

and I will have many opportunities to work with General Shinseki over the next several years as we labor to guarantee the readiness of the Armed Forces and to maintain our covenant with the men and women of the United States Army, who guarantee our own freedoms and guard our interests at home and abroad.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THOMAS. I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

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

RURAL SATELLITE SERVICE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, rural states are particularly affected by satellite service. Telecommunications is changing the way things are done, providing more and more of our services through satellites. Yet we have difficulty with people who live in low-density areas, people who live in the country, receiving their local satellite service.

This is a common problem in a low-density State such as Wyoming, where we have fewer people, where we have more rural areas. Many issues we work on have a unique impact on people who live in rural areas. The reregulation of electricity, for example, has a different impact in Wyoming than it does in Pennsylvania. That is true, also, with the delivery of health care services.

It is important, when we deal with nationwide issues, that we also take some time to give special attention to the differences that exist among consumers in the country. That is particularly true with TV. Technology and satellite TV have allowed TV services to be delivered in places it could never be delivered before. However, there are many rural people who cannot receive over the air television signals. That is the case in Wyoming.

Technology and satellite TV are great because they often provide people with more services. Indeed, it does. But it is difficult to provide local TV, local news, and local emergency signals that are given by the local stations. When a satellite company cannot do that, customers get their NBC broadcast in Rawlins, WY, they receive it from Chicago. That is a problem in terms of being able to have those local services available to consumers.

It is important, No. 1, we maintain local broadcast markets. It is important, as well, that people who live in that vicinity have the opportunity to see local news, to hear about local ac-

tivities, to participate locally. The problem is, how do you provide satellite service and at the same time provide local news and local activities, as well?

This week, the Senate-House conference will be meeting regarding the Satellite Home Viewers Improvement Act. Hopefully, something will come out of that. This is legislation which will enable more customers to receive broadcast network television. The question is, of course, who can adequately receive local service from their own antenna and who can receive these local broadcasts through a satellite provider.

I had meetings in Wyoming this week. We only have two areas in Wyoming where the local TV has a designated area; the others do not. There are 15 States that do not have local-to-local service at all. When people up for satellite TV and they want the national broadcast—which is done locally, if you can receive that from an antenna—viewers are blocked from receiving it on the satellite.

The difficulty is determining the strength of the signal that comes to that antenna. There is a great difference of view about that. Frankly, it is very uncertain who makes that determination.

The first issue is determining the strength of the signal. You have to find out if that signal is strong enough so you qualify to get it over your antenna, or have a technician show that it isn't.

That is the difference of view. There needs to be a third party who says, whether you have adequate signal strength. Some viewers are behind a mountain or in a valley and can't get it. That is part of the problem.

Another problem is considering the local market. Over 25 percent of the viewers in Wyoming receive their TV from satellites. This is the third highest percentage, I believe, in the United States. That is not a huge number of people, but it is a very high percentage of people.

Without satellite access of course, the customers have no TV at all. Under the current situation, the TV they do get often comes from distant network stations.

There are two problems. One is that there has been a moratorium so these viewers could continue to get their services. That moratorium is scheduled to expire at the end of this month for folks in Grade A. In the Grade B contour network service expires at the end of the year; and there is nothing to be done in the interim. We need to deal with the immediacy of the problem—hopefully give customers another moratorium to continue network service. Second, we need to decide how we can get local-to-local coverage, how we can get the local TV station carried in a "must carry" proposition.

There are two difficulties. One, I am told—and I am not completely persuaded—that there is a lack of capacity

on the satellites. In order to do that, additional satellites must be launched to carry all the local stations so people can get local broadcasts. Of course, that runs into the third issue—money.

I know the folks in Kansas would be just as excited about having TV coverage as the folks in Wyoming; and I am sure the Presiding Officer would be instrumental in making this happen.

In summary, I think many individuals would like to use satellites for their TV viewing. People in the country also want to have their local station available to them. They do not want to be blocked from receiving NBC or CBS because they are within the area that their local station carries, despite the fact they can't get it well on their own TV.

This is a problem that can have a happy resolution. Ideally, everyone could receive TV and have a good picture. Ideally, everyone could view their local station. We will work toward this end. I hope the conference committee meeting now can help find a way to provide a remedy for the short term and then set up an efficient system as we look to the future.

We have written a letter to the committee—I think there are 24 signatures on this letter—urging they set up a commission to determine how this might be done to resolve the question in the long term. I am optimistic that can be done.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, June 11, 1999.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,

Chairman,

The Honorable ERNEST F. HOLLINGS,

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,

Chairman,

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY,

Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR COLLEAGUES: We are writing today to request your support for efforts to ensure local service for small television markets during conference committee deliberation of comprehensive satellite legislation.

While we support provisions in this legislation that will allow the satellite retransmission of local television signals back into local markets ("local into local"), we are concerned that satellite providers are not expected to provide local service to the 19 million U.S. households in the smallest 150 rural and less populated markets. We believe that all Americans should receive the benefits of educational, informational and entertainment programming resulting from the reception of local signals.

We are particularly concerned that at least 15 states, including many of our own, do not have a single television market which will receive local television retransmission. Therefore, disagreements will continue over importation of distant network signals, and worse, rural America will be deprived of important communications access.

