The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the Oversight of OSHA, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 22, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 22, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room G-50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building on S. 487, a bill to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRINKING WATER, FISHERIES, AND WILDLIFE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife be granted permission to meet Thursday, June 22, at 10 a.m., to conduct an oversight hearing on the National Marine Fisheries Service policy on spills at Columbia River hydropower dams, gas bubble trauma in endangered salmon, and the scientific methods used under the Endangered Species Act which gave rise to that policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 22, 1995, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 852, a bill to provide for uniform management of livestock grazing on Federal land, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to set forth the reasoning behind a number of my votes with respect to S. 652, the telecommunications bill. Although S. 652 would not deregulate the telecommunications industry as much or as quickly as I would like, it eventually would lead to competition in a number of telecommunications markets that currently are monopolistic. Specifically, the bill would remove artificial barriers to competition in the phone services markets as well as in the cable, equipment manufacturing, and other markets. I, therefore, supported final passage of S. 652.

Much of the debate concerning the bill focused on the issue of RBOC entry into the long-distance market. An amendment offered by Senator MCCAIN, No. 1261, would have defined the term "public interest" as it relates to the FCC's decision as to whether to allow a Bell to enter the long-distance market. The bill as introduced did not define that term. I voted for the McCain amendment because the absence of such a definition would give the FCC virtually absolute discretion as to whether a Bell can enter the long-distance market—or, put differently, as to whether consumers will enjoy the benefits of full competition in that market.

The Senate's rejection of McCain amendment No. 1261 was part of the reason for my vote against the Dorgan-Thurmond amendment, No. 1265. The Dorgan-Thurmond amendment would have added yet another layer of regulatory obstacles to the RBOC's entry into the long-distance market. The bill already would have required a Bell to satisfy an extensive competitive checklist and to secure the FCC's public interest determination before entering the long-distance market; and even then, the Bell could enter that market only through a separate subsidiary. Moreover, the bill would for the first time allow utility and cable companies to compete for the Bells' local customers, thereby further reducing the Bells' ability to subsidize predatory pricing in the long-distance market by raising the prices paid by local customers. Thus, the Dorgan-Thurmond amendment, by requiring the Bells additionally to secure the approval of the Department of Justice before entering the long-distance market, would only delay unnecessarily the arrival of full competition in that market. To paraphrase Holmes, three layers of regulatory obstacles is enough.

From the outset of the Senate's consideration of S. 652, I was concerned that the bill might mandate discounted telecommunications rates for selected groups. The cost of such mandatory discounts is inevitably passed on to customers whose rates are not set by Congress, and thus often falls, at least in part, on poorer customers who cannot muster the lobbying clout necessary to secure special treatment. Moreover, apart from the equities of the issue, I think Government exceeds its legitimate role when it sets special telecommunications rates for favored groups. I, therefore, supported McCain amendment No. 1262, which would have struck bill language, contained in section 310, that would force telecommunications providers to provide their services to schools and hospitals at discounted rates. After the Senate rejected amendment 1262, I voted for another McCain amendment, No. 1285, that at least would subject section 310 to means testing. The amendment passed.

Finally, I want to set forth in detail my reasons for supporting McCain amendment No. 1276. This amendment would jettison our current crazy-quilt of universal-service subsidies, in favor of a means tested voucher system. The universal-service subsidies and rate-averaging schemes currently in place have as their principal effect the perpetuation of telephone service monopolies in rural areas. These schemes exclude competitors from rural telephone service markets in two ways. First, by keeping rural rates artificially low, rate averaging reduces if not eliminates the incentive of would-be competitors to enter the rural services market. Second, the subsidization of existing providers effectively bars the entry into those markets of competitors who would not be similarly subsidized. In contrast, a voucher system would not distort market signals or suppress competition in the markets whose customers it seeks to help. Thus, the need-based voucher system described in the McCain amendment would be vastly preferable to the current and proposed cost-based schemes, which make the inner-city poor pay higher phone rates so that customers in remote areas, including wealthy resort areas, can enjoy lower rates.•

THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN SOUTH AFRICA

• Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, the new Government of South Africa has just abolished the death penalty.

As we all know, South Africa has undergone incredible changes in the last 2 years. They have achieved nothing short of a revolution—peacefully, via the ballot box. They have abolished apartheid and rebuilt their government and institutions to reflect real majority rule. The American people can take pride in the fact that American leadership in imposing international sanctions played a significant role in making this negotiated revolution possible, and the Government of Nelson Mandela a reality.

South Africa has looked to the United States as a model as it creates its institutions of government. I recently met with member of Parliament Johnny DeLange, chairman of the equivalent of our Judiciary Committee in the South African Parliament, who was in the United States to study how Congress and the Justice Department interact. Likewise, the new Constitutional Court, the equivalent of the Supreme Court, has looked to American jurisprudence for guidance in a variety of areas of the law.

As a lawyer and a Senator, I take pride in the fact that South Africa is looking to our legal system and our body of laws as a model. But in the case of the death penalty, after thoroughly examining its practice in the United States, the 11 justices of the

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