

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go into a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. 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. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Robert Smith, cofounder of Alcoholics Anonymous, which is celebrating this year its 75th anniversary.

Dr. Smith, commonly referred to as Dr. Bob, was a prominent surgeon in my State in Akron, OH, when his friend, Henrietta Seiberling, an heir to the Goodyear fortune, introduced him to New Yorker Bill Wilson in 1935.

Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson's discussion that year on Mother's Day in Gate Lodge on the grounds of the Seiberling's Stan Hywet estate laid out the framework for the modern-day Alcoholics Anonymous.

Having shared the common disease of alcoholism, Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson recognized the need to offer dignified healing of sobriety for all people who struggle with the disease of alcoholism.

What started as an informal conversation in Gate Lodge on the Stan Hywet estate led to small group meetings and conversations at the home of Dr. Bob and his wife Anne on Ardmore Avenue.

Dr. Bob and Anne subsequently opened their home to those seeking sobriety, and the understanding of the 12 steps that Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson were refining.

As one of Akron's premier physicians at Summa Health's Akron City Hospital, Dr. Bob also understood that prevailing medical treatment was inadequate in treating a disease that did not discriminate among gender, age, culture, wealth, or social standing.

This was an era when alcoholism was not understood as a disease, so those seeking treatment were not admitted to hospitals.

Dr. Bob and Bill understood that the alcoholic needed the help of the "Angel of Alcoholics Anonymous," Sister Mary Ignatia and St. Thomas Hospital.

Dr. Bob took to bringing alcoholics from the back entrance of the hospital up to empty rooms in Sister Ignatia's unit.

Sister Ignatia would ask Dr. Bob: Are they sick?

Dr. Bob would respond: Very sick.

Sister Ignatia replied: Then they shall come to the front door—a very different treatment of alcoholism than ever before.

Sister Ignatia and St. Thomas Hospital then filled the void of the lack of formal treatment to help those battling alcoholism. They helped fill the gap in the lack of public and medical understanding of the disease.

Therein lies the root of the modern Alcoholics Anonymous—in Akron, OH, on Olive Street—where St. Thomas Hospital remains an institution committed to offering health services to those afflicted with alcoholism.

Since those early days 75 years ago in the 1930s, Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia helped foment the public consciousness that alcoholism is, in fact, a disease; that it is never fully cured but only managed with self-determination and with family and community support.

Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia imbued a sense of urgency in the movement where literally the common refrain for those who live the disease is to live one day at a time.

It is that sense of urgency that often found Sister Ignatia saying, "Time is running out and I must work while I can."

Earlier this week, the people of Akron gathered at St. Thomas Hospital to rename Olive Street "Dr. Bob's Way" to recognize his contribution to our Nation's history. And earlier this month, thousands of supporters of AA—alcoholics and family members throughout the Nation—traveled to Akron for Founders Day which celebrates the legacy of Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia.

Many visitors traveled to Stan Hywet Hall where they walked along the pristine landscape, walking past the Gate Lodge where AA meetings continue to this day.

From that single conversation at Gate Lodge to Dr. Bob and Anne's home on Ardmore Avenue to St. Thomas Hospital on Olive Avenue, AA has turned into one of the most unified and diverse organizations in the world.

Since its earliest days, AA opened its doors and services to all those who seek it, regardless of gender, age, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation.

Fully self-funded, prominent statesmen and judges have sat alongside paupers and peasants—each seeking a shared experience and the support of each other.

Today, 117,000 groups totaling more than 2 million members live in more than 150 countries and are working with them and being helped by AA.

It all started in Akron, Ohio has often been an epicenter of our Nation's history—home of more Presidents, and poets to inventors and pioneers; first in light, first in flight—Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers, and so much else.

We are also part of our Nation and our world's basic humanity. Through the Great Depression to the wars in the

Pacific, Vietnam, Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan, AA has been a source of strength for servicemembers and veterans.

Across borders and devoid of religious affiliation, AA has been a source of faith for one's self. Whether a factory worker or physician, parents and educators, all are alike. Regardless of one's station in life, AA has been a source of resiliency, demonstrating the capacity for all of us to see the better stronger angels within ourselves and within others.

