

your knee. You don't have to worry about a land mine.

Somebody said to me in one of these countries, when they were asking about land mines and why we didn't do more in the United States to get rid of them: How long would it take you in the United States to ban them if your children had to go to schools where they were told, you walk exactly between these two lines because, if you step over it, you might have your legs blown off? Or if you are like the teenage girl in Bosnia whose family sent her away at the beginning of the war so she would be safe and finally got word to her that it is safe to come back and she was running to her family and stepped on a mine. Her legs were blown off. I saw that young woman and talked with her in a hospital where the Doctors Without Borders and the Leahy War Victims Fund were helping her and other mine victims.

If this was happening in Washington down on The Mall, if this was happening on the playgrounds of America, we would be rising up and saying: Get rid of these things.

I have talked about this so many times that I am like a broken record. But I will keep talking about it as long as I am in the Senate. I will keep pushing and I will keep traveling around the world working with people who want to get rid of landmines. I will keep raising money for landmine victims, and I will keep trying to get rid of landmines.

I hope someday this wonderful country of ours, which I love and every one of us loves so much, will stand up and say: Enough. We will, by our own example—not by unilateral arrogance saying you get rid of them, but we won't—use the moral suasion of our Nation and get rid of landmines. Maybe then others will, too.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will be wrapping up here in about 15 or 20 minutes.

Seeing the Presiding Officer, who is from Tennessee, I want to pull out something which I find remarkable. It doesn't have anything to do with Senate business, but it does have something to do with the State which the Presiding Officer represents and which I represent. In fact, it is a historic sort of message. The bottom line is very simple. It has to do with saying "thank you" and the thoughtfulness of saying "thank you." I will take a very few

minutes to recount this fascinating story.

In the 2003 annual report of Berkshire Hathaway Incorporated, a report that was released to shareholders on Saturday, March 6, there was a fascinating item that piqued my interest. Berkshire Hathaway is the \$42 billion dollar firm led by someone who is considered to be the greatest stock market investor of all times, Warren E. Buffet. I call the annual report to your attention because it contains an unusual story involving 40 students and a professor from the University of Tennessee.

For the last 5 years, Professor Auxier has led his finance class on a field trip from Knoxville, TN to Nebraska to meet that legendary oracle of Omaha, as Mr. Buffet is known. The meetings there would last as long as 2 hours as students would have and took advantage of that opportunity of peppering the investor with questions on everything, everything from finance to life lessons, to mentors, to instances or occurrences or events that shaped his life. At the end of each meeting, the group presents Mr. Buffet with a gift of appreciation, a gift of thank you for taking the time to share his thoughts with them.

Professor Auxier tells my office his pupils always leave, as we might expect, exhilarated and inspired. At last year's meeting, the Tennessee group presented Mr. Buffet with an autobiography of Knoxville home builder Jim Clayton. The book made sense. It was from their hometown of Knoxville, TN, where the University of Tennessee is located. They left this as a thank you.

This would not be particularly noteworthy except for the fact Mr. Buffet became so interested in Jim Clayton's story and his successful venture—Jim Clayton's successful venture called Clayton Homes—that Mr. Buffet turned around and bought the Knoxville company for \$1.7 billion. He closed that deal last October.

Now the story gets even better. Mr. Buffet was so appreciative of the students who had come to visit him to share his thoughts with them, putting him on to Clayton Homes investment through this very simple gift, so this past October he presented each of them with a share of class B stock in his company. The shares are now worth roughly \$3,100 each. He also gave the professor a share of his class A stock which was worth, as of yesterday, \$94,700. Professor Auxier tells my office when Mr. Buffet unveiled these surprise gifts, everyone was simply, using his words, flabbergasted.

All of this is recounted in Mr. Buffet's annual report to his shareholders. Those shareholders now include those 40 very lucky students and a tremendously appreciative professor from the University of Tennessee.

I believe there are two lessons to be learned from this delightful story. The first is to be interested in other people. We all, no matter how busy we are, should take advantage of that oppor-

tunity to share experiences with others. It also shows Mr. Buffet was interested in other people, the fact that he took this book and he actually read it. It was an autobiography of a fellow businessman, indeed, a long way from his home. He was so impressed he turned around and ended up buying the company for \$1.7 billion.

