

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN FEDERAL
COURTHOUSE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 432, S. 1794.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1794) to designate the Federal Courthouse at 145 East Simpson Avenue in Jackson, Wyoming, as the "Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1794) was read the third time and passed as follows:

S. 1794

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF CLIFFORD P. HANSEN FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

The Federal courthouse at 145 East Simpson Avenue in Jackson, Wyoming, shall be known and designated as the "Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Clifford P. Hansen Federal Courthouse.

**OPEN-MARKET REORGANIZATION
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNI-
CATIONS ACT—CONFERENCE RE-
PORT**

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee on conference on the bill (S. 376) to amend the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 to promote competition and privatization in satellite communications, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 376) have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report. (The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of today, March 2, 2000.)

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I extend my sincere appreciation to Senate

Commerce Committee Chairman MCCAIN, Senator HOLLINGS, House Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY, Representative MARKEY, and all of the other Members of the Senate-House conference for working together in a bi-partisan manner on satellite reform legislation. Through the dedication of the conference, and in particular Chairman BLILEY, the 106th Congress can now present President Clinton with the opportunity to sign into law a meaningful bill that will enhance market competition and benefit consumers everywhere.

When I undertook the challenge of guiding legislation through the Senate that would encourage genuine competition in the rapidly evolving international satellite communications industry through deregulation, I declared five basic principles that would serve as the foundation for my effort.

(1) The legislation must enhance competition in the global satellite communications market;

(2) The legislation must be consistent with the United States' existing treaty obligations;

(3) The legislation must enhance global satellite connectivity to all areas, including remote and rural;

(4) The legislation must ultimately increase consumers' choices, enable technological innovation and lower costs; and

(5) The legislation cannot impose any unnecessary new regulatory schemes on this vibrant global industry.

These principles were incorporated into The Open Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act, known as ORBIT, S. 376 which the Senate swiftly and unanimously passed. I am very pleased to note that the conference agreement now before the Senate retains the core principles reflected in ORBIT while accommodating the concerns articulated by Chairman BLILEY and his House colleagues.

This compromise legislation represents the desire of Congress to inject more competition and more privatization into the international satellite communications market. Specifically, the conference agreement achieves these important objectives by:

Establishing definite and reasonable criteria and dates certain for the privatization of INTELSAT and Inmarsat.

Calling for an IPO of the privatized INTELSAT of October 1, 2001, but prudently recognizing that market conditions must be taken into account and therefore, allowing the IPO date to be extended to no later than December 31, 2002.

Eliminating INTELSAT's and COMSAT's privileges and immunities while protecting COMSAT for action taken in response to instructions of the U.S. Government in carrying out its responsibilities as the U.S. signatory.

Eliminating upon enactment the antiquated ownership and board restrictions on the U.S. signatory to INTELSAT, thereby allowing Lockheed

Martin to complete its acquisition of COMSAT upon enactment of this bill without conditions.

Creating a competitive, level playing field in the satellite industry.

Removing the intrusive role of government in the commercial satellite industry.

Using access to the U.S. market as a strong incentive to keep INTELSAT's privatization effort moving forward without delay.

I am especially pleased that the conference agreement rejects any notion that the government should be interfering in the contractual arrangements between COMSAT and either its customers or INTELSAT. The government should not be permitting, let alone encouraging, abrogation or modification of any such arrangement. Among my serious concerns, I concluded long ago that this would be contrary to the Fifth Amendment's Takings Clause. The bill before us is very clear on this point. This legislation in no way directs the FCC to take any action that would impair private contracts or agreements.

On a related point, the conference agreement also flatly rejects "Level IV direct access" in any form. Permitting or requiring Level IV direct access would have unfairly forced a divestiture of COMSAT's INTELSAT assets. I am pleased that the conference agreement flatly rejects Level IV direct access.

Let me also commend Senator STEVENS and our good friend, Mr. DINGELL, in the other body for improving this bill in conference with the addition of language to preserve our national security interests. The conference has produced an agreement that will encourage expeditious privatization of INTELSAT and Inmarsat and allow Lockheed Martin to reinvigorate COMSAT as a competitor in the international satellite marketplace.

At the end of the day, the conference agreement will lead to enhanced competition in telecommunications services, resulting in real consumer benefits of more choices, lower prices and new services. For this, we should all be very proud. I strongly urge my colleagues to adopt this conference report.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the conference report be printed in the RECORD.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

**MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—H.R. 5**

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 5 be placed on the calendar.

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