

nearly 24 years as a Member of this body. For the last 10 years, I have enjoyed working with Senator FORD on a variety of issues within the jurisdiction of the Senate Commerce Committee. Through his leadership on this legislation, Senator FORD has proven himself as a champion of rural aviation issues. The Senate will certainly miss his guidance and insight. Likewise, the Senate will miss his wry, biting humor.

Rural Americans are the biggest winners with the passage of the Ford Act. Citizens of underserved communities will no longer have to travel hundreds of miles and several hours to board a plane. This legislation gives incentives to domestic air carriers and its affiliates to reach out to these people and serve them conveniently near their homes. Many Americans will be able to travel a reasonable distance to gain access to our Nation's skies and, from there, anywhere they wish to go.

Mr. President, I also applaud the hard work of Senator BILL FRIST of Tennessee. He added provisions to the Ford Act to expand small community air service. His dedicated efforts ensured that underserved cities like Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Bristol/Johnson City are now in a position to receive additional or expanded air service.

The major policy changes in the Ford Act led to hard fought but honest disagreements. I have enormous respect for the efforts of Senators JOHN WARNER, JIM INHOFE, and KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON as they diligently advocated for their constituents and their respective States. This honest debate is what makes it exciting to serve in the United States Senate. I was very pleased by the efforts of Senators SLADE GORTON and ARLEN SPECTER to address a very sensitive issue, while resolving it in a true Senate fashion—a consensus which will prove to be beneficial to both sides of the debate.

Throughout the last 12 months, my home State of Mississippi has received Federal support from the AIP to make needed physical improvements. A portion of these funds went to the Bobby L. Chain Municipal Airport in Hattiesburg to rehabilitate their existing runway pavement and lights. Other funds were allocated to the Jackson International Airport to construct a new taxiway and apron. These enhancements are needed. And this bill will ensure that the AIP will continue uninterrupted. AIP's reauthorization within the Ford Act will allow Mississippi to continue to receive funds for essential enhancements for the upcoming year. I look forward to working with the airport authorities in my home State to make sure that the right improvements are made at the right airports. This is about safety and about economic growth.

No legislative initiation is ever possible without the dedicated efforts of staff, and I want to take a moment to identify those who worked hard to prepare the Ford Act for consideration by the full Senate.

From the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Mark Buse; Ann Choiniere; Jim Drewry; Becky Kojm; John Raidt; Mike Reynolds; Ivan Schlager; Scott Verstandig; and Sam Whitehorn.

The following staff also participated on behalf of their Senators: David Broome; Steve Browning; Jeanne Bumpus; Nat Grubbs; Brett Hale; Katrina Hardin; Dan Renberg; Pam Sellars; Ellen Stein; Ben Thompson; and Clay Williams.

Mr. President, these individuals worked very hard on the Wendell H. Ford National Air Transportation System Improvement Act of 1998 and the Senate owes them a debt of gratitude for their dedicated service to this legislation.

Mr. President, our Nation's small communities are a step closer to receiving long-sought air service. Also, America's smaller, yet important air strips and airports will be enhanced. This is good for all Americans.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the information of Members, we are still working on a unanimous consent agreement on the Internet Tax Freedom Act between now and 10:30.

I now ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of routine morning business until 10:30, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 442

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent it be in order for the majority leader, after notification of the Democratic leader, to turn to S. 442, the Internet tax bill and immediately after the reporting by the clerk, the Commerce Committee amendment be agreed to, and immediately following that action, the Finance Committee substitute be agreed to and considered original text for the purpose of further amendments.

I also ask unanimous consent that, during the Senate's consideration of S. 442 or the House companion bill, that only relevant amendments be in order.

Finally, I ask that the Senate proceed to the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I heard the objection from the Senator from Florida. I deeply regret that.

The Senator from Florida, as I understand it, is insisting on a specific result in this legislation. We never do that. The Senator from Florida knows that. We don't insist on a specific result.

We would be more than happy to listen to the amendment of the Senator from Florida. We would be glad to debate it. Perhaps I could even support it. But, frankly, what the Senator from Florida is doing right here—the other 99 Senators are in agreement—by objecting to us moving forward to the bill that is vital to the future of the economy of this Nation, I think the Senator from Florida takes on a very large responsibility.

I want to tell the Senator from Florida I am going to file cloture right now and we are going to have a vote. And I also want to tell the Senator from Florida that because of that, we will delay, again, consideration of this very important bill. We will move forward. I do not understand why the Senator from Florida, after having a commitment of mine, that of the Senator from Oregon and everybody else, to give the kind of consideration that he deserves, and ample debate, unlimited debate on his amendment and a willingness to work with him—because the Senator from Florida knows that there is a Senator on this side who cannot agree to the language of the amendment that he is insisting on. That is what debate is all about.

We just finished a bill, an omnibus aviation bill, where everybody sat down together. The Senator from Oregon was very unhappy with one of the results, as were a number of other Senators, including this one. But we worked the process.

So I again urge the Senator from Florida to withdraw his objection, especially when faced with the inevitability that this cloture motion is going to be agreed to, probably 99 to 1.

Mr. President, I ask, again, unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the bill at this time.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. I object.

#### INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I still have the floor.

In light of the objection, I now move to proceed to the consideration of S. 442 and I send a cloture motion to the desk. I announce this cloture vote would occur on Tuesday of next week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

##### CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provision of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 509, S. 442, the Internet legislation:

Trent Lott, John McCain, Dan Coats,  
Chuck Hagel, Larry Craig, Christopher