

central Government planning scheme by Federal regulators and bureaucrats. It is, in short, electromagnetic industrial policy. The FCC must determine which services, which frequencies and the conditions under which they will be provided, and often the specific technology to be used.

The spectrum management system currently utilized in the U.S. tends to result in an inefficient use of the spectrum resource. Federal regulators—rather than consumers—decide whether taxis, telephone service, broadcasters, or foresters are in greatest need of spectrum.

Most importantly, new services, products and technologies face inordinate delays which impose tremendous costs on society. It typically takes many years to get a new service approved by the FCC. The lengthy delay in making cellular telephone service available, as noted earlier, imposed a huge cost on the economy. One recent study estimated the delay cost our economy \$86 billion.

In addition, the system constrains competition. One of the most important determinants of a competitive industry is the ability of new firms to enter the business. The allocation process typically provides for a set number of licenses for each service, precluding additional competitors. Only two cellular franchises, for instance, are allowed in each market. This takes on added significance when one considers the important role wireless services will play in bringing competitive alternatives to the wireline telephone system.

Changes in new communications technologies, especially the digitization phenomenon, are making the bureaucratic system even more unworkable. New wireless communications technologies, services and products are being developed at an ever accelerating rate. Even if the FCC were able to weigh the needs and merits of the relatively few spectrum-based services which existed in the 1930's, it is simply not able to do so today. Even if it could, the lengthy delays associated with the allocation and assignment processes, while perhaps acceptable in a slow-changing analog world, are seriously out of step with the fast-changing digitized world of today.

Spectrum auctions employing competitive bidding for spectrum would give applicants for spectrum the right incentives. Applicants would have incentives to bid only for that amount they truly need, and to use it in the most efficient manner possible. The Government would be compensated at a fair market value for granting an applicant the use of the spectrum. There is already a vigorous private market for spectrum rights. The only difference between the private auctions and FCC auctions is that taxpayers, rather than lucky lottery or comparative hearing winners, receive the revenue.

In addition to expanded auctioning authority, I also intend to pursue spec-

trum flexibility reforms. Historically, when Government allocated a portion of the spectrum was allocated, they have done so for one and only one use. More flexible use of spectrum would be more productive. Since the 1980's, the FCC has allowed the cellular industry to use its spectrum for alternative purposes. As a result of this increased flexibility, we have seen the advent of data services. The recently passed Telecommunications Competition and Deregulation Act of 1995, S. 652, contains provisions for spectrum flexibility for broadcasters. Now is the time to expand on this important spectrum reform.

Recent digital technological developments make other applications of flexible spectrum use feasible. Smart radios using microprocessor technology now make continuous communications possible on tiny slivers of shifting, non-contiguous spectrum. Such spread spectrum technologies also make it possible to program a cellular telephone to operate on different frequencies based on the part of town from which it is transmitting, or even on the time of day.

Mr. President, our country's future hinges on our ability to maintain our leadership in telecommunications, computing and information technology and innovation. The growth in jobs, productivity and international competitiveness will come in the telecommunications, computing and information sector if the Government gets out of the way. By passing a major overhaul and deregulation of telecommunications, and following this with reform of the spectrum system, this Congress can make a major contribution toward greater consumer choices, jobs creation and U.S. competitiveness in global markets.

A TRIBUTE TO THE RELIEF VOLUNTEERS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, it is with great sadness and yet tremendous pride that I look back to the tragic events in Oklahoma City which have impacted Oklahomans as well as all Americans. Etched in our memory is what happened on Wednesday, April 19, at 9:02 a.m. when Oklahoma was stunned by an explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. As we reflect on our devastating loss, we realize that the old adage is true—every cloud does have a silver lining. The silver lining we found in Oklahoma City was the outpouring of love, selfless effort, and resources.

We are, forever, indebted to those volunteers who created that silver lining, and they have our utmost respect and gratitude. The individuals are innumerable, but none is forgotten. Each remains as an example for us to emulate. We have learned many lessons from them: lessons of compassion, charity, cooperation, perseverance, and bravery.

