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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, March 27, 1995)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Lord of creation, You have written Your signature in the bursting beauty of this magnificent spring morning in our Nation's Capital. The breathtaking splendor of the cherry blossoms blankets the city with fairyland wonder. The daffodils and crocuses have opened to express Your glory. Now Lord, tune our hearts to join with all of nature in singing Your praise.

We thank You for the rebirth of hope that comes with this season of renewal. You remind us, "Behold I make all things new!" As the seeds and bulbs have germinated in the earth, so You have prepared us to burst forth in newness of life. We forget the former things and claim Your new beginning for us. Help us to accept Your forgiveness and be giving and forgiving people. Clean out the hurting memories of our hearts so that we may be open channels of Your vibrant, creative spirit as we tackle problems and grasp the possibilities of this day.

Lord, we want to live this day in the flow of Your grace. We put You and truth first, our Nation and its future second, and our party third. Help us not to reverse the order. For the sake of the future of our beloved Nation and by Your power. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each.

At 12 noon today, following ascertaining a quorum, a cloture vote will occur on the conference report to accompany H.R. 831, the Self-Employed Health Insurance Act. Additional roll-call votes are expected throughout the day today.

Also, as a reminder to all Senators, Members should be in their seats at 2:15 tomorrow for the official photograph of the 104th Congress.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I thank the Chair.

UCONN NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, for those who have followed NCAA basket-

ball this year, not only through the sports pages and TV and radio coverage, but through the statements of various Members of this Chamber, I did not want to disappoint my colleagues by not rushing to the floor this morning to express my pride at the extraordinary victory of the University of Connecticut women's basketball team in defeating Tennessee yesterday and claiming the national championship.

Mr. President, there is a part of me that wants to do a Dick Vitale impersonation here on the floor—raise the voice, shake the hands—but I am going to abide by the rules of appropriate discourse, at least in this Chamber, and simply say with quiet pride what a great season this has been for this University of Connecticut women's basketball team.

How much they have taught us, not just in the fact that they had an undefeated season, which makes them only the second women's team in NCAA history to finish a championship season undefeated; not just that they won the championship yesterday against a very formidable Tennessee team, but for all they have done for our State of Connecticut to make us proud, to make us feel a little bigger than we normally feel in a relatively small State, not only helping us through the winter and raising our sights as we come out of the recession, but reminding us what sports is all about.

Women's basketball at the collegiate level has reached the big time. It has not, obviously, at the professional level, and in some ways because of that inequity, this sport remains as pure as sport was meant to be. And in the midst of strikes and contract disputes in other sports, in the midst of extraordinary competition for enormous salaries and promotional contracts, it is great to see a sport, and in this case, to focus in on this team of UConn Huskies, that plays the game for the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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love of the sport and for the devotion that they have to one another and to their coach.

These are true scholar-athletes. The All American Player of the Year, Rebecca Lobo, has an extraordinary average, was considered for a Rhodes scholarship, and can make a contribution in whatever she has done.

This team taught us something else about teamwork. Some of the other sports which we watch are focused on not only the extraordinary accomplishment of the performers, but the enormous egos of the athletes. Rebecca Lobo was criticized a while ago gently by her coach for being too selfless, for not shooting the ball enough, for being too focused on team play. And she still managed, in spite of all that, to be there yesterday at the critical moments to help turn the game around, and in the last 2 minutes, to take this team ahead.

So, UConn Huskies women, your coach Geno Auremma, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for bringing the championship back to Connecticut. And we thank you, too, for reminding us what American sports was meant to be, has traditionally been, and what you have made it again in our time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. KENNEDY. I understand that we are in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. And the time is limited to how many minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Five minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask unanimous consent to be able to proceed for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH INSURANCE CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments to explain at least my understanding of where we are in terms of Senate procedure.

