

manage stations without counting them under their ownership column. Currently, there are 49 LMA's in 45 markets, and if the FCC liberalizes those attribution rules, LMA's could become even more widespread. In the strictest sense, station ownership is limited to a nationwide reach of 35 percent. But these so-called LMA's permit far greater influence in many more stations beyond the 35 percent audience reach limit. Liberalizing the attribution rules will further encourage consolidation under this loophole.

In addition, the FCC is also considering changes to the newspaper and broadcast cross-ownership restriction and is seeking comments on what kind of objective criteria should the FCC consider when evaluating waivers to the newspaper/radio combinations.

The prospect of further consolidation in the media industry, I think, should be of serious concern. This wasn't what was contemplated by the Telecommunications Act, although I feared that was going to be result of it. There has been this orgy of concentration in the industry, and that is exactly the antithesis of competition.

It is interesting that on this floor we talk about what we are seeing, especially from the broadcast industry, from television, and from the airwaves, pollution that comes into our living room and hurts our children with excessive violence and course language. Where is the accountability? Where is all that produced? It is produced, apparently, on the coast to be broadcast into our living rooms, and some are fighting—myself included—to see if we can't see more responsibility in what is broadcast during times when children are watching. But you find more and more concentration in this industry, and what you will have is less and less accountability. More concentration is not moving toward more accountability; it is moving towards less accountability. And that concerns me as well.

Mr. President, I wanted to describe some of my concerns today largely because many believe—and I felt it worthy to support something that would encourage competition in an industry that was changing dramatically. The telecommunications industry is making breathtaking changes in our lives, and it can be changes for the good. But also it can be destructive, and changes that are unhelpful to the market system.

I am concerned about local phone companies demanding deregulation of rates before there is effective competition. That would mean higher telephone rates across the country. I am concerned about the FCC and the decision it is going to make on universal service funds which will determine how much someone in one of our local rural counties pays for telephone service. I am concerned about concentration in the telecommunications industry, because I believe that determines what kind of an industry we have and at what price it is made available to the

consumers as well. I hope as we have oversight hearings in the Commerce Committee that we will begin to address these issues.

If the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is not implemented as intended, if its implementation is a perversion of the intent of that act, if it moves toward less competition rather than more competition, if it moves toward greater monopoly rather than toward more competition, if it moves toward higher prices for cable television, for telephone service, and for other services in that industry, then I think Congress ought to revisit this issue, because that is not what was intended.

Mr. President, let me finish with one note. I have from time to time held up a little vacuum tube to describe what this revolution is all about, and with it a little computer chip that is half the size of my little fingernail. We are all familiar with the vacuum tube, which is old technology, and the little computer chip. The computer chip is the equivalent of five million vacuum tubes. That is what we have done in this country in terms of technology.

The head of one of our major computer firms, in a report to stockholders, was talking about storage density technology. He said, "We are near a point where I can believe that we will have in the future the capability of putting on a small wafer all 14 million volumes of work which exist at the Library of Congress," which is the largest repository of recorded human knowledge anywhere on Earth. The largest deposit of recorded human knowledge anywhere on Earth is at the Library of Congress. Fourteen million volumes we will put on a wafer the size of a penny. Think of what that means—the capability of and the development and distribution of information and knowledge. It is breathtaking what is happening. But it must happen the right way to be accessible to all Americans and at an affordable price. If it doesn't, if the on ramp and off ramp doesn't exist in the smallest towns of Alaska, or the smallest towns of North Dakota, or Nebraska, then we will not have built an information superhighway that works for all Americans.

That is why the implementation of this act is so critical to the American people. And it is why I am so concerned about what I think is happening in three areas that will represent a contradiction of what Congress intended with the passage of this act.

So, Mr. President, I hope that the Commerce Committee will have oversight hearings and that we will continue to address these special and important issues.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DEWINE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Chair.

FLOOD-RAVAGED SOUTHERN OHIO

Mr. DeWINE. Mr. President, I just returned from spending 3 days in flood-

ravaged southern Ohio. I had the opportunity to visit with some of the victims in Clermont County, Adams County, Brown County, Scioto County, Jackson County, Lawrence, Gallia, and Meigs counties. When you see the damage up close, it is even more terrifying than it is when you see it on the nightly news, or see it on CNN.

