

some indication by the end of next week whether we will start the August recess on the 4th or the 11th or the 18th or thereafter.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 12,
1995

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 12 noon on Monday, June 12, 1995; that, following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

Further, that at the hour of 1 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of S. 652, the telecommunications bill and the pending Thurmond second-degree amendment to the Dorgan amendment No. 1264.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, all Members should be aware that the Senate will resume consideration of the telecommunications bill at 1 o'clock on Monday. The chairman is here. He is ready to do business now. He will be ready to do business on Monday. Senator PRESSLER is available. Senators should, therefore, be aware that roll-call votes can be expected throughout Monday's session of the Senate, however, not before 5 p.m. on Monday.

Let me indicate to my colleagues who will say, "Well, we didn't have enough time for debate," we have time right now. It is 3:10. For 3, 4, 5 hours, the Senator from South Dakota is willing to stay on into the evening and will be here all day Monday. So I hope people do not come back at 5 and say, "We didn't have time to debate."

We have all day today and all day Monday starting at 1 o'clock. I just said if we cannot get an up-or-down vote on the pending amendment, then all the recourse the manager would have would be to make a motion to table sometime on Monday. I did not file cloture to shut off debate. It is a very important amendment. It is a very important bill. I am not trying to take time away from any Senators. You can see there is nobody here. So all those people who complain Monday about having time to debate, they could have been here today. Right?

Mr. PRESSLER. Right.

Mr. DOLE. And they can be here Monday. So I just hope if we are told we have not had time, we need more time to debate, that they will think about what they did not do on Friday and what they could have done on Monday.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if there is nobody here to debate the telecommunications bill, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order, following the outstanding remarks about to be made by the Senator from Nebraska—I added that "outstanding"—Senator EXON.

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

The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I have delayed bringing up this matter until an appropriate time when I would not necessarily inconvenience all of my colleagues with the very important amendments that I have had a part in developing as a member of the committee of jurisdiction, the Commerce Committee.

I will be back on the floor on this matter, though, next week before the vote or votes are held on the matter on which I wish to address the Senate today. There has been a great amount of behind-the-scenes activity. There has been a great amount of activity on the Internet system, and I am here today to outline the measure that I will offer as a substitute to the measure that was reported unanimously out of the Commerce Committee, called the Exon decency bill with regard to the Internet.

I cannot think of a more appropriate means of bringing this to the attention of the Senate and the American people than in our debate and eventual enactment of the telecommunications legislation, which is the most far-reaching legislation dating back to 1934. Obviously, everyone knows of the dramatic developments in telecommunications since 1934. It is about time we do something.

But as we are doing this, and with the many important factors that we have considered and deliberated on for a long, long time, including last year when the Commerce Committee had extensive hearings on the whole matter and scope of telecommunications, what we should do and should not do, what we should try to do, and what we can do—unfortunately, the Senate adjourned before that bill was reported out of the Commerce Committee last year and was considered and enacted into law.

When Senator PRESSLER took over as the very distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee this year, Senator PRESSLER, rightfully, in company with the Democratic leader on the Commerce Committee, Senator HOLLINGS, moved very aggressively on, once again, bringing forth a piece of legislation not distinctly different from the legislation that we reported after extensive hearings and deliberations and brought to the floor last year.

So here we are, Mr. President, making some very significant changes. One of the things this Senator feels we should properly address, and will address and, hopefully, act on in a fair and reasonable fashion, with full understanding, absent of outlandish claims and charges, is the matter of trying to clean up the Internet—or the information superhighway, as it is frequently called—to make that superhighway a safe place for our children and our families to travel on.

Mr. President, at this time, I send an amendment to the desk and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD and held at the desk. I will formally call it up for consideration sometime next week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator has that right.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, earlier this week, I circulated a "Dear Colleague" letter which explained the revisions in the communications decency provision. In title IV of the telecommunications reform bill, as my colleagues know, title IV includes legislation that I have worked on for about a year to make the Internet and other aspects of the information superhighway safer for our families and for our children to travel.

It seems an appropriate time to explain these revisions and file my amendment so that it may be printed in the RECORD, as I have just asked for and received consent for—primarily, for the convenience and review of my colleagues before we debate this matter further next week and eventually come to a vote.

Mr. President, some basic rules of the road need to be established. As the information superhighway rolls up to the front door of every household and school and library in America, this bill will bring exciting, revolutionary, and new information technologies within the reach of every American. There has not been anything that I think is more exciting that has ever been developed than the information superhighway and what it is going to do to make more information and more education readily accessible to any who seek it.

I have said on many occasions that I happen to believe the whole computer Internet system is the most important, the most revolutionary development since the printing press. Eventually, I predict, it will do as much good for circulation of information as the printing press. I support the development of this so very, very strongly.

I simply cite that there are some dangerous places, Mr. President, on the information superhighway. I think that while we are creating this as an important part of our new telecommunications bill, we who are charged with the responsibilities to pass laws that are reasonable and proper should emphasize a little in our thinking what is proper and what is not proper.