

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 536, H.R. 4057, all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 2279, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof, the bill then be read the third time, and immediately following the convening of the Senate on Friday there be 20 minutes for closing remarks divided equally between the majority and minority managers; and, following that time, the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of H.R. 4057, with no other intervening action or debate.

I finally ask unanimous consent that following passage of the bill the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be a vote tomorrow morning at approximately 9:50 on passage of the FAA reauthorization bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 442

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 509, S. 442, and it be considered under the following limitations:

The Commerce Committee amendment be agreed to, and the Finance Committee substitute then be agreed to, and the substitute then be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that the only other amendments in order to the bill be the following:

A managers' amendment; McCain-Wyden, extending length of moratorium; Coats, Internet porn, 1 hour equally divided; Nickles, relevant; Bennett, relevant; two Warner amendments, relevant; Senator Hutchison, relevant; Senator Murkowski, relevant; Bond, relevant; Bumpers, mail order; Graham, relevant; Abraham, government paperwork; Enzi, three amendments, relevant; Domenici, interest rates; Bumpers, a commission amendment; and another Nickles relevant amendment.

I further ask unanimous consent that relevant second-degree amendments be in order to all amendments other than the Coats amendment.

I further ask that there be 2 hours of general debate equally divided on the bill.

I finally ask that following disposition of the above listed amendments and the expiration of the time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate proceed to a vote on passage of the bill with no other intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. FORD. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, September 25, the Senate turn to Calendar No. 509, S. 442, the Internet tax bill, and immediately following reporting by the clerk, the Commerce Committee substitute be agreed to, and immediately following that action the Finance Committee substitute be agreed to and considered original text for the purpose of further amendments. I further ask that during the Senate's consideration of S. 442 or the House companion measure, only relevant amendments be in order.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, if the acting leader would take the first paragraph and use that as his unanimous consent request, this side is willing to accept that. The one I cannot agree to is: "I further ask that during the Senate's consideration of S. 442 or the House companion measure, only relevant amendments be in order." I would object to that. But I would accept the upper part if the Senator is willing to make that unanimous consent request.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I can't do that, but I appreciate the willingness of the Senator from Kentucky. Let me also state that I am aware that the leadership on the other side is basically prepared tomorrow for us to move forward. I appreciate that. There is great understanding that this is a very important piece of legislation. The Internet Tax Freedom Act is of the highest priority all over America. I believe we will move to it. I believe that we will do it soon. I appreciate the interest and the agreement of the Senator from Kentucky that we could work out some agreement on this—perhaps not tonight but perhaps tomorrow.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I will be more than willing to agree to a unanimous consent agreement to proceed to the bill without any other reservations or any time agreements or agreements to amendments. I would be more than willing to do that. But under the circumstances, I doubt if that would be acceptable so we will just have to work overnight and tomorrow on the legislation and see if we can't come to some kind of agreement. And I am hopeful, because we were close tonight, and I think if we had waited until morning I would not have been placed in a position to object. You do a lot of things around here sometimes you don't really like to do, but then I always like to be "Senator No."

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky, especially as we approach the end of this very important legislation which bears his name. I do not wish to end up this evening in any kind of disagreement with the Senator from Kentucky. It is not worth it.

Mr. FORD. A red letter day.

Mr. MCCAIN. I do know he is committed to passage of this legislation,

the Internet Tax Freedom Act. He understands as well as I do, with just a few days remaining, that if we didn't have some kind of agreement, which I do believe we will agree to, on circumscribing the number of amendments to the bill, then it would be very difficult to get it done in a short period of time. I am not going to pursue this issue. Again, I spent too many hundreds of hours working with the Senator from Kentucky for us to end up in some disagreement over an issue such as this before completion of the bill that is called the Wendell H. Ford legislation, which is very fittingly named after him as the reality is that there is no Member of the Senate who has done more to further the cause of aviation in America than the Senator from Kentucky.

So, Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, there will be a vote tomorrow morning at approximately 9:50 a.m. on passage of the FAA reauthorization bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCAIN. I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

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

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 23, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,517,883,379,683.46 (Five trillion, five hundred seventeen billion, eight hundred eighty-three million, three hundred seventy-nine thousand, six hundred eighty-three dollars and forty-six cents).

One year ago, September 23, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,382,650,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred eighty-two billion, six hundred fifty million).

Five years ago, September 23, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,380,953,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty billion, nine hundred fifty-three million).

Ten years ago, September 23, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,587,266,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred eighty-seven billion, two hundred sixty-six million).

Fifteen years ago, September 23, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,354,045,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-four billion, forty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,163,838,379,683.46 (Four trillion, one hundred sixty-three billion, eight hundred thirty-eight million, three hundred seventy-nine thousand, six hundred eighty-three dollars and forty-six cents) during the past 15 years.