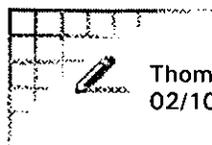


**NLWJC - Kagan**

**DPC - Box 035 - Folder 001**

**Internet - Smut**

Internet smut



Thomas L. Freedman  
02/10/98 11:29:34 AM

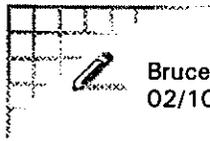
Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Re: smut 

I'm talking to the agencies. It looks promising and we may be able to find some free equipment for the libraries...



Bruce N. Reed  
02/10/98 11:17:45 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: smut

can we be for this?

By Jeannine Aversa  
Associated Press Writer  
Tuesday, February 10, 1998; 2:25 a.m. EST

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Schools and libraries wouldn't qualify for federally subsidized Internet hookups unless they kept youngsters away from the smutty sections of cyberspace.

That's the gist of a bill introduced Monday by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, an ardent critic of the Federal Communications Commission's Internet subsidy program.

The subsidies, which come from payments imposed on telecommunications carriers and some of their customers, provide schools, libraries and rural health care specialists with discounted hookups to the Internet.

As a condition for receiving a subsidy, a school would have to certify that it was using screening software to prevent children from accessing Web sites with indecent materials. The bill doesn't recommend a specific screening device, but leaves it up to schools to decide.

A school in New York City, for instance, might decide to use a screening technology that blocks out fewer Web sites, while a school in Mesa, Ariz., might opt for heavier blocking. Commercially available software such as CyberPatrol, SurfWatch, NetNanny and CYBERSitter have different standards for blocking.

Public libraries that want subsidized Internet access also would have to certify that at least one computer available for public use would be equipped with screening software.

``It gives schools and libraries an added financial incentive to filter children's access to the Internet when children are not

under parental supervision," said the bill's co-sponsor, Sen. Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, senior Democrat on the committee.

The FCC's subsidy program provides \$675 million for schools, libraries and rural health care providers for the first half of this year. The subsidies, the first of their kind, are likely to be disbursed in the spring.

The Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the FCC, planned a hearing on the bill today. A House bill is in the works.

Supporters deny the bill infringes on the Constitution's guarantee of free speech, arguing that it doesn't directly force schools or libraries to use screening technology. They said the courts have upheld past efforts by the government to require people or groups to do certain things as a condition of receiving monies through a federal program.

But when Congress, in a 1996 telecommunications law, tried to restrict children's access to smutty materials on the Internet, the Supreme Court threw the provisions out as unconstitutional.

McCain's bill is also co-sponsored by Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., and Sen. Patty Murray D-Wash., whose state is home to Microsoft Corp. and NetNanny.