

Commission's [FCC] May 7th decision regarding universal service and the Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerrey amendment.

While this op-ed piece speaks for itself, I think it is good to note the interest and support of business leaders for education technology and the specific initiative to link classrooms and libraries to the information super-highway. Thoughtful business leaders understand the importance of computer literacy. A California study estimated that 60 percent of the new jobs by the year 2000 will require skills possessed by only 22 percent of workers—clearly we must do better. I believe that linking up our classrooms will help a great deal.

I ask that the article from the May 7, 1997, Los Angeles Times be reprinted in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 7, 1997]

JUMP-START THE URBAN CLASSROOM NETWORKS

(By Eric A. Benhamou)

Just as cars aren't particularly useful without roads and freeways, the same is true of an information highway without well-planned onramps and offramps. This is particularly evident in our schools.

While classroom connectivity increased from 6% to 14% between 1994 and 1996, most of these networks are low-speed analog connections, the computer equivalent of unpaved roads.

President Clinton advocates connecting all classrooms to the Internet, and this message has been heard by principals, administrators and school boards anxious to have their students log on. However, this presidential mandate has been largely unfunded, with private money/state projects and volunteer efforts substituting for systemic programs. Poor schools have suffered or been relegated efforts substituting for systemic programs. Poor schools have suffered or been relegated to the slow lane or no lane.

The Snowe-Rockefeller amendment to the Telecommunications Act of 1996 corrected this deficiency by funding the necessary telecommunications infrastructure. But the Federal Communications Commission must still approve it.

This is critical if we're going to solve the problem of getting all U.S. classrooms hooked up by 2000. The amendment's plan to provide the largest hookup discounts for "have-not" schools will help jump-start connectivity. Today, 47% of schools with more than 70% of their students qualifying for federal lunch subsidies have no Internet access; only 22% of the schools where less than 11% qualify for free lunches are not hooked up. This gap must be closed.

Studies from pilot programs show higher test scores in English and math from Internet-enabled classrooms. More important, technology raises test scores more for underprivileged kids than for wealthy kids, more for kids who have interactive hands-on experience (e.g. the Internet) and more where schools invest in teacher training. Unfortunately, only 7% of urban schools mandate advanced telecommunications and networking skills training for teachers.

President Eisenhower's conception and subsequent implementation of the U.S. highway system fostered our mobile society, creating industries and jobs. President Clinton's vision of a nation of learners benefiting from the Internet offers similar return. Companies like Netscape and America OnLine are already providing jobs for American youth.

The amendment isn't perfect, but it provides for much broader and systematic introduction of networking into our schools. It earmarks \$2.25 billion annually for communications and networking equipment. The FCC commissioners should make the tough trade-offs and approve this highway construction project.●

ACTIONS BY THE PALESTINIAN

● Mr. BOND. Mr President, during the past few weeks we have all heard disturbing news coming forth from the territories under Palestinian Authority control.

The idea that Chairman Arafat even hinted of his support much less, his embrace of a policy to sanction the assassination of his own people for selling real estate to Jews is abhorrent and beyond the pale.

That individuals were actually murdered because of this policy should serve as a wake-up notice to those who attempt to push the principals into agreements before they are ready.

We also have been appraised of the situation facing Mr. Daoud Kuttub, a United States citizen, who during the exercise of his right under Palestinian Authority rule, was arrested for complaining about the jamming of his radio station which was broadcasting the legislative council session of the Palestinian Authority. This activity, much like C-SPAN, I believe, is a core freedom of a democratic government. An American citizen, holding a Jerusalem identity card, as Mr. Kuttub does, is exempted from jurisdiction of the PA.

The road to democracy is not an easy one. It is filled with what may seem to be impossible impasses, but they are not. The right of a free press to operate and the right of free speech and the right of an individual to dispose of his own property in a free and legitimate manner are core to a democratic state.

