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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, thank You for this time of prayer in which we can wake up to reality, see things as they really are, and be totally honest with You. Grant us a healthy blend of realism and vision. We tire of the fake and the false. We become fatigued fighting pretense that polishes problems and evades Your judgment. The spin runs thin; the damage control delays exposure of truth. Distinctions between the real and the illusion become blurred.

Lord, it is in this kind of world that You have called us to serve and give leadership. Bless the Senators as they seek and then speak Your truth. May the quality of the life of this Senate be distinguished by an integrity in which words are used to motivate and not manipulate, where debate is an arena for communication and not competition. You are Sovereign of this land, and we accept our accountability to You for how we relate to one another in the relationships we share as we work together. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. to accommodate a number of Senators who have requested time to speak. By consent, at 1 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of S. 104, the Nuclear Policy Act. The leader hopes the Senate will be able to make substantial progress on

this important legislation during today's session. Rollcall votes are therefore possible throughout the day, and the Senate may be in session into the evening if necessary. As always, all Senators will be notified as to when any votes are scheduled. He also reminds all Members that we are now beginning a lengthy period of legislative session prior to the next scheduled recess, and he also asks for the cooperation of all of our colleagues as we attempt to move forward and complete action on a number of important issues during this period.

Mr. President, I also ask for about 10 minutes for a statement on a bill I am introducing, if I may.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. CAMPBELL pertaining to the introduction of S. 528 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Who seeks time?

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, a little housekeeping. First, I understand that there is a bill due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 522) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized access of tax returns and tax return information by Federal employees and other persons, and for other purposes.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The measure will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THOMAS and Mr. KEMPTHORNE pertaining to the introduction of S. 532 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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 Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY and Mr. GRAMS pertaining to the introduction of S. 529 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

(The remarks of Mr. GRASSLEY pertaining to the introduction of legislation are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The Chair recognizes the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DURENBERGER

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, on March 20, my dear friend and former colleague, Senator Dave Durenberger, lost his father, George Durenberger, at the age of 90.

But, because the Senate was just beginning its recess at that time, I did

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not have the opportunity to pay respect to my friend and the much-celebrated life of his father. It is for this purpose that I rise today.

It has been said that, "the worst sin against our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that is the essence of inhumanity." George Durenberger, the parent, the teacher, the coach, must have been acutely aware of this because there was not indifference in him. He saw worth in every person he met and rewarded them with a first chance, a second, and a third.

In short, George Durenberger never gave up on anyone. Beyond all his other contributions, George Durenberger will be most remembered for his abiding faith in people.

According to newspaper accounts, George Durenberger was one of the "best known and most well-liked men in Central Minnesota." By the same accounts, "Big George" as he was often called, was "a legend."

Coming to St. John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, MN in 1924 as a student, George Durenberger obtained hero status as the star offensive center on the football team, the first three time All-Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference award winner, and also the captain of not only the football team but the basketball team as well.

Upon graduation in 1928, Durenberger became a professor and coach at St. John's and, over the course of 44 years, served as head coach of the football, basketball, and baseball teams—and sometimes all at once.

Durenberger served as athletic director for both St. John's University and St. John's preparatory school athletics for all but 2 of his 44 years at St. John's.

Many Minnesotans still recall that it was George Durenberger who started the round robin system of intercollegiate competition in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. And, some still remember the national recognition he gained through his ace athletic program to condition the 87th Airborne Detachment for World War II.

Perhaps, these accomplishments figured into St. John's decision to name the college's athletic field complex, the "George Durenberger Field." But, I believe that what contributed most to his Herculean stature can be best expressed in George Durenberger's own words:

A coach should be judged not only on his ability to produce winning teams, but also on whether or not he has made a positive contribution to the moral, mental, social and emotional growth of his students.

George Durenberger was the epitome of a teacher. He knew and loved people. He saw the good in them—even when they could not see it in themselves.