First of all, I have been touched by the loving compassion that has motivated the volunteers. The reflections of Dr. Robert C. Bjorklund, a local pastor from Oklahoma City, captured the compassionate spirit found among the rescue workers. He recounted for me his experience while providing counseling assistance at the site just days after the bombing. He had been debriefing the rescue workers as they started and finished their shifts where they were exposed to incredible and tragic images. He expressed how moved he was by the caring and compassion of the rescue workers who seemed more concerned about his condition than their own. Dr. Bjorklund was right when he suggested that the tragedy has been overshadowed by the community's spirit of mutual care and concern. He learned from them firsthand as the rest of us are learning from their example.

The phenomenal generosity of the private donors, rescue workers, and large corporations have also made them models of charity. I was amazed by the immediate and enthusiastic response of citizens donating food, flashlights, batteries, and other supplies to the rescue crews. One young man named Chris Gross from Santa Clara, CA, has given up his salary for 1 year to start the Children of Oklahoma City Scholarship Fund. The selfless rescue workers, such as Dr. Hernando Garzon and his rescue crew from Sacramento, CA, came from far and wide and worked around the clock.

So many sacrificed their time, money, and talents to the cause. The Oklahoma Restaurant Association was especially generous by donating thousands of meals to families and volunteers. For instance, Pizza Hut donated free meals for more than a month to 300 affected families while Cain's Coffee provided 24-hour service to rescue crews. Companies and individuals in Oklahoma and around the country such as Southwestern Bell, Kerr-McGee, Phillips Petroleum, Bridgestone/Firestone, Anheuser Busch, Gonoco, Boatman's Bank, American Airlines, Presbyterian Health Foundation, Koch Oil Co., C.R. Anthony, Henry Kravis, Ford Motor Co., Liberty National Bank, Chubb Insurance, ONEOK Employees Credit Union, the Lloyd Noble Center, Branson Cares Benefit, the Burlington County Times, the Xerox Corp., and countless others made significant donations for the relief effort.

I have also learned a lesson from the cooperation that unified all the workers into one efficient force. I was struck by the number of people successfully working simultaneously on many different tasks in order to accomplish the same goal. We have their coordinated effort to thank for the rescue of the survivors and the care of many grievors. Specifically, Amateur Radio provided an essential service to rescue operations. Within minutes of

the attack, operators were on the scene providing an emergency communication network that allowed for the organization of supplies as well as firemen, policemen, and rescue crews from countless communities. Their contribution of 360 hours of service was made possible by donations from electronics companies such as the Oklahoma Community Center.

Not only did companies contribute time and money, but charity organizations made it possible for every citizen to become involved. Scores of organizations set up relief funds or served as dropoff locations for donated items. The Salvation Army, Feed the Children, and the American Red Cross were vital in the distribution of foods and goods. Federal, state, and local officials, as well as citizens of all ages, aided in the effort. The Oklahoma National Guard contacted families while fifth grade students from Anadarko Mission School donated relief items. Others contributed to the relief network by setting up centers for counseling and pastoral care for victims' relatives. Members of the Oklahoma funeral directors aided in contacting, consoling, and making funeral arrangements for families. The First Christian Church, for example, arranged a group of 75 volunteer clergy members, psychologists, and social workers to ease the mourning. These measures significantly assisted rescue efforts and provided outlets for individual participation.

The toll of lives would have been even greater without the quick and coordinated response by emergency agencies, including the police, fire departments, and the paramedics of the Oklahoma Emergency Medical Services Authority supplied by American Medical Response of Oklahoma [OEMSA/AMR]. OEMSA/AMR had 24 medical personnel in seven ambulances rolling to the scene within 90 seconds of the explosion. Within 3 minutes they were treating the injured; within the first hour, 210 patients were transported to hospitals and within the first 90 minutes, a total of 517 injured persons were treated, transported or both. The people of EMSA/AMR mobilized 66 ambulances and other vehicles during the response and integrated 29 additional emergency vehicles into the Oklahoma City rescue operation.

Certainly the volunteers have been models of bravery. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to each fireman, policeman, and rescue worker who selflessly searched to locate survivors and recover the victims. Eleven Urban Search and Rescue Teams, including teams from Fairfax County and Montgomery County in the Washington area, were invaluable as they utilized their expert knowledge and training to conduct the rescue effort. Their courageous efforts in conditions that were extremely perilous, and at times shocking, are to be commended. Each time these individuals entered the building, they were risking their lives

so that others might find some element of comfort, whether that be the discovery of a survivor or the recovery of a victim.

