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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, February 23, 1996)

The Senate met at 10 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:

Alfred, Lord Tennyson said, "Come my friends. 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

Let us pray:

O God, Lord of new beginnings, the Savior who gives us a fresh start, You have promised, "Behold, I make all things new."

Father, re-create us within so that we will sense again the excitement of being partners with You in bringing Your very best for our Nation. Banish the boredom of doing the same old things the same old way. Give us that wonderful conviction that You have chosen us to be strategic in Your plans for our Nation. We want to attempt great things for You and expect great power from You. Grant us revived enthusiasm, renewed gusto, and regenerated hope. Make us resilient with newness as we seek a newer world closer to Your purpose and plan. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator with supernatural power to discern and do Your will, to listen to Your voice consistently, and to speak Your truth courageously. In the Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, this morning there will be a

period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m. At 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2546, which is the D.C. appropriations conference report. The time between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form on the conference report. At the hour of 12:30, the Senate will stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conference luncheons.

ORDER FOR CLOTURE VOTE

I now ask unanimous consent that the vote to invoke cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report occur at 2:15 p.m. today with the mandatory quorum waived.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senators should now be on notice that there will be a vote at 2:15 today. The Senate will also be asked to turn to any other legislative items that can be cleared for action.

DR. OGILVIE'S REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in the 1 year he has served as our Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie has earned the respect and admiration of every Member of this Chamber. He has truly had a spiritual impact on this institution. And before Dr. Ogilvie leaves the Chamber this morning, I wish to call my colleagues' attention to the fact that Dr. Ogilvie's reputation for excellence extends far beyond the Capitol. This week, Baylor University announces its list of the 10 most effective preachers of the English-speaking world. The list was drawn from a survey of 341 seminary professors and editors of religious periodicals. Included on the list, along with the likes of Dr. Billy Graham, is our Chaplain, Lloyd Ogilvie.

Mr. President, I know that every Member of the Senate joins me in congratulating Dr. Ogilvie on this honor and to say how proud we are to have him with us as our Chaplain.

Thank you, Dr. Ogilvie.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for 5 minutes each.

The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

NATIONAL EYE DONOR MONTH

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, next month, March 1996, is National Eye Donor Month. The purpose of National Eye Donor Month is to alert individual Americans to a terrific opportunity each one of us has to make a real difference in someone else's life.

Many Americans do not realize that they have it in their power to give someone else the ability to see, but it is true; each one of us does. If we declare now that after our passing, we want our eyes to be donated to an eye bank, then these eyes can become someone else's gift of sight. What a great opportunity. Indeed, what a great responsibility, one that all of us and our families should take very seriously.

According to the most recent statistics, over 6,000 Americans are waiting for corneal transplants—6,000 today awaiting an operation that can restore the gift of sight. These Americans

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



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could have this operation today if only there were enough donated eyes available.

The purpose of National Eye Donor Month is simply to remind all Americans that we can make those corneas available. Every year thousands of Americans donate their eyes to eye banks. In 1994, over 95,000 eyes were donated and over 43,000 transplants were actually performed.

Mr. President, these numbers need some explaining. Those figures seem to reflect a pretty substantial disparity, but there is a good reason for it—a very strict screening process that keeps out those who test positive for HIV, those who have hepatitis, and those with unhealthy cells on their corneas. Those are just a few of the reasons why many corneas are unsuitable for transplantation. But the corneas from these donors are, in fact, actually used for a good purpose. They are used in other very important ways. They are used for research in surgical training and other medical education. It is because of this screening process I have just described that eye transplant operations have such an incredible success rate—better than a 90-percent success.

This screening process and this rate of success, however, require a greater number of donations. If we could increase the number of eyes donated to eye banks, we could take care of the 6,668 patients who are still waiting for corneal transplants today as well as the 40,000-odd people who join their ranks every single year.

As I said, this kind of surgery really does work. In the 35 years since the founding of the Eye Bank Association of America, EBAA member eye banks have made possible over half a million corneal transplants.

There simply are not enough eye donors. The only solution is public education—making the American people aware of what we can do to help. That is what National Eye Donor Month is all about. In March 1996, let us recommit ourselves as a nation to giving the gift of sight to some of our fellow citizens who stand in need.

Let me conclude on a personal note. In August 1993, our 22-year-old daughter Becky was killed. My wife and I and our children had never discussed the issue of organ donation, and when Fran and I were at the hospital and were asked to donate Becky's eyes, we said "yes." We said "yes" because we knew that is what our daughter would have wanted us to do. Becky was a loving and caring person. She cared very deeply about other people.

I encourage all families to discuss with their family members this very important issue because by donating the eyes of a loved one or making arrangements that your own eyes can be donated, some good can come out of what to us was life's most horrible tragedy.