While the legislation passed by the Senate requires the FCC to report on methods of facilitating "local into local", we believe there should be a more focused effort towards the goal of implementing "local into local" as soon as technically possible. To this end, we support the creation of a Local Television Planning Group that would make recommendations to Congress to ensure that all local television signals are retransmitted by appropriate technologies as soon as practicable. This Planning Group should be convened under the auspices of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and should include representative local broadcasters and knowledgeable senior staff drawn from relevant federal agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Justice, and agencies within the Department of Agriculture that specialize in providing services to rural America. We believe this is a workable approach that ensures no portions of America are left out of the information age.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you on this important issue for rural Americans.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus, Tom Daschle, Tim Johnson, Harry Reid, Larry E. Craig, Chuck Grassley, Jim Bunning, Pat Roberts, Bob Smith, Craig Thomas, Bob Kerrey, Tom Harkin, Paul Wellstone, Byron L. Dorgan, Jim Inhofe, Wayne Allard, James M. Jeffords, Michael B. Enzi, Susan Collins, Michael Crapo, Rod Grams, Frank H. Murkowski, Thad Cochran, Ron Wyden.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent—and this has been cleared on both sides—that we continue in morning business until the hour of 3 p.m., with the time equally divided between both sides.

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

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

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as a member of the Energy Committee and the Governmental Affairs Committee where I am ranking member on the International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services Subcommittee, I

have benefited from numerous briefings and extensive hearings on the issues raised in the House select committee's Report on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns With the People's Republic of China. Representative Cox and Representative DICKS and their colleagues on the House select committee have done the country a great national service in producing the report.

The bipartisan manner in which they conducted their analysis is an example to us all of the importance of placing bipartisanship above political interests for the sake of national security.

I was dismayed, as other Members have been, by the extent of Chinese espionage efforts exposed in the committee's report. I wish we could say that American efforts and commitment to countering Chinese espionage were as relentless and as persistent as their ongoing efforts to acquire information from us.

Importantly, the President and the entire administration have taken major steps to reform our security at the national nuclear weapons laboratories and to improve our counterintelligence capability. Many of these changes were ordered by the President in February 1998 well before the House Select Committee was formed.

Additional measures were taken during the committee's review as the extent of Chinese espionage became apparent.

Let me make two cautionary statements:

There is a great deal of discussion now in Washington as to whom to blame for the security lapses. There is the usual round of finger-pointing and calls for this or that person to resign.

We should not spend all of our time searching for scapegoats. Only our adversaries take solace when we turn on ourselves and become distracted by partisan squabbling. Let us instead focus our attention on improving our security and rooting out those guilty of betraying America.

Secondly, let us not sacrifice our efforts to build a constructive relationship with the Chinese people because of our justifiable anger at their government's espionage.

Much of what has occurred is to our embarrassment for not being more vigilant.

We need to engage China. We have issues and problems that can only be resolved by cooperation. These include bread and butter issues such as reducing our trade deficit and improving market accessibility for American goods. They include global issues such as global warming and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The Select Committee's report indicates that, despite international commitments to the contrary, China continues to proliferate weapons of mass destruction.

To convince China to cooperate with us in ending the threat of proliferation we will need to engage China.

Our foreign visitor's program at the national laboratories has provided us with one opportunity to engage the Chinese on issues such as improving export controls. With enhanced restrictions, these programs should continue. It is our openness to the best scientific minds which aids America in keeping its intellectual edge sharp on the frontiers of science.

But engagement is not a one-way street.

China needs to demonstrate that it wants to and can engage the United States in a constructive and cooperative manner.

China can choose to swamp us either with spies or with friends. The choice is theirs.

There is a sense in the country from the revelations contained in the Cox Committee report that the Chinese have "poisoned the well" of relations between the United States and China. The report observes that "the PRC uses a variety of techniques, including espionage, controlled commercial entities, and a network of individuals and organizations that engage in a vast array of contacts with scientists, business people, and academics."

The report further charges that there are an increasing number of Chinese "front companies" in the United States attempting to gain access to our technology and national security secrets. China seems to be almost unchecked in its efforts to gain information on the United States.

This view has two detrimental effects. The first effect is on the overall perception of the benefits of relations with China.

On June 3, the President took the correct step of renewing normal trade relations with China. But it was a step that China needs to match. With a growing trade imbalance of \$57 billion in 1998 out of a total trade of \$85.4 billion, China is our fourth largest trading partner. We are also the third largest foreign investor in China. During the Asian financial crisis, American trade with China played a substantial role in keeping the Chinese economy afloat as Chinese exports to the U.S. grew even as Chinese exports to other nations fell. The lesson for China is that we are too important for them to ignore. The lesson for us is that China has become too big for us to ignore.

A step in the right direction for both countries is to achieve an agreement on conditions for China's entry into the World Trade Organization. Chinese participation in this international body would be a major leap forward into integrating China in the world economy. Conditions that permit more access for American goods and protection for American investment in China would help accelerate the modernization of the Chinese economy.

I think the battle within China over whether or not to participate in the international economy has been won by the advocates of modernization led by President Jiang Zemin and Premier