As I visited with the victims, I saw something that was very heartening. I saw something that simply makes you feel good. It certainly made me feel good. That was the number of people who were pulling together in a spirit of community, reaching out to each other to reassure each other, to help each other, to be with their friends, to be with their neighbors. I can't tell you how many different times I saw people who were volunteering to help someone else.

I walked into one home and talked to a woman. I said, "How did your home get cleaned up?" She was an elderly lady. She said, "I had 30 people come in here, 30 of my friends. They came in. They cleaned it up." They cleaned it up in a very short period of time.

This weekend I visited Jackson, OH, in Jackson County. We were walking down a street that had been very heavily damaged. The homes had been heavily damaged by flood water. We came across what looked like 30, 40, or 45 Boy Scouts in Boy Scout uniforms. I asked the leader what they were doing. He said, "Well, we were supposed to be camping out this weekend." These were scouts from four, five, or six different counties. "But we decided to come in here to Jackson." And they literally just started volunteering to clean up people's homes.

So I watched these Boy Scouts for a while as they went about their business moving the debris from that street, going into people's homes and helping them scrub down their floors and get the mud out. It was absolutely an unbelievable thing to see.

That same day I saw the same spirit in New Boston. The Jaycee group was in New Boston. Again, as I was walking down the street and talking to some of the victims of the flood, I saw a bunch of Jaycees. They were out doing the same thing. They were drawn from all over the State of Ohio. They just volunteered to come in that day and were doing that type of cleanup work.

On Sunday morning, yesterday morning, I participated in a church service in the village of Vinton, OH, a small village in Gallia County. Just about every family in that church had experienced some devastation from the flood. Yet, I heard words of hope from the pulpit. I heard words of hope from the members of the congregation.

Frankly, Mr. President, I was reminded of what I saw in Xenia, OH, in 1974 when Xenia went through that tornado. Then, several days later, people still went to Sunday church services. There were people who said, "Why in the world do they do that?" Again, it was, I think, a reaffirmation of faith,

people's devotion to each other, devotion to God, and really a showing of spirit of coming together.

The Ohio National Guard has done a fantastic job. The Watercraft Division of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources literally came in and saved life after life—rescued people from the top of homes. The Ohio Department of Transportation is doing a phenomenal job, the Red Cross. I could go on and on. An absolutely tremendous amount of work is being done in the communities to really make a difference in the communities.

My wife, Fran, had the opportunity to work in Ohio several days last week. She worked with the Salvation Army. She worked with the Red Cross and is working with one group of Southern Baptists who are all geared up whenever there is a disaster. They come from all over the State of Ohio and from other States into an area and cook and prepare food for people. They really made a difference. She was very inspired by what she saw them doing. And as she has told me about it, I have certainly been inspired as well.

So these are just a few examples of what we are seeing in the State of Ohio. We are seeing people who are out there making a difference, people who are working with their neighbors, and people are just hanging in there.

I happened to talk to one man in New Boston. His home was flooded in a very quick flash flood. He literally had to knock a hole in the ceiling. As the water was rising inside his house, he had to knock a hole in the ceiling and put his four little children up into the attic. He and his wife then crawled up into the attic. He knocked a hole in the roof, and they were rescued from the top of their house. Yet, when I came across this man, the mayor of New Boston told me that he had been one of the chief volunteers over the last few days. This man who had lost virtually everything in his home, who went through that unbelievable experience, was out leading the cleanup, volunteering for other people. So that is the type of thing we see.

Let me also compliment the FEMA personnel who are on the scene. These are good folks who are out doing their job every day and who are really making a difference.

So the report from Ohio, Mr. President, is that there is a tremendous amount of damage. We think it is \$150 million, maybe \$200 million. We really will not know until the entire flood has receded and we see what damage has been done. But the good news is people are fighting back. Human spirit is strong and people are helping each other. Again, I think that is the good news that I have to report for the last 3 days I spent in the State of Ohio.

Mr. President, I will at this point yield the floor and yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is the Presiding Officer's understanding that the Senator from Nebraska, as designee for the Senator from Wyoming, is allowed to speak for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair.