"The young men who came to St. John's in the early forties from the small towns of Minnesota and North Dakota were very much in need of a role model," recalls former Minnesota

Supreme Court Justice John Simonett. "Then we met 'Big George'. And we looked up to him—both literally and figuratively."

George Durenberger lifted spirits, recalled another St. John's alumnus, "I always left George feeling better about myself." George Durenberger "was the first person I met as a student at St. John's in 1924," remembered Fred Hughes, a St. Cloud attorney and former University of Minnesota Regent, "and to this day, he remains the best."

And, consider what the Hill newspaper's Al Eisele, who attended St. John's, had to say. Mr. Eisele said, "George Durenberger was as much a part of the modern history of St. John's University as the Benedictine monks who founded it 150 years ago."

Durenberger, "a physically imposing man with a booming voice and outgoing personality," as described by Eisele, "helped shape the lives of thousands of young men." As athletic director, Durenberger was such a forceful man, noted Eisele, that he even got the monks to exercise.

In closing, Eisele remarked that Durenberger and his wife Isabelle were "surrogate parents to many * * * and an inspiration to all."

George Durenberger never left St. John's until he died. He loved the institution and all the people and memories that came with it. However, this love was not connected to stubborn consistency but to confection. George Durenberger, said one friend, "was driven by a vision of a 'better city'," something akin to the city referred to in the book of Hebrews.

Another book in Scriptures, Proverbs, states, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." According to George Durenberger's eldest son, my friend and former colleague, "All my desire for public service and for making the world a better place than I found it, came from him." That was Dave Durenberger.

In this way, and in so many others, George Durenberger made a very profound and lasting contribution to the world. All he withheld from the world was indifference.

Mr. President, I offer George Durenberger's wife, Isabelle; his daughters, Constance and Mary; his sons, George Mark and Thomas; his nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren; and most especially I offer his eldest son, my dear friend, David Durenberger, my most heartfelt sympathy.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield back the remaining part of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEDICARE REFORM

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor each day this week to talk about what I think is the critical need for the Senate to develop a bipartisan plan to reform Medicare. Medicare is a lifeline for millions and millions of American families, and I think it is understood by every Member of this body that this is a program that faces financial crisis as we look to the next century.

Today, as part of the effort to build support for a bipartisan Medicare reform effort I will look specifically at the Medicare reimbursement formula. I think it is important to take this subject up because I believe today's Medicare reimbursement system in many instances overcharges taxpayers on costs and shortchanges older people who need and deserve good quality care.

Now, Mr. President, as we all know, there are essentially two major types of health care in America. There is traditional health care, what is known as fee-for-service. It means just what it sounds like. Providers get paid on the basis of the number of services that they render. This, unfortunately, can encourage waste. If, for example, an older person in traditional health care receives 10 medical tests and 4 would have been sufficient, under traditional health care the provider gets paid for 10. The other type of health care is what is known as managed care or health maintenance organizations. This is essentially a prepaid kind of arrangement. It creates incentives to hold down costs. But as we know, in some instances, tragically, it has also been used as a tool to hold back on needed health care that older people depend on.

The Federal Government, looking to the great demographic changes, the demographic earthquake that our country will face in the next century, has sought to try to change this system of reimbursement and, in particular, try to encourage the availability of good quality—I want to emphasize that, good quality—managed care or health maintenance organizations.

They set up a plan for reimbursing these organizations known as the average adjusted per capita cost, or AAPCC. Now, I am the first to admit that discussion of this topic is pretty much a sleep-inducing, eye-glazing issue, but certainly for folks in rural Wyoming, rural Oregon and across this country, the low-cost areas, it has great implications, but also it has great implications for the system as a whole.

I believe that the Federal Government has botched the job of handling this reimbursement system, and it is time to make some fundamental changes. Under this reimbursement system, Medicare pays health maintenance organizations 95 percent of the estimated cost of treating a patient under fee-for-service plans in a particular county. What this very often means