The students took that opportunity—it is not always easy to go all the way from Tennessee out to Nebraska—to avail themselves of meeting the world's renowned expert in the field. They had the good fortune of getting his advice. What they did not expect is to get that additional per person \$3,100. Now they are that much richer for the experience.

That brings me to the second lesson and then I will close, and that is what I opened with. Make sure you always give a thoughtful thank-you present. It is the right thing to do. You never, ever know where it might lead.

CONFIRMATION OF DR. MCCLELLAN, MEDICARE AND DRUG REIMPORTATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, early this morning, in fact, a little over 12 hours ago in the Senate, Dr. Mark McClellan became administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. I thank all of my colleagues for their cooperation over the course of that whole week, this past week, in order to facilitate the confirmation of Dr. Mark McClellan.

I say that because the responsibilities of the CMS—again, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—are that of being the Government organization responsible for Medicare and Medicaid in this country. These responsibilities are crucial. The administrator oversees the program that provides health care coverage for over 70 million people, including seniors, as we know, including individuals with disabilities, with low-income children, with pregnant women—a huge responsibility.

This becomes critically important because the challenges facing CMS today are greater than at any time in this agency's history. I say that because the head of that agency, now Dr. McClellan, will be charged with implementing the Medicare Modernization Act and, in a very short period of time, educating seniors about the benefits of the new law, about the advantages of the new law, and how they best can take advantage of these new benefits.

It is going to take a strong and steady hand to get the job done. I am confident, and I think my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have expressed that strong confidence, in Dr. McClellan. He has the skills, he has the commitment, he has the temperament, he has the judgment, he has the leadership abilities, all of which have been demonstrated in Government. He has served under both President Bush and President Clinton in Government, and

also in the private sector as a physician. President Bush nominated exactly the right person for this point in time.

I think the Medicare bill is a tremendous bill. It has tremendous potential to modernize Medicare, on a voluntary basis, where if people want to take advantage of this newer, more modern, more up-to-date Medicare, they can or they can keep exactly what they have.

The legislation was bipartisan. It was signed by the President of the United States last year. If you just back away from it, it does—bottom line—what we know we have needed to do for a long time; that is, to give seniors and individuals with disabilities better access to the most powerful tool in American medicine today: prescription drugs, at lower out-of-pocket costs. That is it. And it is voluntary.

Beginning in a few months—this is, in part, a segue from Dr. McClellan—seniors will be eligible for the savings of 10 to 25 percent, and low-income seniors will receive an additional \$600 in value in additional assistance through the Medicare-endorsed prescription drug cards.

I have had the opportunity to meet this week with a number of outside organizations, including the AARP, where we have talked about the importance of educating seniors appropriately so they can take advantage of these new expanded benefits.

There is a whole range of other benefits in this new, modernized Medicare Program—and we talked a lot about it on the floor—including disease management; chronic disease management; improving preventive care, so we can make the diagnosis of things such as hypertension for people who come of Medicare age; improving the efficiency and safety of Medicare through electronic prescribing, to eliminate the potential of so many errors that can be made through so many steps that currently the prescription of medicines travel; significant regulatory relief.

You put those two together—with Mark McClellan as the person who will be responsible for implementation, with what is a complex system but one that takes action now—and I think we will have a very effective laying out of the benefits so people can take advantage of it.

Mark McClellan's background as a physician, as a doctor, I think will be enormously helpful in translating these legislative reforms into lasting improvements that will give our seniors better health care security. That, again, is sort of the bottom line. You want to be able to look seniors in the eye and say: You will be more secure in terms of your health care with this bill. We know that is the case, but now it has to be implemented. So I look forward to working with Dr. McClellan as he works to implement this new Medicare law. We build on what truly was historic legislation to provide affordable, high-quality care to our seniors.

On the floor earlier today, and last night, and in some hearings with Dr.