I call upon the President of the United States to reiterate to Mr. Arafat, our Nation's commitment to those freedoms and our inability to accept anything less than a full compliance with those freedoms or face the withdrawal of our continued support. I also call upon the President to voice through appropriate channels, our condemnation of the policies and resulting actions which we have seen occur in the recent weeks in the areas under Palestinian Authority jurisdiction.

While I am firmly committed to the principle that the United States remain a neutral and honest mediator, I must speak up when those very principles for which we stand and for which the parties claim to be attempting to achieve are ignored and violated flagrantly.

I hope that President Clinton will be forthcoming with some initiative to address these and other issues such as the revocation of the clauses calling for the destruction of Israel within its charter, and that we hold the Palestinian Authority responsible for implementing democratic ideals which will

be critical to a strong and vibrant Palestinian Government.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN S. BILLINGS, JR.

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Franklin "Bill" Billings on the occasion of his 75th birthday. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity and commemorate his distinguished service as a Federal judge.

Bill's career has been dedicated to serving the people of Vermont in a wide array of positions. He first served the Green Mountain State as assistant secretary of the Senate from 1949 to 1953. He was later selected to represent the Woodstock area as a member of the Vermont House. During his tenure, Bill was elected speaker of the Vermont General Assembly in 1963 and 1965, which were tumultuous reapportionment years for the State. In 1975, he was appointed to the Vermont Supreme Court and subsequently chosen to serve as Chief Justice. He concluded his career as the U.S. district court judge for the district of Vermont.

Throughout his efforts, Bill has remained consistently committed to standards of professionalism above reproach as well as an unwavering respect and dedication to ethics. His uncanny ability to see beyond the surface, while considering some of the most complicated legal matters, is testimony to a keen intellect.

Once again, I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to Judge Bill Billings. He has set an example which we should all strive to emulate.●

MEMORIAL DAY

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President and fellow Senators, on Monday May 26 our Nation observes Memorial Day; a day of remembrance for all the members of our Armed Forces who gave their lives so that our Nation could be free. Sometimes it seems as if, in our haste to address the issues of the day, we forget that the freedom we enjoy—the freedom we take for granted—was not free. Countless American soldiers, seamen, marines, and pilots paid for our freedom with their lives. On the last Monday of May each year we honor our veterans, fly the flag at half-staff, and pause to remember their sacrifice.

It is unfortunate that if you look in the newspapers or watch the ads on TV, you might think that the only purpose Memorial Day serves is to announce the beginning of another summer season or the start of a new sales drive. But if you spend some time talking with veterans like those who returned from Europe, Korea, or Vietnam; if you talk with those who landed at Normandy or those who survived the Bataan Death March, you learn the real purpose of Memorial Day—to honor the men and women who gave their lives, most at a very young age—in defense of our Nation.

Today the United States stands alone as the world's only superpower. Today, more often than not our foreign policy debates concern trade, rather than war; economic issues rather than military issues. It is at times like this, times of peace, that we should pay extra attention to the true purpose of Memorial Day.

The good news is that American citizens understand and respect the role veterans have played in our Nation's history. If you look at the size of the crowds that visit the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial here in DC you get a sense of how Americans feel about their veterans. The same scene is duplicated time and time again at veterans' memorials all across the country. Recently I had the honor of participating in a ceremony marking the progress of the new Veterans' Memorial Park being built in Albuquerque. It is with the creation of special places like this park that our Nation continues to honor the service and sacrifice of all our veterans.

Mr. President, we set aside one day each year to officially honor those who died for our freedom. For all that our military veterans have done for us, it is the least we could do. To all the veterans, thank you.●

MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBRANCE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is easy to take for granted the freedom we have here, in the United States, and too often we lose sight of that and resort to complaining about one thing or another, but the fact is, we live in the most blessed Nation in the world, we enjoy the greatest freedom of choice, we enjoy so much, but those freedoms were purchased and protected at a very high cost.