These valiant volunteers have also demonstrated their exemplary perseverance. They had faith when there was little tangible reason for hope. For instance, the Oklahoma Nurses Association continued to contribute countless hours at hospitals even after losing one of their own, Rebecca Anderson, who was fatally injured while aiding in the rescue effort at the Murrah Building. The rescue crews were not disheartened by the tedious process nor daunted by the rain. We appreciate their patience, as do the people whose lives they saved and assisted.

All these volunteers, from whom we have learned so much, are true heroes. In the face of tragedy, their compassion and effectiveness have offered solace to the State of Oklahoma and the Nation. Their heroism fills me with deep appreciation and admiration. We thank them and look up to them in ways that words cannot express.

THE WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT BE SOLD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the tough part of the budget process is about to commence. Up until now, budget balancing has been all talk. Now comes the time for action.

For example, the Senate Energy and House Natural Resources Committees have now been presented a budget blueprint and must move to make the hard choices that meet their spending targets. Their job is to decide what to cut and what to keep.

There is no disagreement that we need to cut Government spending and eliminate the deficit. The real argument is over how to get there.

Are we going for quick fixes that make the numbers add up, but are blind to the underlying policy problems that cause the deficit?

Will we opt for a politically expedient formula that gets us to the bottom line now, and asks questions later?

Or are we going to consider carefully all the consequences of our options before making final decisions?

Mr. President, today, I would like to highlight one example that illustrates the dilemma we face, and demonstrates the need to look a little harder at some of the items on the chopping block.

Earlier this year, President Clinton recommended in his fiscal year 1996 budget that three Power Marketing Administrations be sold to private industry. He projected that this sale would save the Treasury over \$4 billion.

A number of Senators representing States served by these PMA's—and whose constituents' electric rates would likely rise significantly if the sale goes through—protested this proposal vigorously. I am one of those Senators.

We have visited the President to make our case against the PMA sale. We have spoken on the Senate floor. And we have lobbied our colleagues on the Senate Budget Committee.

Nonetheless, the Senate and House Budget Committees, eager to cobble together a plan that balances the Federal budget within 7 years, endorsed the President's idea and incorporated it into the congressional budget resolution. Why? Because it made their daunting challenge \$4 billion easier.

Where does that leave the opponents of the PMA firesale? It leaves us with the task of convincing the members of the Senate Energy Committee that the sale does not make sense, and that it does not save money.

My State of South Dakota is served by the Western Area Power Administration [WAPA], which is one of the three power marketing administrations the President and the Budget Committees want to sell. The budget resolution passed by Congress will ask most South Dakotans to pay higher electric rates in order to fund another tax break for the wealthiest Americans.

Meanwhile, the reality is that the sale of WAPA is a bookkeeping gimmick that helps make the numbers add up, but unnecessarily hurts working families. And it does nothing to address the underlying budget problem facing our country.

The sale of WAPA is bad economic policy. It is not fair to South Dakota. And, in the long run, it does not even save any money.

Let us look at the facts.

First, WAPA pays its own way. In South Dakota, it guarantees a dependable and affordable supply of electricity for nearly half the people of my State. It is on solid financial ground, covering its operating expenses every year and paying off the original construction expense, with interest.

If other Federal programs were as successful as WAPA, we would not have a deficit to deal with. The proposed sale simply would allow the Federal Government to collect the construction debt faster. But since that debt is now being paid back with interest, the sale will not result in any long-term financial benefit to the Government. Long-term revenue losses from the sale will offset any short-term revenue gains.

Second, WAPA is a promise made to the people of South Dakota. Our State made a deal with the Federal Government, and WAPA is the Government's end of the bargain.

The State of South Dakota sacrificed prime land to the construction of the mainstem dams along the Missouri River to provide critical flood control. Every year there is more erosion and more land lost. Affordable power is South Dakota's compensation for the loss of the land as well as the flood control it provides.

A deal is a deal, and selling WAPA to private industry, with the inevitable rate increases that would follow, would