend time with their parents. Time that they don't normally have. There could be free admission for museums and amusement parks. Local parks and

swimming pools could be open to the public. It would be a day for parents to let their kids know that they care about them and this would help our children overcome the obstacles that they face to become the future leaders of tomorrow.

Mr. President, nations around the globe have Kid's Days. In fact, I'm told that the Kiwanis Club also sponsors a Kid's Day. They have parades, games, races, and give awards to celebrate children. I strongly recommend that we follow the lead of the Kiwanis Club, Governor Tucker, and Vivian Rose by making Kid's Day a reality nationwide. Children that feel wanted and appreciated are a strong defense against the violence these kids encounter in their neighborhoods. It is our responsibility as adults and role models to guide them toward the correct path of purpose. This holiday would place a smile on the faces of our kids and would put comfort in our hearts knowing that they are facing the world with added strength and resilience. Mr. President, Kid's Appreciation Day is a noble cause and I urge you to join me and my State in its support.●

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I do have some closing unanimous-consent requests, but I would withhold if the distinguished Senator from Nebraska has some comments he would like to make.

Mr. KERREY. I thank the Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. President, I rise but will withhold most of my comments. The Senator from South Dakota and I will have an opportunity to go round and round again on the DOJ rule amendment tomorrow.

I would point out for those few who are still remaining and listening to this, that this amendment illustrates why colleagues should be paying attention to this piece of legislation.

I, myself, support this particular section, this preemption by the Federal Government. But it is a significant preemption. Any time we see language that says, "We hereby preempt State and local laws" around here, you only get 90 votes against it.

Lately, the mood is shifting, and I think quite correctly so. The Supreme Court is shifting right along with it to an argument that cedes more and more power to the State government, whether it is welfare reform, health care, or whatever it is.

We are block granting after block granting after block granting more authority back to the State law. As I said, the Supreme Court is increasingly challenging our authority to intervene at all at the local level, the State level. Intervening with State laws at all gets to be a difficult business.

This piece of legislation preempts not just State laws but preempts local laws, I think quite repeatedly so. If we want a competitive environment, these airwaves, these cables, these lines, do not stop at a border.

It is, it seems to me, an interstate commerce issue. Nonetheless, it will

feel very much local when we are dealing with local cable or local telephone. The citizens are not likely to think of it as an interstate issue as much as we are, who are trying to create some uniformity.

I think the Senator from South Dakota is quite right. This does get to the heart of the bill. It is an effort to preempt and create uniformity in the country and create certainty in the country so investment can be made and all the things that need to occur, if we are going to see this legislation produce the desired effect and benefits, for example, reduced prices for consumers, for cable.

My belief is that in short order, people are going to be buying video, dial tone, text, in a package form, but if they get a reduced price for that and they get improvement in quality and service, we have to take this action and come in and preempt the way the States can regulate.

This legislation, by this section here, not only removes the barrier, but it sets up the title 3 section which moves to pricing flexibility, not just allowing States, but requiring the States to end a rate-based rate of return system of regulation.

In this legislation, we are accelerating the number of States that have adopted alternative regulatory regimes. We are saying that we will not wait for State legislatures to take action or public service commissions to take action.

We will preempt their authority and say we they will end rate-based pricing and go to a price cap system and try to give these companies that are selling telecommunications service more flexibility. I think that has merit, frankly.

This idea of preemption, I think, is a very important idea as part of this legislation, but I believe that it illustrates why colleagues need to be alert to the reaction that this will produce after this legislation is enacted. With the filing of cloture, that the distinguished Senator from Mississippi just did, this bill is coming to a vote relatively soon.

Unless I have this thing figured out wrong, it is likely there will be a majority of Senators voting for it. I hope my colleagues understand this is not likely to be the last situation but the first situation of many, many, where we need to understand where it is we are going in order to be able to answer a citizen that will say, "Wait a minute. This is big change." Yes, it is, American citizen. This legislation represents significant change in the way that we regulate and the way the Federal Government establishes its presence at the local level and at the State level.

