

I further ask unanimous consent that the chair not entertain a motion to adjourn or recess for the August recess prior to a vote on or in relation to the majority leader's bill and the minority leader's amendment, and following those votes, it be in order for the majority leader, to return the legislation to the calendar.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that it not be in order to offer any legislation, motion or amendment relative to Health Care prior to the initiation of this agreement, and following the execution of the agreement, it not be in order to offer any legislation, motion or amendment relative to Health Care for the remainder of the 105th Congress.

Mr. KENNEDY. So you can't offer anything to do with the health care of the American people prior to this, or after this, or after the Republican leader puts this proposal back on the calendar to shelve it. In other words, the Republican leadership says to the Senate of the United States: You can't deal with anything affecting the health care of the American people for the rest of this Congress.

Come on, Mr. President. Come on, Mr. President. This is just the day after the Republican leadership tried to sink the tobacco bill. Now they are out there trying to deny us the opportunity to debate one of the most important health care bills that is before the American people.

Mr. President, it is just unbelievable to me to think that the majority leader's proposal was going to be considered in good faith by our Democratic leader, or by any Member—not just leadership—by any Member. We are all equals in this body.

Those who are interested in health care ought to be concerned when a proposal is put forward to muzzle the U.S. Senate on health care. What does the Republican leadership fear? What do they fear about a full and open debate on the Patients' Bill of Rights? What do they fear in a debate about trying to give an opportunity for the Senate to express itself to permit our uninsured citizens between the ages of 55 and 64 to be able to buy into the Medicare system? What do they fear about having an open and full debate on that issue, if the individuals are going to pay full premiums? What do they have to fear about the possibility of requiring that companies of 50 or more employees have some requirement to provide health care for their employees? Can't we have a debate on that issue? Can't we have a rollcall on that issue?

Some will agree. Some will differ. Let the American people make a judgment about how their representatives stand. No, no, not if the majority leader, on behalf of the Republicans, have their way.

This proposal says "not be in order to offer any legislation, motion, or amendment relative to health care prior to the initiation of the agreement," which is sometime just before the August recess, for the next several weeks, and for the rest of this session following completion of this proposed agreement. If we were to proceed with it, we would be absolutely curtailed

from any kind of effort to try to address health care for the American people. This could even preclude further consideration of tobacco legislation, or proposals to extend health insurance to uninsured Americans between the ages of 55 and 64, or improvements in Medicare package for senior citizens, or appropriations for the National Institutes of Health and other health programs, or legislation on the privacy of medical records—the list goes on and on.

Many of us believe that as we move on into the millennium, it is going to be the millennium of the life sciences with extraordinary scientific breakthroughs. And the Republican leader wants to silence us from having some opportunity to debate that priority?

Mr. President, it prohibits consideration of any legislation dealing with the problems of the privacy of our medical records, and the dangers that exist in terms of the proliferation of medical records. There are enormously important issues relating to the privacy of medical records that Republicans and Democrats have tried to address. But we are foreclosed from any opportunity to consider that under this proposal.

Mr. President, it often takes, as we all know, many votes to pass legislation important to American families. Rarely can we do so on the first attempt. These arbitrary, unfair restrictions serve only to strengthen the power of the special interests. We have heard where those special interests are. We understand what they are doing at the present time—raising millions of dollars, and going on with these distortions and misrepresentations.

The networks were hardly quiet after the tobacco industry was able to disrupt the kind of successful conclusion of legislation here in the U.S. Senate that would protect our children. The airwaves are polluted again with distortions and millions of dollars in trying to do a similar job on the Patients' Bill of Rights. They are not going to succeed in either one, Mr. President.

It is said that you can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time.

This unanimous consent request isn't going to fool any of the people any of the time. The American people want patient protections. They deserve them and know parliamentary maneuvers. No public relations campaign is going to allow the Republican leadership to avoid responsibility if this Congress does not pass strong HMO reform legislation this year.

REGULATING THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the concerns I have about recent proposals to dramatically change the regulatory structure of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Recently, legislation was introduced to make dramatic changes in the regulatory structure of TVA, starting with the

granting of regulatory authority to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

TVA has had remarkably stable rates over the last decade, with only one significant rate increase during this time period. I agreed that TVA has not been run perfectly through the years. However, to consider a substantial regulatory overhaul for this agency at a time when comprehensive electric industry deregulation is right around the corner appears to me to be premature and unwise. Legislation to impose additional regulatory controls at a time when the Congress is beginning to seriously consider significantly less regulation for the rest of the industry seems contradictory to me.

In addition, I have concerns about the impact of such a proposal on the coal industry in my state. I would strongly oppose efforts to impose a new federal regulatory layer that may limit the flexibility of TVA to purchase Kentucky coal. TVA buys over 26 million tons of Kentucky coal per year, which adds \$600 million to the economy of my State. TVA is responsible for more than 20 percent of all coal purchases in Kentucky.

I have heard from many Kentuckians who are concerned about this new regulatory proposal. I wish to place my colleagues on notice that I will strongly oppose any such regulatory scheme, and will oppose other overhaul efforts outside of the context of deregulation legislation. It makes no sense to consider two major regulatory changes in such a short period of time.

UTAH JAZZ—WESTERN CONFERENCE NBA CHAMPS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate my home team, the Utah Jazz, on their remarkable season and thrilling playoff run. For the second straight year, the Jazz won the NBA's Western Conference in impressive fashion and lost a well-fought series to the Chicago Bulls by the slimmest of margins.

As one of the team's most faithful fans, I share the heartache of the players and coaches, who came so close to reaching their goal only to fall one point short of a seventh game. However, I am confident that Jazz fans everywhere share my feelings of pride in the season that these gutsy, tenacious players gave us to enjoy.

