

ever. Success is not new to Dan, but neither is bitter disappointment. He has been very successful on the national and even the world level, but his dream, an Olympic gold medal, has eluded him.

By now most sports fans around the world have heard the story of how, 4 years ago, Dan was one of the favorites for the Barcelona games and how he failed to qualify by not clearing any height in the pole vault at the Olympic trials in New Orleans.

Since that crushing result, Dan has shown the determination, hard work and drive that embodies the American spirit. He trained like he had never trained before. He won the world championships three times since the 1992 trials and set the world decathlon record with a score of 8,891 points just weeks after the Barcelona games.

At the Olympics in Atlanta, Dan seized his opportunity. He started out well, and claimed the lead after the first day of the 10-event competition. The eighth event was his old nemesis, the pole vault. Learning the lessons of 4 years ago, Dan cleared a cautious 14 feet, 9 inches. Gaining in confidence, he vaulted past the height he missed at the 1992 trials, and then wound up clearing 16 feet, 3/4 inches to score 910 points in the event.

The ninth event pretty much clinched the gold medal. In his final javelin throw, O'Brien recorded his only personal best of the competition, with a toss of 219 feet, 6 inches. That gave Dan a 209-point lead heading into the final event, the 1,500 meters.

Dan has never liked this race, and although he didn't need to run a particularly fast race, he did pick up around the final turn and sprint to the finish line. He could then claim redemption for 1992's performance.

Immediately after finishing, Dan broke down in tears. I am sure they were tears of joy and triumph. He had finally answered all his critics and those who doubted him. He had proven to himself and the world that his determination and commitment to be the best would prevail.

Mr. President, to this fine young man, who I am proud to say graduated from the University of Idaho and lives and trains in Moscow, I extend my heartfelt congratulations. I know the people of Idaho join me in saying "Well done, Dan" to the Olympic gold medal champion in the decathlon, the world's greatest athlete, Dan O'Brien.●

RETIREMENT OF MR. ROBERT DAVID YOUNG, OF SAGINAW, MI

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to salute Robert David Young on his retirement from the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers Association.

I have appreciated Bob's long service as the Executive Vice-President for the Great Lakes Sugar Beet Growers. He has been an excellent source of information regarding agriculture policy,

and particularly the sugar program. In his capacity with the association, he has effectively represented not only growers but all the communities of the Thumb and Bay areas of Michigan. And, in fact, he did that officially as a formidable State Senator of the 35th District for many years. Because of his skill and experience, Bob's counsel and expertise have helped me and the people he has served.

We have worked together for many years, through flood and drought, and through several Farm Bills and sometimes excessive USDA red tape. Our different party affiliations have not intruded on a joint desire to produce good, pragmatic agriculture policy that would benefit Michigan.

I will be sad to see Bob retire. However, I salute his accomplishments and recognize that he has earned some time off. The people of Michigan owe him a debt of gratitude.●

THE SENATE'S WORLD WIDE WEB SITE ON THE INTERNET

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, earlier this week a Washington Post editorial entitled "Wiring Congress" implied that the Senate has not embraced the idea of providing legislative information in electronic format. I am here today to set the record straight.

This past fall, in one of my first initiatives as chairman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Senator FORD and I announced the availability of the Senate's World Wide Web site on the Internet. This site, which is continuously updated with information about the Senate, is also the public's gateway to legislative information. Today, using the Senate Web site and linking through the Government Printing Office, the American public have electronic access to bills, resolutions, filed committee reports, and the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In addition, we are working hard to develop a centralized system that will allow committee chairmen to also post committee hearings and prints on the Government Printing Office access system.

The Rules Committee has also been holding a series of hearings to address the issues concerning public access to Government information in the 21st century. I am well aware of how important it is that in our quest to provide information in electronic format, we do not lose sight of our responsibility to maintain a public record and to assure access to Government information for those who do not have access to the information highway.

The Rules Committee is taking an aggressive approach toward ensuring the Senate—and the American public—have timely and complete access to all legislative information.●

MODIFICATION OF PENSION NONDISCRIMINATION RULES

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of legis-

lation to modify the application of pension nondiscrimination rules to governmental pension plans. This legislation will provide relief to State and local governments from unnecessary and overly burdensome Federal regulations.

Pension nondiscrimination laws enacted by the Federal Government ensure that workers at all levels of employment are given access to the benefits of tax-exempt pension plans. As employers, State and local governments employ a wide range of workers, from judges to firefighters to teachers. Each occupation requires that its unique circumstances be considered when determining pension benefits. Laws that were created by the Federal Government do not adequately address the needs of the diverse work force of State and local governments.

Public pension plans are negotiated by popularly elected governments and subject to public scrutiny. They do not require a high degree of Federal review. The process of enacting these plans promotes fair benefits for governmental employees. Public pension plans have been given temporary exemption from nondiscrimination laws for almost 20 years, and the result is that full-time public employees enjoy almost twice the pension coverage rate of their counterparts in the private sector. It is time to make this temporary exemption permanent.

This bill enjoys a wide range of support from State and local governments, as well as public employee representatives. I urge my colleagues to join Senator HATCH and myself, along with a bipartisan group of Senators, to ease the burden of Federal regulation on State and local governments. I look forward to this bill's consideration in committee and on the Senate floor.●

TRIBUTE TO CAMP NATARSWI, BAXTER STATE PARK, ME

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the 60th anniversary of Camp Natarzwi in Baxter State Park, ME.

In August, Girl Scouts from Maine and across the United States will reunite to mark this occasion, exemplifying the strong bond of friendship that young women gain through their Girl Scout experiences. Such relationships are vital for young women and foster an appreciation for helping others whether it be in the community, at school, or at home. It is clear that these women have cherished the spirit of the Girl Scout tradition as they now gather 60 years later to renew their friendships.

Before this land in Baxter State Park became Camp Natarzwi in 1936, it was used to house Civilian Conservation Corps workers who were building a road from Togue Pond to Roaring Brook. The property was leased from Great Northern Paper until 1975 when the paper company designated ownership to the Girl Scouts. Conducive to