I see ways to interpret the amendment that the Senators from California and Idaho have presented, striking this particular language. Part of this language does appear to be a bit vague to me, as well. No matter how we do it, if they want to strike the section, we are still left with significant preemption in the overall title.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, the legislation now before the Senate attempts to bring the 1934 Communications Act up to date with our Nation's current telecommunications needs. Telecommunications reform has been the subject of a great deal of debate in previous years and it is widely acknowledged that reform is necessary. However, as with any measure addressing such a broad segment of our national economy, there are many differing opinions regarding how best to proceed.

The telecommunications industry has expanded rapidly in recent years due to significant advances in technology and increasing consumer demands. A large portion of the evolution in this industry can be attributed to increased competition. Daily, millions of Americans at work, in school, and at home rely on telecommunications networks for communication, information, and entertainment. There is an enormous interest in the final outcome of this debate because enactment of a revised telecommunications law will affect virtually every American.

The underlying goal of telecommunications reform must be to do what is best for consumers. There may come a time in the future when the Federal Government can remove itself from any involvement in this industry, but we have not reached that point. I believe it is necessary for government to continue to play a role in telecommunications oversight to protect the American consumer.

The Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995 attempts to deregulate this industry and largely allow market forces to structure the industry. I support the free market ideals of this legislation. However, we must recognize that deregulation is not always synonymous with fair competition. Due to the fact that a small group of companies control most of our nation's telecommunication networks, there are many concerns about the potential abuse of this advantage. In order to ensure the American people are the ultimate beneficiary's of these services, we must provide adequate safeguards to accompany these deregulatory efforts.

There are presently a number of government entities with responsibility for the oversight and regulation of the telecommunications industry. Not only are many of these roles duplicative, but they are also extremely cumbersome for consumers and the companies providing the services.

One historical example of these overlapping functions is the break-up of the AT&T telephone monopoly. The Department of Justice initiated this action by determining that AT&T was in violation of Federal anti-trust laws. The courts followed by establishing the modified final judgement which created the seven Regional Bell Operating Companies. Currently, the Federal Communications Commission, the De-

partment of Justice, State and local governments, and the courts each oversee segments of the long distance and local telephone services in this country. The break-up of AT&T was a necessary development, but the final results continue to confuse and alienate consumers to this day.

The legislation we are debating today addresses almost every aspect of the telecommunications industry in some capacity. Additionally, it allows Congress to re-establish its responsibility for setting policy in this area. For the past 6 years the Congress has attempted to address this issue. Though these efforts have largely been unsuccessful, we all recognize this area needs reform and that action is past due. The House and Senate have each crafted bills to revise current telecommunication laws this year and the congressional leadership has also made their strong commitment to passing a telecommunications reform bill very clear. This will not be an easy endeavor, but I remain hopeful that Congress will move forward on this important matter in this Congress.

During this important debate, we have heard a great deal about how this legislation will impact the telecommunications industry. However, Mr. President, it is also the Federal Government's rightful role to help our citizens receive access to advanced technologies and not just reserve this privilege to those who can afford it. The provision included in this bill by Senators SNOWE and ROCKEFELLER will allow rural health care facilities, public schools, and libraries to receive telecommunication services at a discounted rate. The Snowe-Rockefeller language, which I support, will provide telecommunications access to numerous needy institutions throughout our country. For example, the Portals Project in Oregon, which electronically links several learning institutions, will be a beneficiary of this amendment.

Mr. President the reform of this industry is a huge effort and I commend the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, Senator PRESSLER, and the panel's ranking minority member, Senator HOLLINGS, for their leadership on this important matter. They have both worked long and hard on this contentious issue to establish a foundation for the future of our telecommunications needs.

I continue to have several concerns with the Pressler-Hollings bill, which I hope will be addressed through the amendment process. However, I also believe they have crafted a bill that takes a comprehensive step toward addressing the needs of the American consumer and the telecommunications industry as we move further into the Information Age of the twenty-first century.