To St. Thomas Hospital, now part of Summa Health, and the city of Akron, congratulations for carrying on Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia's legacy for 75 years. More important, congratulations to the members and supporters of AA. Thank you for your service to our families, our communities, our Nation and for a greater humanity for all of us.

### TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I want to talk about something else. I sat here, as did the Presiding Officer from Illinois, who was a strong supporter of passing this legislation that again failed because of the Senate's anachronistic, outmoded requirement of 60 votes, a supermajority. We could not get there because no Republicans—no Republicans—cooperated. We could not do today what we should do, and that is extend unemployment benefits to tens of thousands of Ohioans and millions of Americans. We could not extend the assistance to help them keep their insurance, which Senator CASEY has worked so hard on, something called COBRA, so that people who lost their jobs would not lose their insurance. We could not help those physicians who are about to face a 21-percent cut in their payments. We could not stop the outsourcing through our tax system of too many jobs abroad. We could not do any of that today because we did not get any cooperation.

I understand partisanship. I understand ideological differences. But what I don't understand is when I hear Republican after Republican stand on this floor and talk about the budget deficit, I am just struck. I have only been in this institution for 3 years. I was in the House of Representatives for 14 years before. I am struck by the utter hypocrisy when I hear Republicans all of a sudden decide deficits matter, all of a sudden decide everything needs to be paid for.

When I was in the House of Representatives, George Bush came to Congress and asked for the authority to go to Iraq and did not even try to pay for it. I voted no, but that is beside the point. It passed. It was not paid for.

Then President Bush came to the Congress again with a Republican majority and asked for huge tax cuts that overwhelmingly went to the richest Americans. They did not pay for that

either. They charged that to our grandchildren.

Then around the same time in the name of Medicare privatization, he asked for what he called a Medicare drug benefit, what I call a bailout for the drug and insurance industry, tens of billions in subsidies to drug companies and insurance companies, and they did not pay for that either.

Throughout the first decade of this century, Congress has spent close to \$1 trillion on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and did not pay for it. Nobody on that side said: Wait a second. We shouldn't do this without paying for it.

Then Congress passed hundreds of billions of dollars of tax cuts for the richest Americans and did not pay for that. They did not say we can't do that unless we pay for it. They did the same thing for this give-away to the drug and insurance companies.

Now when we want to extend unemployment benefits to people who have lost their jobs, when we want to extend some assistance for health insurance to people who have lost their health insurance, all of a sudden all these conservatives around here say we cannot do this unless we pay for it. Then their little cheerleaders on the Wall Street editorial board, and talk radio, and their people on Fox TV, like one bird flying off a telephone wire, they all fly off and say: We have to pay for it.

They never said we have to pay for a trillion-dollar war. They never said we should pay for the tax cuts going to the rich people. They never said we should pay for these subsidies going to the drug companies. We start a war, we attack Iraq, we go to Afghanistan, and we charge it to our grandchildren. We give a tax cut to the richest Americans, and we charge it to our grandchildren. We pass this give-away to the drug and insurance companies, and we charge it to our grandchildren.

But again, when it is time to help laid-off workers—we know what happens when a person is laid off. They almost act as if unemployment insurance is a welfare program. All I can think of when I see the behavior of refusal to extend unemployment insurance or the refusal to help people get health insurance when they have lost their jobs, all I can think of is most of my friends on the other side of the aisle, most of my colleagues must not know anybody who has lost their job, who has lost their insurance. They must not know anybody who, because they lost their job and their insurance, may next lose their home.

Try to think about this. I know people who have lost their homes. I know people who were doing pretty well and lost their homes. I have tried to understand what it is like. You come home one day and for the last 3 or 4 months you tried to make your mortgage payment. You were late the first month. Then you got the second payment in on time. The next month you were late. The following month you could not pay and you realize you are in trouble. And

then the bank comes to you and tells you they will foreclose.

Think what that is like. You worked hard. Maybe your kids are still small. You have lost your job. You want to pay your mortgage, but you do not have the money to do it.