Again I call the Members' attention to National Eye Donor Month, which is

March of this year, and ask that we all renew our dedication to increasing the number of donations, the number of eyes that are available so that more people could see. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I commend my distinguished colleague from Ohio on his very moving, very touching appeal, certainly one that I think is extremely important for all of us. While our hearts and our sympathies go out to him and his lovely wife in their loss, we do commend them for using this opportunity to assist others.

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1574 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

TRIBUTE TO GARY MUNSEN—A BASKETBALL COACHING MILESTONE

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, during the cold and snowy winter months in South Dakota, many of my constituents enjoy the excitement of the basketball courts as a reprieve from the cold. This year, a very heated basketball season is melting the snow off the city of Mitchell, SD. Mitchell's basketball coach, Gary Munsen, has reached a milestone in South Dakota high school basketball—he has recorded 500 career wins.

Gary Munsen's achievement represents his long, dedicated service to the game of basketball in South Dakota, and more important, his players and his community. Gary is living proof that hard work and a strong commitment are the foundation of South Dakotans' success. Gary's success also comes from his understanding that coaching is more than teaching kids how to put an orange ball through an iron hoop. Coaching is about teaching young people the importance of teamwork, discipline, hard work, and individual effort. Gary Munsen has made many sacrifices during his career as a basketball coach. But Gary's incredible effort, determination and commitment have made him a brilliant coach. I extend my congratulations to him for his outstanding record.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of an article highlighting Gary Munsen's career be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Argus Header, Sioux Falls (SD), Feb. 4, 1996]

MUNSEN HANGING TOUGH—MITCHELL COACH'S ROAD TO 500 WINS HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN SMOOTH

(By Stu Whitney)

Gary Munsen doesn't need numbers to prove his perseverance. His stubborn survival as South Dakota's master of March could never be that simple or pure.

But some numbers are too significant to ignore, and they are used to measure Mitchell's basketball mentor against other mortals.

Victory is a comfortable criteria for Munsen. He shines every time.

After Saturday's triumph over Washington, he needs one more win to become the second coach in state history to claim 500 boys basketball victories. Gayle Hoover compiled 577 in 34 seasons at Parker.

The milestone might be reached Tuesday in Brookings, but Munsen is more concerned about keeping this year's Kernels on course. They are 11-1 and ranked No. 1 in Class AA.

"I'm not one of those guys who set out to coach 30 years and get my plaque," says Munsen, whose 499-161 record includes six state championships. "I'm also not on some kind of mission to break Hoover's record."

To assert this, Munsen talks about walking away. He turns 53 on March 12, so early retirement from Mitchell's school system could come in 1998.

"I've spent all my life doing this, and maybe it hurt my family sometimes," says Munsen, who grew up 35 miles west of Mitchell in White Lake.

"I might get out of education altogether, if I can afford it. We've got a great athlete in (sophomore guard) Mike Miller, and I told him when he goes, I'll go with him."

Munsen has coached Mitchell's girls to a 141-21 record and three state titles since 1989, but he plans to drop that extra responsibility after next season. He almost did it at last season's state tournament in Rapid City.

"Before the finals against O'Gorman, I decided I was going to get out of girls basketball if we won," recalls Munsen. "It just seemed like a good time to get out."

When Mitchell was upset by the Knights, however, Munsen was stuck for another year. Such is the burden he has built for himself.

Critics can mention Munsen's alcohol abuse, his family struggles, but never can they deny that he wins the big games. Even on the high school level, it is that portion of one's reputation that often prevails.

"There are probably some people who don't like him, but I think a lot of people respect him," says son Scott, 30, who coaches track and cross country at the University of South Dakota.

"Coming through at the state tournament has always been his style and his strength. I think he figured, 'Well, I might not be the smartest guy in the world, but I can outwork them. I can be better prepared.'"

But how does Munsen prepare for the end? If retirement means losing the one thing that defined him as a winner, what part of his reputation will ultimately rise?

"I was talking to (former Dakota Wesleyan coach) Gordie Fosness about that," says Munsen. "And he said, 'When it's time to get out, you get out. You'll know when it's time.'"

"I still have a love for the game. I'm not as young as I was, but the fire is still there. When the fire's gone, I'm gone."

STARTING OUT

When Munsen started his coaching career at Marion High School in 1966, it might have seemed laughable that history would match him with Hoover.

Just eight miles down the road, Hoover's hard-working Parker squads had established a sure-shooting reputation. They beat Munsen every time the schools met.

"He drilled me a few times," concedes Munsen, whose collegiate playing career started at Dakota Wesleyan and ended unceremoniously at Dakota State.

"But he also showed me how to coach the game. I admire him for the years he stayed all in one place."