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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Pastor Lonnie Shull, First Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC.

We are very pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Pastor Lonnie Shull, First Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC, offered the following prayer:

God be merciful to us, and bless us; cause Your face to shine upon us.— Psalm 67:1. Gracious Father, we praise You today. You have blessed America, and we are so thankful. You have made us the greatest Nation on Earth. Accept, O Father, our sincere gratitude. May we be a gracious demonstration of the freedom and opportunity, righteousness and justice, You desire for all nations.

I pray that You will empower our Senators with Your wisdom. Give them, I pray, a divine vision for the United States of America. May they be given double portions of courage, honesty, and humility as Your dedicated servants. Save us, I pray, from the enemies who would destroy us. Deliver us from internal strife, selfish arrogance, and moral disintegration.

Today, we especially pray for those who serve this Nation in our Armed Forces overseas. Keep them safe in Your loving care and bring them safely back to their homeland soon. Help us to reach out in love to our fellow citizens whose lives have been devastated by violence and by storms.

O God, please bless America and keep her true as You have kept her free. We ask these things in the name and the authority of the Prince of peace. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able chairman of the Judiciary Committee is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. This morning the Senate will resume consideration of the juvenile justice legislation. Pending is the Hatch-Leahy amendment with a vote to take place at approximately 9:40 a.m. Following the disposition of the Hatch-Leahy amendment, Senator HOLLINGS will resume debate of his television violence amendment with 2 hours of debate remaining on the amendment, with the time for a vote to be determined. It is hoped that significant progress can continue to be made on this important legislation. Therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 254 which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by rehabilitation of juvenile individuals, punish and deter violent gang crimes, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Hatch-Leahy amendment No. 335, relating to the availability of Internet filtering and screening software.

Hollings amendment No. 328, to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require that the broadcast of violent video programming be limited to hours when children are not reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to add Senator McCAIN as a co-sponsor of the Hatch-Leahy amendment.

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

Mr. HATCH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my full 5 minutes as previously reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Hatch-Leahy amendment is a good one. I hope everybody will support it. I have talked for years about empowering users of the Internet to control and limit access to material they did not want to see and that could be found online. This could be any type of material. Parents may not want their children buying things. There may be obscene material. It could be types of sites parents are against.

We also know there is a lot of amazing and wonderful material on the Internet. While I oppose efforts in Congress to regulate content of the Internet, I do want to make sure children can be protected, that parents have the ability to do that, and this gives them a chance to do it.

I have always believed the power to control what people see belongs to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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users and the parents, not the Government. The amendment the chairman and I offer requires large on-line service providers to offer their subscribers filtering software and systems to stop objectionable materials from reaching their computer screens. I am supportive of voluntary industry efforts to come together and provide Internet users with one-click-away information resources on how to protect children when they go on line. Senator CAMPBELL and I joined Vice President Gore at the White House last week to hear about this one-click-away amendment. Our amendment helps promote the use of filtering technologies. It is better than Government censorship. It is a fall-back provision, if the companies do not do it themselves.

NOTE FROM SENATOR SASSER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wonder if my distinguished friend from Utah will indulge me. I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute to read a note that I just received from our former colleague, Senator Sasser.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many of us served here with Jim Sasser, the very distinguished former chairman of the Budget Committee, now our Ambassador to China at a very difficult time.

We have seen the photographs of Ambassador Sasser under siege in the Chinese Embassy. I faxed him a note the other day, saying how proud I was, and I mentioned the comments of many Senators saying how proud they were, of his grace under fire and the fact that he would not leave the American Embassy that is under siege. When there were Embassy staff there, in the true and best tradition of the State Department and the Senate and the Marine Corps and everything else, he said he would stay until it was safe. So I faxed him this note.

This morning I got back this note from him, and I will read it for my colleagues. It is handwritten. It says:

Dear Pat: My sincere thanks for your wonderful note. Please tell all my former colleagues that Mary and I are well and safe. Things have stabilized after a turbulent few days. Last night I got a good night's sleep in a real bed. All the best, Jim.

I just wanted everybody to hear that. I thank my friend from Utah.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I am glad my friend from Vermont read that letter. I visited with Senator Sasser a couple of years ago over there. He is doing a very good job in China.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this Hatch-Leahy amendment, which is aimed at limiting the negative impact violence and indecent material on the Internet have on children.