To those players who believe that professional sports have become just another business with big salaries and product licenses, I will simply say that the Utah Jazz personify everything that is good about the game of basketball. The Jazz believe in teamwork, pure fundamentals, courage, and determination.

Basketball fans throughout the country have become enamored with the

Jazz and their old-fashioned work ethic. Often facing younger and more athletic teams, the Jazz have relied on their trademark discipline and teamwork to overwhelm their opponents.

However, it is not just the Jazz's triumphs on the basketball court that are spectacular—such as winning over 76 percent of this season's games and compiling an 11-3 mark through the Western Conference playoffs, punctuated by a 4-game sweep of the formidable Los Angeles Lakers. The examples they set for our youth off the court are just as noteworthy. Many of the players give of their time, talents and money to better our community. They have been unafraid to display to the world that you can be a superstar and a good citizen, friend, and father. Our team is made up of high caliber individuals. They have worked hard, believed in each other, and have displayed tremendous poise and dignity throughout a challenging season.

Once again this year, Utahns were privileged to watch the timeless duo of John Stockton and Karl Malone work their magic.

By flawlessly executing their signature pick-and-roll time and time again, these two basketball legends led the Jazz to a 62-win season that classified as the best record in the NBA this season and included 2 wins and no losses in match-up with the Bulls. In fact, if you take into account every game in which the Jazz and the Bulls faced one another this year, each team won four. So, the way I see it, the Bulls win in Game 6 achieved a draw in the Jazz-Bulls rivalry for the entire '97-'98.

I do want to congratulate the Chicago Bulls on another fine season and a tremendous victory in the Finals. My hat is off to Michael Jordan and the Bulls for a spectacular playoff performance. Michael Jordan's skills and superb performances will be applauded for many years to come. No one can dispute that this team is comprised of very talented players who have excited and entertained basketball fans around the world for most of this decade.

Years from now, as I look back at this Jazz team, I will fondly remember this remarkable season and the joy they brought to all their fans. It has been my pleasure to attend many games at the Delta Center and to join in the cheering and excitement. It has been my honor to represent the state with the classiest team in the NBA.

The Utah Jazz would not have been able to achieve such success without the contributions and talents of some very key people. I commend head coach Jerry Sloan and his staff for the gritty, hard-nosed approach that they have given to the team. Coach Sloan never gave excuses when things went awry and always expected his players to give their best efforts, every minute of every game. He has the complete respect of all of his players—the greatest accolade a coach can receive.

Jazz Owner Larry Miller knew what it would mean for Utah to have its own

NBA basketball team. He enabled the Jazz to stay in Salt Lake City. He has displayed great leadership and commitment to the team and the community throughout his many years of owning this team.

Team President Frank Layden has always encouraged, motivated, and commanded respect from the players and the community. His enthusiasm creates community spirit and strengthens conviction in our team.

And Scott Layden's savvy, and superb sense of what makes a champion has continued to propel the Jazz to greater heights. He has always conducted the business of the Jazz with professionalism, and is one of the most highly-respected front office people in the league.

To the players, I offer my congratulations on an exceptional season. Each of these fine individuals—Karl, John, Jeff, Byron, Greg, Antoine, Shandon, Howard, Chris, Adam, Greg, and Jacque—contributed greatly to the success of this team. On behalf of Jazz fans everywhere, I thank you all for taking us on yet another memorable journey to the NBA Finals. Let's do it gain next year.

Mr. President, I am proud of the Jazz and the unique spirit of unity that they have brought to the state of Utah. Win or lose, they act with professionalism and class both on and off the court. They are champions in every sense of the word.

CHANGES TO THE RULES FOR REGULATION OF THE SENATE WING OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a committee motion of the Committee on Rules and Administration relating to changes to the Rules for Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol.

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

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1998.
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE MOTION

THE COMMITTEE HEREBY adopts the following changes to the Rules for Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol.

1. In recognition of the fact that these rules are also applicable to the Senate Office Buildings, the name of these rules is changed to read: "Rules for Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol and Senate Office Buildings."

2. In recognition of the fact that Rule X addresses the barber shop and bathrooms and is outdated and no longer needed, the text of Rule X is revoked.

3. The following is adopted and substituted for the text of Rule X:

"Smoking is prohibited in all public places and unassigned space within the Senate Wing of the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings, with the exception of one venti-

lated smoking area in the Senate Wing of the Capitol and each of the Senate Office Buildings, as designated by the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration. Senators, Chairmen of Committees in consultation with the Ranking Member, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, the Architect of the Capitol, the Chaplain, and heads of support organizations assigned space in the Senate Wing of the Capitol or the Senate Office Buildings may each establish smoking policies for all office space assigned to them."

WENDELL H. FORD,
Ranking Member.
JOHN WARNER,
Chairman.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting one treaty and sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1677. A bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act (Rept. No. 105-218).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment:

H.R. 1211. A bill for the relief of Global Exploration and Development Corporation, Kerr-McGee Corporation, and Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 176. A resolution proclaiming the week of October 18 through October 24, 1998, as "National Character Counts Week."

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 104-17 Convention For the Protection of Plants (Exec. Rept. 105-15).

TEXT OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION OF ADVICE AND CONSENT

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of The International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants of December 2, 1961, as revised at Geneva on November 10, 1972, on October 23, 1978, and on March 19, 1991, and signed by the United States on October 25, 1991 (Treaty Doc. 104-17), subject to the reservation of subsection (a), the declarations of subsection (b), and the proviso of subsection (c).