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Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, February 23, 1996)

The Senate met at 11:30 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:

Dear God, we respond to Your invitation to enjoy these moments of conversation with You. We praise You for who You are: our creator, sustainer, loving heavenly Father. It is awesome to us that You have chosen, called, and commissioned us to be Your blessed people. Forgive us when we resist the greatness You desire for us and forget to ask for Your guidance. We thank You for the times we did trust You and did receive Your blessings of wisdom, strength, and determination. You have called us to be intercessors by placing in Your capable hands the problems of people around us. Now hear our longing to know and do Your will in the crucial matters before us. There is so much on which we do agree; show us how to come to creative compromise in issues on which we do not agree. Give us clear heads and trusting hearts. May we earn a new confidence from the American people by the way we press on expeditiously and with excellence. Now we commit ourselves anew to You. We reorder our priorities. Deliberately we put behind us self-serving manipulation and put before us our patriotic motivation. With confidence we thank You in advance for Your guidance today. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today there will be a period for morning busi-

ness until the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each except for the following: Senator DOMENICI for up to 20 minutes and Senator MURKOWSKI for up to 15 minutes.

Following morning business, it is hoped that it would be possible to proceed to the legislation which will extend the authority for the special committee to investigate Whitewater. Rollcall votes, therefore, are possible during today's session, and the Senate may be asked to consider any other legislative items that can be cleared for action.

Senators also should be reminded that a second cloture motion was filed yesterday on the D.C. appropriations conference report. Therefore, that cloture vote will occur during Thursday's session of the Senate, after the leaders have consulted and agreed upon a time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the 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 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: The Senator from New Mexico

[Mr. DOMENICI] for 20 minutes; the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] for 15 minutes.

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the submission of Senate Resolution 226 are located in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY SHOULD PROVIDE QUALITY PROGRAMMING

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, it has been nearly 9 months since I made a speech in Hollywood suggesting that our entertainment industry has a responsibility to look beyond the bottom line and to not pollute our culture and our children.

That speech ignited a national discussion—a discussion which has continued to this day.

This discussion will take what I hope will be an important step tomorrow, when a delegation of entertainment industry leaders will meet with the congressional Republican leadership here at the Capitol, and then with President Clinton at the White House.

It is reported that the industry leaders will use these meetings to inform us of their decision to voluntarily create a rating system for television programs.

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



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I certainly hope these reports are true, and that the meetings are not just publicity stunts for all involved.

While previous commitments will prevent me from attending tomorrow's meeting, I did want to take a moment to add a few thoughts to the discussion.

First, I wish to congratulate the entertainment industry leaders for their decision. Every parent knows that some television programming goes over the line—way over the line—of decency.

And I believe a voluntary rating system, if honestly implemented, will help parents in making informed decisions about what programs their children should and should not watch.

Second, let me urge the entertainment industry not to spend too much time patting themselves on the back.

It is one thing to produce programs that children should not watch, and to inform parents of the content of those programs.

But it is another thing entirely to produce programs that parents are proud to let their children watch.

That is an important distinction I hope Hollywood understands, and one they can respond to only by producing quality, family friendly programming.

Third, let me emphasize that if a rating system is to work, then it must be designed and implemented without any Government meddling or interference.

While I have taken Hollywood to task, I have also made clear that the answer is good corporate citizenship, and not Government censorship.

If the era of big Government is truly over, then the President, the Congress, and the Federal Communications Commission cannot be in the business of reviewing and rating television programs.

Finally, I believe it is very worthwhile to note that the industry's decision to voluntarily rate television programs is proof that the voice of concerned Americans is being heard.

We learned that when outraged citizens forced the Calvin Klein Co. to withdraw ads that were nothing more than child pornography, and we learn it each time a movie that assaults our values sinks at the box office.

The bottom line is that shame does work, and it will continue to work, as long as concerned Americans speak out.

And I am just one of countless concerned Americans who intend to continue to speak out for decency, for civility, and for the future of our children.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—D.C. APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on invoking cloture on the D.C. appropriations conference report occur at 12:30 on Thursday, February 29, with the mandatory quorum being waived; further, that the time from 12 to 12:30 be equally divided in the usual form for debate on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair, and I thank the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 15 minutes.

FULLEST ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM, WHY NOT NORTH KOREA, TOO

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to call to the attention of the Members what I honestly feel is an overlooked issue relative to one of the highest responsibilities that our Government has, and that is the full accountability of those armed services personnel who have been lost in action.

We have always demanded the fullest possible accounting in Vietnam for those listed as missing-in-action, and the question that I pose today is, why not North Korea as well?

The fate of more than 8,100 American servicemen from the Korean war remains unresolved. At least 5,433 of these were lost north of the 38th parallel. In Vietnam, by contrast, the number of unresolved cases is 2,168, and Vietnam has cooperated in 39 joint field activities.

I have a small chart here, Mr. President, that shows the unaccounted for in our foreign wars. Beginning in World War I, we have 1,648 unaccounted for; World War II, 78,794; Korea, 8,177, and Vietnam, 2,168. As I have said, out of the 8,177, 5,433 were lost north of the 38th parallel.

One can see that public opinion has prevailed in demanding a full accounting in Vietnam, and while we must maintain our commitment for accountability of all Americans who are lost, clearly, we have made significant progress in Vietnam as a consequence of a commitment and dedication to do so. So it seems strange that we would still have in North Korea a significant number of servicemen whose fates are unknown.

The United States Government recently announced plans to contribute \$2 million, through U.N. agencies, to relieve starvation in North Korea, certainly a worthy cause. The donation was consistent with other instances where the United States seeks to relieve human suffering despite disagreements with various governments in the receiving country.

But what is inconsistent with United States policy is our failure to ensure that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea addresses the humanitarian issue which is of great concern to the American people: the resolution of the fate of servicemen missing in action since the end of the Korean war, those lying north of the 38th parallel.

Relations between the United States and Vietnam—I give you this background as a reference—our relations with Vietnam did not begin to thaw until the Government of Vietnam agreed to joint field operations with United States military personnel to search for missing servicemen in Vietnam. We knew the general areas where conflicts had occurred or where aircraft had gone down. The pace and scope of normalization was commensurate with Vietnam's cooperation on the MIA issue and other humanitarian concerns.

In virtually every discussion that our Government had with their Vietnamese counterparts, the MIA issue was paramount. I know that on the numerous occasions that I visited Vietnam, that was the one message we sent loudly and clearly: You have to cooperate with us on the MIA issue; you have to allow us to bring in our personnel in the joint task force teams; and you have to cooperate with us for a full accountability, otherwise our relationship will not go any further.

So the Vietnamese received clear signals that progress and normalization of relations with the United States would come only after significant progress was made on the MIA issue.

In contrast to our Vietnam policy, United States policy toward North Korea seems to lack this same focus with no explanation. The recent announcement regarding food aid for North Korea did not mention our interests in the MIA issue. There was no explanation as to why.

The agreed framework between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea does not talk about cooperation on MIA's, even though the framework commits the United States to give the North Koreans free oil and to supply two highly advanced light water reactors, a total package that exceeds \$5 billion, \$4 billion alone for the reactors and some \$500 million for the oil, not counting potential future aid for a grid system to distribute the power that the reactors will produce. North Korea simply does not have the transmission capability to handle the new reactors, so we can expect to be asked for approximately another billion dollars so that the power can go out and be distributed throughout the countryside.

The agreed framework also envisions that the United States would lift its trade restrictions and normalize relations, regardless of, evidently, any movement on the MIA issue. The most obvious difference between Vietnam and North Korea is North Korea's nuclear program; the United States has