As we prepare to celebrate Memorial Day this year, I call upon my fellow Missourians and all Americans to pause and remember the sacrifice of our soldiers, sailors, Marines, and air men and women stationed around the world today protecting us with a blanket woven with the battle flags from places with names like Lexington, Concord, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Pearl Harbor, Coral Sea, Iwo Jima, Saint Lo, Bastogne, Chosin Reservoir, Khe Sahn, Beirut, Wadi Al-Batin, and Medina Ridge in Iraq and most recently, those taken from us in Somalia and by the brutal and cowardly bombing of Kobart Towers.

We must remember the sacrifices of those who came before us, and those whom we most recently lost—the fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters who gave their most precious of gifts, their lives, that we might continue to enjoy the freedoms we hold so dear.

We must remember them so we will focus our determination, as a nation, that we never, ever, waste a life because it is too hard or too expensive to do the right thing. We must take this opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to make that effort and to ensure that

our military personnel are the best trained, equipped and prepared in the world, because we ask so much of them.●

ORDERS FOR MAY 27, MAY 30, JUNE 2, AND JUNE 3, 1997

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 o'clock on Tuesday, May 27, for a pro forma session only and immediately following the prayer, the Senate stand in adjournment until 11 a.m., Friday, May 30, for a pro forma session only. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the prayer on Friday, May 30, the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Monday, June 2, and further that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business until 1 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, the Senate proceed to 3 hours of tributes to honor our most distinguished President pro tempore, who will break the all-time Senate record on Sunday, May 25, for the longest Senate service. I know all of our colleagues will want to participate in this worthy tribute to the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator THURMOND.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent on Monday, June 2, at 1 p.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 4, the comptime-flextime bill which would guarantee a family friendly workplace. Amendments are expected to be offered. However, votes will not occur prior to the hour of 5 p.m.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE REPORTS

Mr. LOTT. I further ask unanimous consent that committees have between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, to file reports to accompany legislative or executive items.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, it is the hope of the leadership that the budget conference report will be available for Senate consideration on Tuesday, June 3. Therefore, all Senators can expect a rollcall vote on passage of the budget conference report on Tuesday, June 3, hopefully, early in the evening rather than going late into the night.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CRAIG of Idaho.

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

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for allowing me this time, and I also want to recognize his leadership in the efforts we have just concluded in bringing about a budget and a budget resolution. I think our majority leader, TRENT LOTT, is to be congratulated for a very positive and gallant effort.

TRIBUTE TO NORMAN G. ARSENEAULT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize a member of my staff who will be retiring next Friday after many years of service to me, the State of Idaho, the Senate, and the Nation.

Norman G. Arseneault came to my office as an American Political Science Association fellow from the Forest Service, USDA more than 6 years ago. He served with distinction in that fellowship program, taking on numerous natural resources problems facing the State of Idaho and working diligently to find solutions. When he completed the fellowship, he returned to the Forest Service to resume what I am sure would have been a distinguished career.

Shortly after he had returned to the Forest Service, it became clear to me that solutions to the natural resources problems we faced—the wilderness debate in my State, endangered species listing, and a host of others—would benefit from Norm's skills. I offered him a permanent staff position, and, fortunately for Idaho, he accepted.

Since then, all in my office have benefited from Norm Arseneault's professionalism, good humor, and integrity. He has developed a reputation on the Hill and in the State of Idaho for honesty, straightforwardness, fairness, and competence. It has been my good fortune to have been among those who have known and worked with him on a day-to-day basis.

As Norm moves on to a new phase in his life, I know the traits that have made him so effective in my office over the past 6 years will service him well in his future endeavors. I am proud to know Norm Arseneault and to have called him friend. I speak for all in my office when I say he will be dearly missed. We wish him the best and God speed.

MEMORIAL DAY, 1997

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on Monday, many of us will be about the land, speaking to veterans on Memorial Day. Throughout this Nation's history and