As I noted last evening, this amendment does not regulate the content. Instead, it encourages the larger Internet service providers, the ISPs, if you will, to provide, either for free or at a fee not exceeding the cost to the service providers, filtering technologies that will empower parents to limit or block the access of minors to unsuitable materials on the Internet. We simply cannot ignore the fact that the Internet has the ability to expose children to violent, sexually explicit, and other inappropriate materials with no limits.

A recent Time/CNN poll found that 75 percent of teenagers from 13 to 17 believe the Internet is partly responsible for the crimes that occurred in Littleton, CO, at Columbine High School. The amendment respects the first amendment of the Constitution by not regulating content but ensures that parents will have the adequate technological tools to control access of their children to unsuitable material on the Internet.

I honestly believe that the Internet service providers that do not already provide filtering software to their subscribers will do so voluntarily. They will know it is in their best interests, and I believe the market will demand it.

A recent survey reported in the New York Times yesterday found that almost a third of on-line American households with children use blocking software.

In a study by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, 60 percent of parents said they disagreed with the statement that the Internet was a safe place for their children. According to yesterday's New York Times, after the shootings in Colorado, the demand for filtering technologies has dramatically increased. This indicates that parents are taking an active role in safeguarding their children on the Internet. That is what this amendment is all about—using technology to empower parents.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield the floor and hope we can go to a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 335. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 100, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 113 Leg.]

YEAS—100

Abraham	Bennett	Brownback
Akaka	Biden	Bryan
Allard	Bingaman	Bunning
Ashcroft	Bond	Burns
Baucus	Boxer	Byrd
Bayh	Breaux	Campbell

Chafee	Hatch	Murray
Cleland	Helms	Nickles
Cochran	Hollings	Reed
Collins	Hutchinson	Reid
Conrad	Hutchison	Robb
Coverdell	Inhofe	Roberts
Craig	Inouye	Rockefeller
Crapo	Jeffords	Roth
Daschle	Johnson	Santorum
DeWine	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Dodd	Kerrey	Schumer
Domenici	Kerry	Sessions
Dorgan	Kohl	Shelby
Durbin	Kyl	Smith (NH)
Edwards	Landrieu	Smith (OR)
Enzi	Lautenberg	Snowe
Feingold	Leahy	Specter
Feinstein	Levin	Stevens
Fitzgerald	Lieberman	Thomas
Frist	Lincoln	Thompson
Gorton	Lott	Thurmond
Graham	Lugar	Torricelli
Gramm	Mack	Voinovich
Grams	McCain	Warner
Grassley	McConnell	Wellstone
Gregg	Mikulski	Wyden
Hagel	Moynihan	
Harkin	Murkowski	

The amendment (No. 335) was agreed to.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HATCH. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). Under the previous order, the Senator from Nevada, Mr. BRYAN, is recognized for up to 12 minutes for a morning business statement.

The Senator from Nevada.

DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WASTE TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, next Sunday and Monday, NBC is scheduled to air a miniseries entitled "Atomic Train." The plot of this movie includes a runaway train carrying nuclear weapons and high-level nuclear waste causing a massive accident and catastrophe in Denver.

The movie is obviously fiction. Let me just tell you how the network initially described the scenario:

A runaway train carrying armed nuclear weapons and deadly nuclear waste suddenly careens out of control down the Rocky Mountains.

All of this made the nuclear power industry very nervous, because although the scenario is fictional, much of what is depicted, in part, is a scenario that is entirely possible, given the proposed legislation I will describe that this Congress is considering.

Earlier this week, just days before this was to air, all of a sudden NBC changes the story line of the television miniseries, and now we have:

A runaway train carrying a Russian atomic weapon and hazardous materials, suddenly careening out of control.

All reference to high-level nuclear waste is dropped. The Nuclear Energy Institute, which is the lobbying arm of the atomic energy lobby, was forced to go into high gear. They sent out what they called an "Info Wire." They were very concerned. They say, in effect:

VIOLENT AND REPEAT JUVENILE OFFENDER ACCOUNTABILITY AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.