

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know we are going on to the bankruptcy bill later today. We made progress on the bill last week. We cleared 25 amendments and improved the Bankruptcy Reform Act. We will continue to try to do that again today. The distinguished Senator from New Jersey, Senator TORRICELLI, and I, working with the distinguished deputy Democratic leader, the Senator from Nevada, are prepared to enter into a unanimous consent agreement to limit the remaining Democratic amendments to only 28 amendments. Most of these would limit us to very short time agreements. I will speak on this more this afternoon. I want Senators to know that.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWERS' ACT
AND PATENT REFORM ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I hope that the leadership will soon bring up for a vote the conference report regarding the Satellite Home Viewers Act and the Patent Reform Act. This legislation passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 411-8. According to an informal whip count, if it came to a vote in the Senate, it would pass by something like 98-2, and no worse than 95-5. So we ought to bring it up for a vote.

I don't know when I have gotten so much mail on any subject as I have on satellite home viewing. If you come from a rural area, you know how important this legislation is. If we do not pass the Satellite Home Viewers Act, on December 31 hundreds of thousands—maybe millions—of satellite viewers will find that a number of their channels will be simply cut off, especially in rural areas.

So when we have something that could easily be passed, we ought to do it. The patent legislation is supported—the so-called Hatch-Leahy bill—by most businesses I know. It would be a tremendous step forward in helping us to be competitive with the rest of the world in our patent legislation. It is also the second time in history that we have lowered the cost of patent registration to the taxpayers. So I urge that when we have a piece of legislation like this, which has passed the House of Representatives 411-8, which would pass overwhelmingly in the Senate, that the Republican leadership bring it up. Passing this bill will give some aid to many businesses throughout the country, including some of the finest technological businesses in the world.

And on the satellite front, this bill will allow the many individuals who rely on satellite dishes because they live in rural areas to be able to continue to get their television.

I think of States like my own State of Vermont, such as the State of Montana, the State of Texas, the State of

Wyoming, and the State of Nevada, to name a few, where because of our rural nature, people are very dependent on satellite dishes. These satellite dish owners are justifiably concerned that on December 31, many of their channels are going to go dead. We can stop that by passing this legislation this week.

The Satellite Home Viewers Act conference report will soon be before us. It passed overwhelmingly in the House, as it will here. I only know of two or three people who are opposed to it. That should not be enough to stop this bill.

In fact, I will join with the majority leader if he wants to bring the satellite bill up and instantly file cloture. I could get him the necessary signatures in 20 seconds. I can guarantee him that if it was necessary—and I hope that it would not be—to vote cloture, he would get far more than the 60 votes necessary for it; 90 to 95 Members of the Senate want to pass this. I hope the distinguished majority leader will allow it to come to a vote.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4 p.m. under the same terms as previously ordered.

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

In my capacity as the Senator from New Hampshire, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, is the Senate currently in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in morning business until the hour of 4 p.m.

REGULATING THE INTERSTATE
TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I have introduced a piece of legislation in the Senate with my colleagues, Senator ASHCROFT from Missouri, and Senator

LEAHY from Vermont. I have written this legislation with their assistance to deal with a problem that could cause and will cause and perhaps has caused significant jeopardy to Americans, American families and others.

Let me describe the circumstance. There is a young girl from North Dakota named Jeanna North. Jeanna was a wonderful 11-year-old young girl from Fargo, ND, who was brutally murdered by a man named Kyle Bell. Kyle Bell had previously been sentenced to 30 years in prison for assaulting three other girls, had been convicted of violent acts, and then sentenced to life in prison for murdering this 11-year-old girl, Jeanna North, in Fargo, ND.

This convicted child murderer and violent offender, after being convicted and sentenced in the courts of North Dakota, was being transported to prison in another state. Apparently, folks who molest children and are convicted of crimes against children sometimes are put in prisons elsewhere because they run into problems in prison. Even in that culture they are not considered very good people, so child molesters are sent to other prisons for their own safety. This fellow named Kyle Bell, who killed young Jeanna North, was being transported to a prison in the State of Oregon.

This convicted child killer was being transported by a private company which was contracted by the State of North Dakota. Apparently—and I wasn't aware of this—there are transport companies that hire themselves to State and local governments to transport prisoners and criminals around the country. The private company's name was Transcor.

Kyle Bell was on a bus with more than a dozen other prisoners. The bus stopped in New Mexico at a gas station. One guard got out of the bus to fill the bus with some fuel, a second guard got out of the bus and went into the service station apparently to buy a hamburger or whatever one was going to buy at the food station, and two other guards fell asleep on the bus. The other guards slept on the bus.

Kyle Bell, a convicted child killer, in handcuffs and shackles—with one guard putting gas in the bus, the second guard buying food in the gas station, and the other two asleep in the front seat—Kyle Bell took a key he had in his shoe, took off his shackles and climbed out the ventilator, the roof of the bus. That bus then continued on its route. It wasn't for 9 hours, when the bus was already in Arizona, that the guards discovered this convicted child killer had escaped. Nine hours later they finally discovered he had escaped. Two hours after that, the guards finally notified law enforcement authorities.

Today this man is somewhere in this country. "America's Most Wanted" did a story last Saturday, the second they