So the bank is going to foreclose on your house. Think about that. You have three kids and your spouse has lost her job or you don't have enough money to make these payments and you are going to have to tell your kids: Guys, we are going to have to leave our house.

Where are we going to live, Dad?

We will try to move in with somebody.

What are we going to do with all our stuff?

I don't know; put it in storage. If we can't afford storage, I guess we will have to give it away.

Think about what it would be like to lose your job, then your insurance, then to lose your home. That has happened to a whole lot of people who even look like me, people who dress well and have middle-class jobs. This just doesn't happen to a bunch of people who were just lazy and didn't do anything; this is happening to all kinds of people in this country.

I wonder if my Republican colleagues—if the conservatives here who always preach self-reliance and always say we have to do better in this country and that people should have to stand on their own two feet—really know people who have lost their jobs and lost their insurance and lost their homes. I think if they did, they might be willing to extend unemployment benefits; if they did, they might be willing to extend subsidies to help those people get their health insurance.

That is what is so troubling about what has happened the last few weeks. We can't get 60 votes because we need some Republicans. We can't get 60 votes to extend unemployment to help people out a little bit. Again, unemployment insurance is not welfare. You have a job and you pay into unemployment every paycheck. You pay into this insurance fund so that if you lose your job, you get help from that fund. It is as simple as that.

So, Mr. President, I guess my patience runs short—as is the case for many of us on this side—when I hear my colleagues saying we can't do this because it would add to the budget deficit. Yet they continue to vote for war funding, and they continue giving tax cuts to the richest people in America, and they continue to subsidize the drug industry in America. It is a moral question, and the Senate failed this moral question.

#### EL MUNDO

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I come to the Senate floor to congratulate El Mundo, a weekly Spanish language newspaper in Las Vegas, as it

celebrates an important milestone in its history. On June 20, 2010, El Mundo, an award winning publication and a longstanding fixture of Southern Nevada's Hispanic media, will celebrate its 30th anniversary.

As the oldest Spanish language newspaper in southern Nevada, El Mundo has covered the issues of greatest impact to the Nevadan Hispanic community over the last three decades, providing invaluable insight into the ever-evolving diversity which characterizes Nevada's Hispanic community. It currently serves a bicultural and bilingual readership of more than 175,000.

In its pages, El Mundo highlights the experiences, needs, and concerns of Hispanics in Nevada and contributes to the future of our state's local economy, politics, and culture through its editorial, opinion and commercial advertising content.

Throughout the years, El Mundo has grown and evolved alongside southern Nevada's Latino community, which has multiplied from 50,000 in 1980 when the newspaper was founded by publisher Eddie Escobedo, to more than half a million today.

In addition, I would like to recognize Eddie's vision and tenacity, whose steadfast leadership at the helm of El Mundo has contributed to the publication's continued relevance, influence and impact. Eddie is a prominent voice for Nevada's Hispanics, a trusted servant leader, and a true Nevadan. I congratulate Eddie, his family, and the El Mundo staff on this great occasion as they continue marching toward greater and bigger milestones.

#### WEST VIRGINIA DAY

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Sunday, June 20, is the 147th anniversary of wild and wonderful West Virginia's joining the United States as the 35th State. I am proud of all that West Virginia has offered and continues to offer to the United States.

West Virginia is a unique gem among the 50 States. It is the only State to be formed by seceding from a Confederate State, and only one of two States to be added to the Union during the Civil War—the other being the home State of my good friend Senator REID, Nevada, which separated from the Utah Territory.

Known as the Mountain State, West Virginia is the only State located entirely within the ancient Appalachian Mountain range which was formed over 300 million years ago. West Virginia has the highest elevation of any U.S. State east of the Mississippi River, with an average of 1,500 feet above sea level. That elevation means that the Monongahela National Forest Region in the southeastern part of the State has a climate more akin to northern New England and Canada, with spruce forests, cool summers, and snow-filled winters. In fact, Dolly Sods, which is part of the Monongahela National Forest, has tundra-like vistas where, amid