

the first degree to which they are offered. Finally, I ask consent that following passage of the bill, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House of Representatives on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I certainly will not object, but I wish to clarify the matter pertaining to going to conference. I have had a conversation with the majority leader, and he has given me his assurance that this would not be used as a vehicle for debt limit, and we do not intend for this legislation to be a larger omnibus bill. I know some colleagues perhaps on both sides of the aisle have expressed that concern. I think we can say with confidence that is not the intent.

It is also my hope that this unanimous consent agreement would be the first installment perhaps of a series which would also include a finite list, perhaps within the next 24 hours or so, that would give us a clear understanding of what these amendments may be. But we would ask for cooperation on both sides of the aisle in that there will be plenty of opportunities and other circumstances to offer amendments that may exceed the bounds of this agreement. But I am real hopeful we can get good bipartisan cooperation and complete the work on time.

But I would ask the majority leader if he could confirm the clarification with regard to intent when we go to conference.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this is an extension of a conversation we have had. Again, we have been talking over the course of the day as to how we can, as quickly as possible, address the Homeland Security appropriations bill that the distinguished manager will be talking to shortly, sort of introducing what we will be talking about tomorrow.

Indeed, the Democratic leader is correct. This will not be a vehicle either for addressing the debt limit or for an omnibus appropriations type bill. We will work together on this very important bill to efficiently, effectively, and deliberately consider amendments that are appropriate for homeland security and then bring this to closure after appropriate debate and amendment. His understanding is correct.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Homeland Security appropriations legislation is the bill that we will be going to first thing tomorrow. It is a bill that is important. It is a bill that we need to address for the safety and security of the American people. I am very hopeful we can address both concerns and de-

bate the amendments in an expeditious way so we can complete the bill and get it to the President as soon as possible.

With that, I will yield the floor. I know the distinguished Senator from Mississippi is going to want to make some comments at some point as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business.

Mr. DODD. I thank the Chair.

ESPN 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, on a lighter note and a moment of celebration, I would like to take a few minutes of the Senate's time to congratulate an institution located in my home State of Connecticut which is going to be celebrating today its 25th anniversary as an institution. I speak of ESPN, the network which is enjoying 25 years of existence as a network.

I want to read the lead paragraph from a newspaper article that appeared on June 27, 1979, in the *Journal Inquirer*, a newspaper located in Connecticut. The lead paragraph of this story reads as follows:

Cable television may be the place for over 150 hours of local sports programming starting this fall. The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network—

ESPN—

an independent cable television production company, announced here Monday plans to televise up to 20 hours a week—

Think of that, 20 hours a week—

of both professional and amateur local sports programming.

That was 25 years ago. I ask unanimous consent that this news story be printed in the *RECORD*.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *Journal Inquirer*, June 27, 1978]

NETWORK PLANNING TV SPORTS

(By Matt Buckler)

PLAINVILLE.—Cable television may be the place for over 150 hours of local sports programming starting this fall. The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network, an independent cable television production company, announced here Monday plans to televise up to 20 hours a week of both professional and amateur local sports programming.

Among the programs scheduled to begin in September are 12 state college football games and 24 state college basketball games. Also in the planning stage is the televising of the New England Whaler road games.

"We've had two exploratory meetings with the Whalers and we have a full-blown proposal in the works," said Ed Eagan, president of Cable Promotions. "We could be televising more Whaler games than have ever been on television before."

Other sports events scheduled to be shown in the first phase of the project, which will run from September 9 to Memorial Day, are a sports magazine show, which will feature such topics as hot air ballooning and hang gliding, a Gordie Howe instructional hockey series, and a talk show with Colleen Howe.

ESP will be offering these programs to the 20 cable television companies throughout Connecticut. It will be up to the individual companies whether or not they want to carry the package and if they will charge extra for it to its subscribers.

"We've talked informally to three cable companies and so far they are very receptive to our idea," said Bill Rasmussen, the vice-president in charge of programming. Rasmussen was formerly the Communications Director for the Whalers.