THE NEED FOR LEADERSHIP ON THE BUDGET

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ran for the Senate because I wanted to help strengthen America's future. I, like my colleagues here, want to help solve problems. America is reaching out for leadership to put our fiscal house in order.

When we debate the budget, we are debating America's future, the future we leave for our children and our grandchildren—the opportunities they will have, the burdens in debt they will inherit, the America they will know.

Balancing the budget must be our top priority, not because we have some abstract fascination with accounting but because the future of every man, woman, and child hangs in the balance. The future of our very liberty is at stake.

That is why I strongly supported the proposed balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, an amendment that would have forced Congress to make the hard choices and set priorities, priorities that we have for too long avoided. Despite the support of all my Republican and 11 of my Democratic colleagues, the Senate last week defeated the balanced budget amendment. We lost by one vote.

President Kennedy told us three decades ago that real leaders "are not here to curse the darkness but to light a candle." Without the balanced budget amendment, we are still looking for a candle to guide us to a balanced budget. Now more than ever we need leadership for America's future.

However, when I read the President's budget, I do not like the future I see. This budget offers a future that continues to pile up more and more and more debt. The President's proposal keeps running deficits for as far as the eye can see. Next year, the President's budget actually increases the deficit by more than \$25 billion. That is not acceptable.

Three weeks ago, I, along with 23 of my colleagues, sent a letter to the majority leader. As we told the leader, "A path to a balanced budget should be just that—a path on which the deficit decreases every year in as near equal amounts as possible until the year 2002," the year of a balanced budget.

The President has chosen another path. At the end of his path, there is still a pool of red ink. The Congressional Budget Office says the budget that the President has submitted is still \$70 billion in the red in the year 2002. That is \$70 billion, Mr. President, in the red in the year 2002. That is a far cry from responsible, balanced fiscal policy. That is a far cry from the balanced budget the President promised us. And it gets worse.

The President's budget offers a future where we put off tough choices until "tomorrow." We all know that in the world of the Federal budget "to-

morrow" never comes. Our \$5.3 trillion debt is proof enough of that fact. We have to act today if we are to balance the budget and save programs like Social Security and Medicare for years to come.

We need to act today if we are to save programs that protect education and the environment. We need to act today if we want to maintain a strong national defense that will preserve our children's freedom as it has preserved ours. We need to act today if we care about tomorrow.

The President's budget does not act today. The truth is it does not act at all; it is a fraud, and the people need to know it is a fraud. Mr. President, 98.5 percent of the deficit reduction in the President's budget comes in the last 2 years of his 7-year plan—98.5 percent. Those are not my figures. Those numbers come from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. Does anybody here remember the President's first State of the Union Address when he promised to rely on CBO's figures? Well, the CBO has spoken. It says the President's numbers just do not add up.

The President's plan is very clear. He plans to put off the tough and painful choices until he is out of office and somebody else will have to make them. That is not leadership. That is business as usual. That is disaster.

But even that is not all. The President's budget offers a future where taxes go up and families must work harder to have less. The President may put off real deficit reduction until later, but he does not procrastinate when it comes to raising taxes, for example. Despite the President's claim that he will cut taxes, the Joint Committee on Taxation reports that the budget the President has submitted will result in a net increase in taxes of \$23 billion over the next 10 years. There is no tax cut. This budget includes at least 39 specific tax increases, and they are permanent. By contrast, those tax cuts that the President proposes expire by the year 2002. The bottom line is simple: The President's tax cuts are temporary and conditional, but his new tax increases are permanent. That is fraudulent. That is wrong.

Last week, 13 of my colleagues joined me in a second letter to the majority leader. We made it very clear to the leader that we will not vote for any budget plan that increases taxes. Any solution to our budget problems that relies on tax increases is really no solution at all; it is just more debt.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan testified recently before the Senate Banking Committee that "Ultimately, you cannot solve long-term deficits from the receipt side." He added, "It's got to be from the expenditure side." That means cut spending.

That is why we are here. I came to Washington, as did many of my colleagues, to cut spending, cut taxes and cut Government. We came to take power and authority away from the Federal Government and return it to