

community that they will not sign on to any kind of an extension of the nuclear test ban treaty so long as the nations of the world, the five big nations, primarily, and others, agree to dramatically reduce and get on a course to end the stockpile of nuclear inventory.

While that would, of course, be something that might be good for peace, on the other hand, it might not be. The whole drive today is not to eliminate nuclear weapons from those nations that now have it. The whole concept of a nuclear test ban treaty is to put roadblocks in the way for new states, particularly Third World nations coming aboard and being part of the nuclear inventory states.

That can only be very foreboding, as far as the future of peace is concerned, and especially the future of peace on the basis of not having and relying primarily—and I emphasize the word “primarily”—on nuclear inventories.

Suffice it to say, Mr. President, a lot of very important things are going on today. I happen to feel that, by and large, the measure that has been advanced to the floor of the Senate by the appropriate subcommittee, in this case energy, is a good bill. I think it is an important step in the right direction, with some modifications and lots of compromises.

In closing, I compliment, once again, the two Senators who are managing this bill on the floor for the excellent understanding that they have, the grasp that they have with regard to the whole complex matter of not only national security but international security. I thank them for their attention and thoughtfulness on this particular measure.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m. with the time between 12 noon and 1 p.m. under the control of the Democratic leader and the time between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. under the control of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL].

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

NETDAY EAST

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about an exciting new project called NetDay East, which is mobilizing volunteers in several States, including the Common-

wealth of Virginia, to wire our public schools for the Internet. It is exciting, Mr. President, because of how the Internet has transformed the way people communicate and expanded access to information worldwide.

Our challenge now is to bring this technology into all of our Nation's schools as quickly as possible so that all students, regardless of their economic status or where they live, have access to the same global library of knowledge and information to compete on a level playing field.

The biggest barrier has been the lack of money and manpower needed to physically wire the schools to the Internet. Laying the necessary cable to link our K-12 classrooms is estimated to cost billions of dollars nationwide.

But a project in California has showed us that we can overcome this obstacle if we mobilize our communities and work together. In 1 day, California wired 3,500 schools at little or no cost to the schools themselves through the outstanding volunteer efforts of parents, teachers, students, businesses, and elected officials.

Because of the vision and commitment reflected in their NetDay, hundreds of thousands of young Californians will be able to experience a new global world of unlimited possibility with the stroke of a key.

As one who cares deeply about education and surfs the Internet from my Senate office, I am delighted to be a part of NetDay East. Modeled after California's project, NetDay East is now organizing to cable schools every weekend in October in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland. Similar efforts are taking place in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Montana, Connecticut, and Louisiana as well.

Mr. President, an estimated 40 million people from more than 150 countries use the information superhighway. They include Kathleen Butzler at Northampton Middle School who can lead her seventh grade class on a virtual tour of the White House or talk to a Member of Congress without leaving their home in Mochipongo on Virginia's Eastern Shore.

We shouldn't forget that the Internet is a two-way communications tour. Through NetDay East, thousands of Virginia students will be able to create Web pages, like those at the Northampton Middle School, to teach the rest of the world about the treasures of our beautiful and diverse State.

This technology is fascinating and could very well be the spark to ignite the imagination in children who would otherwise be disinterested in school work. Capturing the interest and imagination of our students through this technology can yield enormous future benefits, for students with access will have a distinct advantage over those who do not. We cannot afford to let our schools slip behind those of our international competitors when the technology, technology that we created, is literally right at our fingertips.

There are many ways to participate in NetDay, Mr. President. Businesses can contribute in a variety of ways, including partnering with local schools, purchasing wiring kits, lending technical staff, and encouraging their employees to volunteer.

Individuals can help pull wire in schools, since installing this type of cable requires a great deal of labor but very little technical expertise.

Schools can register to be a part of this project and encourage their parents to volunteer and promote NetDay. This October on a Saturday, my staff and I plan to help cable A.P. Hill Elementary School in Petersburg, VA, as a part of NetDay East. We will also be doing a demonstration project in Northern Virginia right after school starts in September.

There is no question, Mr. President, that when we wire schools for the Internet this October, we will complete just the first step in a much greater effort to help young Virginians and young Americans in other States travel the information superhighway.

It is a first step, but it is certainly an essential one. There will be much to do to finish the job, including arranging for Internet connections, training students and teachers in the effective uses of the Internet and helping to acquire computer donations to the schools. I hope NetDay forms an important and productive alliance between our communities and our schools that can continue well beyond October.

Finally, I fully endorse NetDay East, and I encourage others to join us during the month of October to participate in this modern-day barn raising.

If anyone would like to sponsor, volunteer, endorse, sign up their school or just find out more information, please visit the NetDay East home page at “www.cgcs.org/netday-east.”

For anyone who does not have access to the Internet, I invite them to contact my office, and we will certainly assist them with registration.

With the help of many caring and committed individuals, Mr. President, we can keep our children off the way-side and ensure they move swiftly and surely forward on the information superhighway.

With that, I thank the Chair, I yield the floor, and 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. COVERDELL. 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. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

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