should vote. Other opponents have threatened to filibuster to prevent a final vote.

It is time for the Senate to act. By now it is obvious that Dr. Foster is a highly principled physician and educator who has devoted his life and his career to the service of others. His record is outstanding. He has been widely praised for his contributions to the quality of health care for his patients, for his service to his community, and for his research and teaching and medicine. We do a disservice to Dr. Foster, the Senate and the Nation as a whole by prolonging this process.

The Nation has now been without a Surgeon General for 6 months, and there is no justification for further delay. Only one issue is holding up this nomination. Many other issues have been raised as a smokescreen, but they are easily dispelled. The real issue delaying this nomination is the issue of abortion. The diehard opponents of a woman's right to choose are doing all they can to block this nomination because Dr. Foster participated in a small number of abortions during his 38-year career. But Dr. Foster is a baby doctor, not an abortion doctor. He has delivered thousands of healthy babies, often in the most difficult circumstances of poverty and neglect. As one commentator has observed, "Dr. Foster has saved more babies than Operation Rescue."

In any event, abortion is a legal medical procedure and a constitutionally protected right. It is not a disqualification for the office of Surgeon General of the United States. And there is no justification for some of our Republican colleagues to try to make it one.

Dr. Foster is an obstetrician and a gynecologist, and it is no surprise to anyone that he has participated in abortions. Those who have heard Dr. Foster describe his vision for health care and have examined his record know about the lives he has saved, the hundreds of young doctors he has trained, his outstanding research on sickle-cell anemia and infant mortality, his model program on maternal and infant care, and his groundbreaking work to combat teenage pregnancy. President George Bush thought so highly of Dr. Foster's "I Have a Future Program" in Nashville that he honored it with the designation as one of his thousand points of light.

With this nomination, the Nation has an unprecedented opportunity to deal more effectively with some of the more difficult challenges facing us in health care today and to do it under the leadership of an outstanding physician and an outstanding human being who has devoted his life to providing health care and for opportunity to those who need the help most.

As Dr. Foster has stated, his first priority will be to deal with the Nation's overwhelming problem of teenage pregnancy, and he is just what the doctor ordered to lead this important battle.

Teenage pregnancy is a crisis of devastating proportions. The United States has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the industrial world. More than a million U.S. teenagers become pregnant every year, and every day the problem gets worse. Dr. Foster can be the national spokesman we need on this issue to educate teenagers about the risks of pregnancy.

Every day, every week, every month, every year, the number of teenagers lost to this epidemic grows further out of control. With Dr. Foster's leadership, we have an unparalleled opportunity to deal more effectively with this cruel cycle of teenage pregnancy, dependency and hopelessness.

Dr. Foster's "I Have a Future Program" has been a beacon of hope to inner-city teenagers. His program provides the guidance they need to make responsible, sensible decisions about their health and their future and to put themselves on the road to self-sufficiency and productivity and away from dependency, violence and poverty. He has taught them to say no to early sex and yes to their futures and to their education and to their dreams.

Dr. Foster has devoted his life to giving people a chance, giving women the chance for healthy babies, giving babies a healthy childhood, giving teenagers a chance for successful futures.

Now Dr. Foster deserves a chance of his own, a chance to be voted on by the entire Senate. I urge the majority leader to do the right thing and bring this nomination up before the Senate and a vote by the entire Senate.

Mr. President, I heard earlier during the debate and discussion that we have legislation before us that is going to be necessary to pass by October. I daresay that every day that we delay in terms of approving Dr. Foster is a day when this Nation is lacking in the leadership of this extraordinary human being who can do something about today's problems, not problems and challenges that the States are going to face in the fall, but today's problems, tomorrow's problems, on the problems of teenage pregnancy and the problems of child and maternal care, and all the range of public health problems that are across this country.

That individual ought to be approved. We ought to have a debate. If the majority leader was looking for something to do on a Friday, we ought to be debating that today and voting on it today, instead of debating the issue that is going to deny working families income to put bread on the table.

We can ask what our priorities are. The majority has selected to debate Davis-Bacon, not to debate the qualifications of Dr. Foster. As much as I am sympathetic to where we might be in the fall, I am concerned about the public health conditions of the American public today. There is no excuse—no excuse whatsoever—not to bring him up, other than the power of those who have expressed their views about the issues on abortion. That is what is behind this delay, and it is wrong.

Dr. Foster has appeared before the committee, answered the questions, has been reported out, and he is entitled to a vote. Even two members of our committee who voted in opposition indicated that they believe the Senate ought to vote on this.

We have to ask ourselves, how much longer do we have to wait? This is a timely, important, sensitive position, and this country is being denied the leadership of Dr. Foster, and we have no adequate explanation about why that is the case. The nominees are entitled to be debated and to be reported out and, once reported out, they are entitled to be voted on in the U.S. Senate.

So, Mr. President, I hope that we will have an opportunity the next time the majority is looking around for something because we are not ready to deal with the welfare reform issues, and we are not prepared to deal with some other issue, that we can move ahead on the Dr. Foster nomination. We are ready to debate it. The committee is ready to debate it. We are entitled, he is entitled, and the country is entitled to have a vote on that nomination, and I hope that it will be very soon.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND DEREGULATION ACT

SECTION 252(a)(2)(A)

Mr. PACKWOOD. Section 252(a)(2)(A) requires a separate subsidiary for all information services except those that were being offered before July 24, 1991. Since that date literally hundreds of information services have been initiated and offered, because July 24, 1991, is the day before the information services line of business restriction was lifted by the MFJ court. This means that all of those services have to be shifted to a separate subsidiary on the date of enactment of this act.

Are there not two problems in your view: First, the bill does not grandfather all existing information services. Second, it will be impractical for Bell operating companies to transfer existing information services to a separate subsidiary prior to the date of enactment of this act.

Mr. PRESSLER. Yes; I agree. It is my intention to address these problems in conference.

ROTARY PEACE PROGRAM ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I have recently been contacted by Mr. David Stovall, a constituent from Cornelia, GA. In addition to his professional work at Habersham Bank and his community service with the chamber of commerce and the Georgia Mountains Private Industry and Local Coordinating Committee, Mr. Stovall serves in the Habersham County Rotary Club and as governor of Rotary District 6910.

Document No. 57

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