I think the majority leader and the minority leader will come to the floor shortly and propound a consent request which I will certainly support. I urge my colleagues to also support it so that we will have a final resolution and disposition of the conference report. We will do that sometime this afternoon in a way that accommodates the greatest number of Members. And I have every intention of supporting the

conference report. I had that intention last week, and I have that intention today. I hope the Members do as well. It is a very important measure which means a great deal to the self-employed and small businesses across the country, as it does provide protection for those who are purchasing health insurance. It makes sense to give the self-employed some help and assistance in recognition of the pressures they are under in terms of health care.

As I had mentioned over the course of last week, it was never my intention not to proceed to that particular program. Rather, I wanted to draw the attention of the Senate to changes which took place in the legislation from the time that it passed the Senate, when it included a provision to close what has grown into a sizable tax loophole. That loophole would permit some of the wealthiest individuals in this country, by renouncing their citizenship, to escape the financial responsibilities for accumulation of significant amounts of wealth in this country.

The fact remains there were provisions already in existence in the Tax Code to try and capture that accumulation of wealth, but it had not been effective. Through the work of the Senator from New Jersey, Senator BRADLEY, an amendment was offered to address that very sizable loophole in which individuals could become Benedict Arnolds by renouncing their American citizenship and walking off with hundreds of millions of dollars in accumulated wealth, and then taking up residency in Belize or the Cayman Islands or other places around the world, and avoid their participation in ensuring that this country is going to remain free.

This is an extremely offensive loophole. I think all of us commended the Senate Finance Committee in eliminating the loophole. It was only in the few hours prior to the time that we were requested to take action on the conference report that it was brought to our attention that the loophole which was closed by the Senate had effectively been reopened by our House colleagues, and that the \$3.6 billion that would have been recaptured over 10 years was effectively lost. Not only myself but my other colleagues were so troubled by that action that we wanted to at least have an opportunity to present to the Senate, at the time when we were going to accept the conference report, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that would indicate not just other Members' desire to close that loophole, but also reflect the totality of our support for that action.

As I said last week, I do not doubt the sincerity of the members of the Finance Committee when they said that they would address that issue down the road. But we have seen at other times that what really speaks the strongest is when you have a unanimous vote. I believe that this would win a unanimous vote and certainly should win a unanimous vote of the Members—Re-

publicans and Democrats alike. It is absolutely outrageous and unacceptable to permit the plundering of the Treasury by selfish individuals who refuse to be part of our American system.

Mr. President, I was reminded last week that, under the Senate rules, the sense-of-the-Senate resolution would not be appropriate on a conference report because of Senate rules. I think if there ever was a legitimate reason for an exception to overturn a ruling of the Chair this would be one so that the Senate could go on record as to what the real sentiment of the Members would be on this particular issue.

Nevertheless, I had tried to see if we could not work out at least an opportunity to vote on the sense-of-the-Senate resolution as a separate matter, hopefully prior to the time that we pass the conference report or at a time related to the conference report, because it makes a great deal of common sense.

The conference report is the instrument by which this matter was considered. It would be appropriate to consider a sense-of-the-Senate resolution at the time of its acceptance or shortly thereafter.

The majority leader has laid down the cloture motion, which, as I mentioned, I expect will be vitiated with the understanding that we will vote later in the afternoon. I certainly will support that. We will have an opportunity prior to the time of the vote to review where we are in terms of the conference report and also where we are in the Senate debate on priorities. Because that is really the issue—the priorities being reflected in the rescission proposal of the Appropriations Committee.

During the course of the presentation by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee, they have outlined the areas where there are going to be rescissions.

In response to that outline, the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, in consultation with a number of Members on our side, had proposed an amendment to cancel rescissions totaling \$1.3 billion in the areas which are reflected in the chart here and which we have spoken of last week—the restoration of the AmeriCorps, drug free schools, title I education programs, Goals 2000, Head Start, the WIC program, school-to-work, child care, and also some housing and health training programs.

Mr. President, just to go back a step, many of us were under the impression that this matter was to be debated on the floor of the Senate on Wednesday or Thursday of last week. It reflected a principal opportunity for the Senate to reflect on how important these programs are for children and parents, and how we believe that the cuts in the rescission package were too deep. We wanted an opportunity to debate those cuts versus other cuts.