Breaux	Graham	Lieberman
Bryan	Harkin	Mikulski
Byrd	Heflin	Moseley-Braun
Conrad	Inouye	Moynihan
D'Amato	Johnston	Murray
Daschle	Kennedy	Pell
Dodd	Kerrey	Reid
Dorgan	Kerry	Robb
Feingold	Kohl	Rockefeller
Feinstein	Lautenberg	Sarbanes
Ford	Leahy	Simon
Glenn	Levin	Wellstone

NAYS—57

Abraham	Frist	McCain
Ashcroft	Gorton	McConnell
Bennett	Gramm	Murkowski
Bond	Grams	Nickles
Brown	Grassley	Nunn
Bumpers	Gregg	Packwood
Burns	Hatch	Pressler
Campbell	Hatfield	Pryor
Chafee	Helms	Roth
Coats	Hollings	Santorum
Cochran	Hutchison	Shelby
Cohen	Inhofe	Smith
Coverdell	Jeffords	Snowe
Craig	Kassebaum	Specter
DeWine	Kempthorne	Stevens
Dole	Kyl	Thomas
Domenici	Lott	Thompson
Exon	Lugar	Thurmond
Faircloth	Mack	Warner

NOT VOTING—1

Simpson

So the motion to lay on the table the amendment (No. 331) was rejected.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the question is on what?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the amendment of the Senator from Kansas.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as I have stated earlier, many of us want to get about the business of the appropriations bill. But it has been the decision of the Senator from Kansas to offer an amendment that affects the quality of life of hundreds of thousands of workers in this country.

As I stated earlier in the day, it is amazing to me that this institution has debated mainly two issues. One has been unfunded mandates, and the second is the balanced budget amendment. And now the first issue that comes before us affecting working people is to limit their rights and liberties in the workplace. If this amendment were to be passed tonight, millions of workers would be affected by it. Their working conditions would not be enhanced. Their wages would not be increased.

The well being of the children of those workers will not be enhanced. Their parents will not have a greater assurance of where we are going and where the Contract With America is going.

So it is an extraordinary fact that the first measure before us affecting working families is to diminish their rights and interests.

I am quite prepared to go forward, as we did earlier, with debate about the Executive order and its importance to working families. We have no interest in prolonging consideration of the underlying bill. But we do believe that this is a matter of considerable importance, and there are Senators who want to be heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak on a matter separate and apart from the existing bill for a period of about 7 or 8 minutes.

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

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of the Senate a demonstration that is currently taking place in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. I urge all Members of the Senate and their staffs to stop by and see this exhibit.

It is a demonstration of a new satellite telecommunications technology and the potential for advancing telecommunications to rural areas.

The satellite technology demonstrated in the rotunda is just one of the new applications that is coming on line in the near future. Telemedicine is one of the applications that I hope it will help bring to the farthest reaches of my State.

As I think the Senate knows, Alaska is one-fifth the size of the Continental United States. We have been using satellite technology to communicate with remote Alaskan communities since the 1970's, and in many of those communities, we have only one village health aide. Using the advanced digital technology that is now becoming available—and it is used in this demonstration—it will be possible for that nurse to send medical images to hospitals in Anchorage, or even to what we call the lower 48 States, for review by a doctor, something that cannot be done today. In these remote clinics, staffed by people who just have high school education, we are going to be able to take medicine, good telemedicine, directly to the villages.

Eventually, I hope to see even more advanced telemedicine applications like the remote surgery that is being developed by the joint civilian and military medical teams today. At the rotunda demonstration, there is also a telemedicine display, and I hope other Senators will stop by and take time to look at this display.

There are a lot of other possibilities to this type of technology. Tele-education and telecommunicating are two that come to mind.

Recently, I heard of a person who is moving his family to an island in southeastern Alaska where he is going to install advanced telecommunications facilities to allow him to continue to run his business in another State. When that same technology comes down in price, as I am sure it will, I am very hopeful that others will gladly do the same thing and come enjoy our State year round.

Finally, I want to point out that this demonstration of modern technology will allow anyone who comes by to be instantly updated on the status of the last great race on Earth. That is the Iditarod. The Iditarod is going on now. The race is 1,049 miles, from Anchorage to Nome, in the middle of winter by dogsled. Each day at 2 p.m., I receive a call over this new technology that is in the Russell Building from Susan Butcher, a four-time winner of the Iditarod. She is going point to point along the trail. She is not a contestant this year. She is reporting on the race from remote checkpoints where mushers are required to rest each day. The reason she is not in the race is because she is expecting her first child and decided not to be involved in the Iditarod this year.

The demonstration will be in the Russell rotunda until next Tuesday, March 14. It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each weekday, and we will have a reception there on Monday evening. It is my hope that other Members of the Senate and staff will come by and see the potential of telecommunications to rural areas, such as we have in Alaska. It is a very informational, very educational demonstration, and I personally invite everyone to stop by.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMPSON). The Senator from New Mexico.

CBO ESTIMATE OF PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I apologize to the Senate for my voice, but I have a cold. Nonetheless, I have something to share with you that I think is important.

Today, the Congressional Budget Office has given their estimate of the President's budget or, might I say, reestimate. The Congressional Budget Office released its analysis of the President's budgetary proposals for 1996. The analysis debunks the President's claim that his budget holds the deficit in line at about $200 billion by revealing a total lack of restraint in the President's budget.