McClellan yesterday, the whole issue of prescription drug reimportation has arisen, has been discussed, has been talked about. It is a very important issue, an issue that, as majority leader, I can tell you we will address. It deserves to be addressed.

We addressed it in the past by saying reimportation, under certain prescriptions and limitations. Reimportation is fine, but it is fine only if we can demonstrate and guarantee safety; that is, we can tell a senior, yes, you can have reimportation, say, from Canada, but you can say that and allow it to happen only if you can look that senior in the eye and say: You are going to be OK. The medicine you get will be exactly what is prescribed, with the same sort of safety certification, safety guarantees you get with medicines that are manufactured in the United States.

Some of it—in fact a lot of it—is being driven by the fact we have these skyrocketing costs in health care, which we have to address, we should address, and it is our responsibility to address because they cannot be tolerated long term—whether it is by an individual who is taking care of themselves or their children or their family members or a business with skyrocketing health care costs which are driving the cost of doing business so high they no longer are competitive against other businesses in this country or businesses in other countries.

In fact, it ties to other discussions we have about outsourcing and insourcing and jobs going overseas, because if the cost of doing business gets so high here, and it is not high in other countries, you simply are not going to be able to grow businesses here and people will shift businesses overseas. So we must address it. And we will address it.

Many people believe part of the skyrocketing costs can be addressed by addressing the reimportation of drugs. Indeed, in the Medicare law I was just speaking to, we began to address this issue head on. We, in that bill—a lot of people do not realize it—asked the administration to prepare a comprehensive report that would come back to us in the Congress to identify the myriad of critical issues that are raised by reimportation, including, first and foremost, patient safety.

As a physician, I am going to keep coming back to the patient's safety, because unless we can look people in the eye and guarantee they are going to be safe through obtaining drugs from overseas, we cannot—we just should not—proceed down that path.

Well, in response to the Medicare legislation, the administration has already set up a task force. That task force has begun the process. We look forward to receiving the findings from that task force.

Indeed, the public hearings will begin this coming week while we are in recess. I believe the first meetings are with outside consumer groups that will come in and report to that task force. Then the task force will report back to us.

I also believe the Senate can best—or should best—address this through the committee of jurisdiction. As majority leader, I have tried to focus on appropriate jurisdiction for the committees, and the committee for that is the committee that the Presiding Officer has taken such a leading role on; that is, the HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, that is led by Chairman JUDD GREGG.

Through that committee of jurisdiction, we will begin to examine what barriers do exist—and the safety barrier is one—to reimportation and determine, first, whether there are ways you can reduce those barriers, but how you can reduce those barriers, how we should address those in a legislative fashion, and then reduce those barriers legislatively, if we need to.

I look forward to working with Chairman JUDD GREGG, chairman of the HELP Committee, and to reaching out broadly to all my colleagues—Senator DORGAN, who has taken a real lead on this; Senator MCCAIN; Senator STABENOW; and Senator THAD COCHRAN, who has been the author of the amendment we have used and addressed on the Senate floor, has been a real leader in this field—on both sides of the aisle to address this very important issue.

S. CON. RES. 95

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this morning, an amendment offered by the senior Senator from Ohio was accepted by voice vote. At the time, I withheld from speaking on this amendment in order to expedite consideration of the budget resolution, but I would now like to take a moment to give my full statement.

This amendment addresses a serious shortfall in the President's foreign affairs budget: funding for international health programs.

I commend Senator DEWINE for his leadership on these key humanitarian issues. Compared to some of the other amendments offered today, it is not a large amount of money. But, it means life and death to literally millions of people.

This amendment provides \$330 million for the Child Survival and Health Programs Fund. It is fully offset by reducing the amount that the Federal Government spends on administrative expenses by \$330 million.

This reduction will not be painful. We do not micro-manage the process, and leave it to the administration to determine where to make these cuts. But, I can think of some places that the Administration might want to start.

For example, next year the administration plans to spend \$5.5 billion on "transportation of things"; \$21.1 billion on "supplies and materials" for federal agencies—not including the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security; and about a billion dollars on printing costs.