Scott Rasmussen will serve as Production Director and WTIC announcers Arnold Dean and Lou Palmer will handle the play-by-play.

The series is scheduled to get underway September 9 with a college football game. It is also probable that the company will carry the scholastic basketball and hockey championships, according to Eagan.

Although the company will be based in Plainville, it is not affiliated with any cable company. It will attempt to sell its sports programming to the individual companies.

Mr. DODD. That story was the harbinger of what has become one of the great stories of the media in the last 100 years or longer.

It is not an exaggeration to say that ESPN has radically changed the way we see, hear, and follow sports, not only here in America, but around the world. The network has truly become, as its slogan proclaims, "The Worldwide Leader in Sports."

Over the past quarter-century, ESPN has transformed itself from a minuscule cable television network to one of the leading names in national media, reaching over 94 million Americans each week. If ESPN were an athlete, it would be the little-known draft pick from a small school who made it all the way to the Hall of Fame.

It is hard to believe it today, but in those early years, ESPN found it difficult to fill up its schedule with sports. The June 27, 1978 issue of one of our local newspapers, the *Journal Inquirer*, under the headline "Network Planning TV Sports," reported the modest goals of a new station that would televise "up to 20 hours a week of both professional and amateur local sports programming."

Today, to say that ESPN has managed to fill its schedule is an understatement. Today, if one is asked the question, "What's on ESPN," the most appropriate response might be, "Which ESPN do you mean?" There is ESPN, the flagship network. There is ESPN2. There is ESPNEWS, the 24-hour sports news station. There is ESPN Classic, where nostalgic sports fans can relive the exploits of Mickey Mantle, Jim Brown, Muhammad Ali, and countless others. There is ESPN Deportes, a 24-hour Spanish-language sports network, not to mention ESPN International and ESPN Radio. And, of course, there is ESPN.com, which has become one of the most popular sites on the internet, much to the dismay of office managers everywhere.

ESPN has truly lived the corporate version of the American dream. As its announcers might say, when it comes to sports broadcasting, you can't stop ESPN; you can only hope to contain it.

Yet even as it has transformed itself into a media giant, for 25 years now, ESPN has called only one place home—the city of Bristol, in my home State of Connecticut.

Some might question why a network of ESPN's stature might prefer a quiet city of only 60,000 people to the glitz and glamour of New York City or Hollywood. But, those of us who live in Connecticut aren't the least bit surprised that ESPN's executives, workers, and broadcasters have chosen not only to work in central Connecticut, but to buy homes and raise their families there as well.

We are also especially proud of our "homegrown talent," those ESPN broadcasters who first made a name for themselves at local stations in Connecticut. Most notably, of course, there is my friend Chris Berman, a native of Greenwich. Back when I was a member of the House of Representatives, Chris was a weekend anchor with WVIT-TV, Channel 30, in Hartford. His head of hair was much fuller then, and mine was much darker. In the two-and-a-half decades since, Chris has become one of ESPN's most well-known and beloved on-air personalities.

Over the course of its 25 years, ESPN has set records, reached numerous milestones, become a household name, and revolutionized sports coverage as we know it.

Whenever a major event takes place in the world of sports, fans know that ESPN will bring them the latest news, the first interviews, and the deepest coverage. Thanks to ESPN, fans across the Nation watched live when Cal Ripken passed Lou Gehrig, when Mark McGwire tied Roger Maris, and when the World Cup was played in the United States for the very first time. ESPN has also made countless innovations in the world of sports broadcasting, introducing techniques like the "helmetcam," the "K Zone," the "player mike," and ultra-slow-motion replay.

Of course, one can't discuss ESPN without mentioning their most well-known news program, SportsCenter. Watched by as many as 88 million people each month, SportsCenter is a phenomenon within a phenomenon, a program that has carved out its own niche in American culture.

