

That can be accomplished through deregulation. History shows us that deregulation of industry benefits the consumer. We should be working to pass legislation that deregulates.

S. 652 contains a prescription for a larger and more intrusive Government in Washington.

The bill mandates over 80 new regulatory proceedings that the Congressional Budget Office estimates will cost over \$81 million to implement. Moreover, it is squarely at odds with nearly a quarter century of well-considered, soundly crafted, and broadly successful regulatory reform initiatives which commanded strong bipartisan support and, in the final analysis, yielded substantial consumer dividends for the American public. Back in 1970, the Senate Commerce Committee began work to deregulate a number of key, infrastructure industries. Airline, truck and rail, broadcast, maritime, cable, and freight regulatory reforms were initiated and successfully carried forward. These reforms paralleled changes which were occurring in the world at large, as the notion of pervasive, central economic planning by Government—embodied in the now-bankrupt Communist teaching and doctrine—faltered and competitive free enterprise concepts were adopted and embraced.

Senator PACKWOOD and I offered a series of amendments to S. 652 to make the bill more deregulatory. One amendment would have eliminated from the bill provisions which give the FCC excessive and unnecessary policymaking power. Another would have struck the community users provisions in the bill. A third amendment would have replaced the bill's universal service scheme with a voucher system that would have truly empowered consumers.

Unfortunately, all of those amendments were defeated.

I do want to thank the Commerce Committee chairman and ranking member for accepting some other amendments. I had sought to change the definition of the universal service contained in the bill. The universal service definition was far too broad and would have potentially cost consumers and companies hundreds of millions of dollars. The committee adopted the definition of universal service that I proposed as part of the manager's package of amendments.

Also included in the manager's package was an amendment I intended to offer to strike the DBS tax provisions in the bill. The legislation contained language that would have authorized the States to order DBS television providers to act as State tax collectors. This was an ill-conceived concept and I am very pleased that it was struck from the bill.

I was also very pleased that the committee accepted my amendment mandating that the FCC report any increases in the fees charged to communications companies as part of their

universal service obligation and another amendment to means test the community users section of the bill. Both improved the bill.

Last, although I could not support this legislation, I want to thank Chairman PRESSLER. He did a masterful job of shepherding this bill through the Senate. He deserves specific praise for his efforts.

I also want to thank ranking Member HOLLINGS, Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator SNOWE, and Senator PACKWOOD.

Their staff also deserve considerable praise for their efforts and hard work. I also want to thank Adam Thier of the Heritage Foundation, Bob Corn-Revere of Hogan & Hartson, and Jeffrey Blumenfeld and Christy Kunin of Blumenfeld & Cohen for their input and advocacy regarding the telecommunications voucher program.

I appreciate their help, and I thank them for their efforts.

HOUSTON ROCKETS WIN NBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on Wednesday a team from my home State, the Houston Rockets, won their second consecutive NBA Championship, defeating the Orlando Magic four games to none. The Rockets overcame everything from injuries to midseason trade to, finally, one of the toughest playoff schedules over.

To understand the full significance of Wednesday night's victory, Mr. President, you must understand the history of Houston's two star players, Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler. Both attended the University of Houston in the first part of the 1980's. In 1983 and 1984, Olajuwon and Drexler took their University of Houston team to the NCAA National Championship game. Soon after, they both went their separate ways. But this past Valentine's Day, in a trade many sports critics called unnecessary, the Rockets put Drexler back with his old college teammate Olajuwon. Wednesday night, the critics were proven wrong.

The Houston Rockets set an NBA playoff record by winning seven road games in a row. On their way to the NBA title, they won 11 out of their last 13 games. In the Western Conference Finals, they defeated the team with the best record in the regular season, another treasured Texas gem the San Antonio Spurs. As a team that never got the respect that it deserved when it won the title last year, Houston can now celebrate a title that will long be remembered. For most of the team, the second one is so much sweeter; but to Clyde Drexler, after 12 years in the NBA, this is the sweetest.

Mr. President, to repeat as champions with a four-game sweep is unprecedented. Five times the Rockets faced elimination and five times—with poise, determination, and character—they prevailed. The championship was a total team effort and everyone contributed.

Mr. President, I am sure that my colleagues will be glad to join me in congratulating the 1995 NBA World Champion Houston Rockets. For a team that started the playoffs with the sixth seed in the tournament, they are the lowest seed ever to win a World Championship. The Rockets showed their most adamant critics that they were not about to give up. In the words of head coach Rudy Tomjanovich, "Never underestimate the heart of a champion."

Mr. President, I just wanted to make sure that we recognized this great team effort, and the heart of these champions. And I am very proud of the Houston Rockets today, as last year, for their repeat world championship in basketball Wednesday.

I yield the floor, and I thank you, Mr. President.

THE SURGEON GENERAL

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, we have been without a Surgeon General now for 6 months. I was very pleased when Senator DOLE mentioned he was going to meet with Dr. Foster. I hope that meeting can take place. I think the vote in our committee clearly illustrated there is a will on the part of this body to confirm Dr. Foster. I notice even those who voted against Dr. Foster had praise for his dedication and sincerity. I hope we can move soon on this Foster nomination. I think we have delayed enough.

If he is going to be voted down, let us vote him down. But I think we will approve him. I think he should be approved. I think those of us who were on the committee who heard him testify were very impressed by what he had to say.

NOMINATION OF DR. HENRY FOSTER TO BE SURGEON GENERAL

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I wish to address the Senate on the situation facing the President's nomination submitted to the Senate for the office of Surgeon General.

Mr. President, it is now nearly 4 months since President Clinton sent to the Senate the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster to be Surgeon General of the United States. On May 2 and 3, the Labor Committee held hearings on the nomination and on May 26 the committee voted to approve the nomination and sent it to the full Senate for final action.

Already 3 weeks have passed and nothing further has happened. It is time for a vote.

Dr. Foster has demonstrated his impressive qualifications, his character, and his vision for the future of health care in this country. During the committee hearings, he successfully put to rest the charges attacking his character and his ability. He earned the admiration and respect of the committee and the American public. Even some who opposed the nomination have expressed the belief that the Senate