By combining all-star coverage with a knack for wit, SportsCenter has become the model that all other sports programs emulate. Its announcers have perfected a style that is, as one of them might put it, "as cool as the other side of the pillow." Professional athletes admit that they stay up late after game nights to watch their own highlights on the 1 a.m. SportsCenter. Even in games of sandlot baseball or pickup basketball, players have adopted the lingo of ESPN announcers, calling exceptional plays "SportsCenter highlights" or "web gems."

There is a great deal of uncertainty in our Nation today. We have an election in less than two months. Our troops are on the ground in Iraq, Af-

ghanistan, and elsewhere. We are fighting a global campaign against terrorism.

But even during these difficult times, sports have the power to capture our attention. It is an inescapable fact that sports are woven into the fabric of American life. The spirit of competition; the importance of fair play; courage in the face of adversity—these are all American values that we can and do celebrate with our enthusiasm for sports.

Sports have the power to inspire us all to strive for greater and loftier heights. Who can forget Willis Reed limping onto the floor at Madison Square Garden in 1970, or the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team's "Miracle on Ice," or the American women's team winning the 1999 World Cup?

True, sports can inspire fierce rivalries. We in Connecticut, who live on the front lines of the Yankee-Red Sox divide, know that better than anyone. But more significantly, sports can unite us. At no time was that clearer than in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, when the sight of baseball and football players taking the field helped restore a sense of normalcy, and in a small way, helped our Nation begin to heal.

For the past 25 years, ESPN has helped bring the exciting, emotional, and magical world of sports into the living rooms of millions and millions of Americans. And in doing so, they have become a part of American history.

I wish everyone at ESPN a very happy 25th anniversary, and I wish them nothing but success in the years to come.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MADD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and thank the members, volunteers, and sponsors of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD. MADD and its mission "to stop drunk driving, support victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking" has become the largest crime victims' assistance organization in the world, with more than 3 million members and supporters.

This month marks the 20th anniversary of South Dakota's Pennington County chapter of MADD. MADD Pennington County shares this anniversary with the enactment of the National Uniform 21 Minimum Drinking Age Act, one of the organization's greatest victories. Since the law was passed in 1984, over 20,000 young lives have been saved from highway crashes.

Much of that success is thanks to MADD's efforts to change public attitudes and raise social awareness of the dangers of impaired driving.

We still have much to do. Since 2000, about half of all the traffic related deaths in South Dakota were alcohol related. In the face of this challenge, the MADD chapter of Pennington County has been active in outreach, coordinating with the police department to educate the owners and staffs of restaurants and bars, as well as high school and college students.

Two women in particular have made a difference, and they deserve special recognition. Lila Doud, who is the current Chapter President, and Janice Morehouse, the Secretary/Treasurer, have been working with the MADD Pennington County chapter since its inception 20 years ago. All the volunteers and sponsors of MADD Pennington County have much to be proud of and I am grateful for their commitment to public safety, victim services, and education. All of South Dakota owes them a great debt and we thank them for their service.

THE RIGHT COURSE FOR THE ECONOMY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I always find it of interest when a prominent member of corporate America steps forward to offer a refreshing perspective on the economic challenges our country faces today.

To that end, I would like to call the Senate's attention to two pieces of commentary written by Leo Hindery, Jr. and published over the summer recess.

Mr. Hindery, as many of my colleagues are aware, has served as the CEO of TCI and AT&T Broadband, and more recently as the chairman of the YES Network. He has a keen understanding that corporations have obligations both to their shareholders, but also to the communities in which they operate, and the American economy they fuel.

Mr. Hindery's first piece is on the subject of outsourcing, and he argues that offshoring of jobs is not inevitable, nor is it often the best long-term strategy for American companies.

His second talks about the need to see through the sky-is-falling claims of some interest groups and weigh both policy and electoral decisions on a simple standard—what is the best thing to do, not just for a few who are well-off and well-connected, but for the economy as a whole?

Again, I think these pieces of insight and analysis would be of interest to those of us who are entrusted to make decisions about the policies America adopts, and I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

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