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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 5, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, and Lord of our lives, we thank You for outward symbols of inner meaning that remind us of Your blessings. The sight of our flag stirs our patriotism and dedication. It reminds us of Your providential care through the years of our blessed history as a people, our role in the unfinished and unfolding drama of the American dream, and the privilege we share of living in this land.

Lord, today it is a moving experience to celebrate Flag Day, in the midst of the crucial legislation before this Senate. It is an inspiring reminder of why we are here. We repledge our allegiance to our flag and recommit ourselves anew to the awesome responsibilities You have entrusted to us. As we move forward with the remaining amendments and substantive content of the telecommunications legislation, may the flag that waves above this Capitol remind us that this is Your land, that the airwaves belong to You, and that You have entrusted to us the preservation of the decency of what is broadcast on radio and television and communicated through the sophisticated technology of computers.

Thank You, Lord, that our flag also gives us the bracing affirmation of the unique role of this Senate in our democracy. In each age You have called truly great men and women to serve as Senators. We praise You for the 100 dynamic patriots whom You have called to serve in this Senate at this strategic time in our history. May they experience fresh strength and vision, as You renew the drumbeat of Your spirit call-

ing them to march to the cadences of the rhythms of Your righteousness. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader I would like to say that the leader time has been reserved this morning, and there will be a period of morning business until the hour of 9:30 a.m.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 652, the telecommunications bill. At that time the Senate will begin 20 minutes of debate on the Feinstein amendment.

Following that debate, at approximately 9:50, the Senate will begin a series of three consecutive rollcall votes. The first vote will be on or in relation to the Feinstein amendment, to be followed by a vote on or in relation to the Gorton amendment, to be followed by a vote on invoking cloture on S. 652, the telecommunications bill. Further rollcall votes can be expected throughout the day in hope of completing action on the telecommunications bill this evening.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour

of 9:30 a.m., with the time to be equally divided between the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK] and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. BRADLEY].

Mr. BRADLEY addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). The distinguished Senator from New Jersey.

RACE FOR THE CURE

Mr. BRADLEY. Madam President, I am very pleased to join my distinguished friend from Florida today on the floor of the U.S. Senate to talk about the Race for the Cure which will take place this Saturday, and the issue of breast cancer generally. Breast cancer is a dreaded and devastating disease which has reached epidemic proportions in America. During 1995 an estimated 183,000 new cases of breast cancer will be detected in women, and 46,000 lives will be lost to this disease—46,000 lives. The number is staggering.

For this reason I am deeply committed to finding a cure for breast cancer, as much as a Senator can be committed. The real action is in science. But we cannot allow our wives, daughters, friends, and coworkers to be claimed by this disease. We must continue to battle for their well-being.

Every woman is at risk for breast cancer. It is the leading cause of death among African-American women and it is the leading cause of death among all women between ages 35 and 54. Although the incidence of breast cancer increases sharply after age 40, younger women, even women in their twenties, are also diagnosed with and die of breast cancer.

As a nation, we cannot afford to wait any longer to eradicate the leading killer of women in this country. Although we still do not know what causes breast cancer or how to cure it, we have begun to make significant strides. Federal funding for breast cancer research has quadrupled since 1990.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The discovery of breast cancer genes has made headlines around the world and restored hope that one day a scientific breakthrough will provide a cure. However, we cannot simply sit back and wait for the cure. Each and every one of us has a role and we can play it and we should play it. One way to help in this fight is to participate in something like the sixth annual National Race for the Cure this Saturday, on June 17. The purpose of this race is to both raise money and public awareness about how early detection and mammograms save lives. The Race for the Cure, and others like it across the Nation, has raised \$27.5 million since it began, making the race's foundation the largest private funder of research dedicated solely to breast cancer.

The Race For The Cure is a unique opportunity to bring together the many people whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. This year, 25,000 people are expected to participate in this special event. The size of this event clearly demonstrates the far-reaching impact this disease has had on American life. Since 1960, more than 950,000 U.S. women, nearly 1 million American women, have died from breast cancer. This is more than two times the number of all Americans who died in World Wars I and II, the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf wars. The fight against breast cancer is a continuing battle because breast cancer is the leading killer among women.

I will join the estimated 5,000 runners, walkers, and wheelchair participants who will turn out in force on Saturday. I will probably be a walker, not a runner, but I will be there. And I will join with my family, my staff, and I will join all those who have triumphed over breast cancer.

That is how my wife likes to refer to it, having had breast cancer in 1992 and gone through the agony of chemotherapy and all of the other assorted traumas that are associated with it. She does not like the word, "survivor." She likes to say that she triumphed over breast cancer. So I will be joining all those who triumphed over breast cancer as well as the relatives of those who have lost loved ones.

I will race or walk for a cure. I am very proud of my own office. We will be bringing about 56 people to race for a cure on Saturday. I will race with my staff and hope that one day, when a new generation of American women grow old, their children will learn about breast cancer in history books and not in hospitals or in college or at bedside.

I encourage all my colleagues in the Senate to enter the race and urge them to help find a cure for breast cancer. With all of our help and the help of the American people, this race will be a tremendous success. Race for the Cure is, indeed, a race for life.

Mr. MACK addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. MACK. Madam President, thank you.

I want to, first of all, express my appreciation to Senator BRADLEY for getting the Senate focused on the Race for the Cure. He came up to me yesterday afternoon and asked if I would be willing to come over and talk for a few minutes this morning.

I appreciate, again, in this busy schedule and busy arena in which we find ourselves, a situation where we can focus our attention and our interest on an issue that is of deep concern, frankly, to all Americans, but for some of us there is a very personal aspect to it.

I like the word the Senator's wife uses with respect to triumph. Maybe we should begin to change the language that we refer to because, as I have become involved in the discussion of this disease, one of the things that I have found is that the spirit of the individual, the determination of the individual to overcome the disease plays a significant role in the cure. I do not mean to downplay the significance, obviously, of the traditional medical approaches, but I think we are beginning to find out that the human spirit plays a greater and greater role in this battle against cancer.

Another person that I would like to thank is Nancy Brinker, who is the individual who started the Race for the Cure. The Susan Komen Foundation was established by Nancy Brinker in memory of her sister who died of breast cancer. Nancy has just done an outstanding job, and she has written a book that is called "The Race Is Run One Step at a Time," and why we will be out on the streets of Washington, DC, and on The Mall this weekend putting one foot in front of the other maybe a little bit faster than we normally do trying to focus attention on the importance of early detection with respect to breast cancer.

I just recommend to any individual or any family that is dealing with the disease of breast cancer that you pick up this book that Nancy has written. It will change your life, and it will give you a sense about how you can triumph over the disease.

So, again, I thank Nancy Brinker. I thank Senator BRADLEY for his leadership, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to make a few comments of my own this morning. As I was trying to think how would I focus my comments this morning on this issue, I decided that I would like to spend a couple of moments anyway speaking on a personal basis about my wife, Priscilla. It has been almost 4 years since that day when Priscilla sat me down. She said, "CONNIE, you had better sit down for a moment. I've got something I need to tell you." I had just come back from a week's trip. She said that while I was gone she had discovered a lump in her breast and that she was fearful that it was cancer.

Again, on a personal basis of having experienced this in my family, as many of you have heard, I have spoken out here on the floor before about my fami-

ly's experience. At a young age, when I was in my twenties, my younger brother in essence said the same thing to me except that he had discovered a melanoma on his head. Unfortunately, because it was on his head and covered by hair, it had not been discovered until it was way too late. And the doctors told him he probably had 6 months to live. Michael ended up living 12 years and lived most of those 12 years in a very useful and beneficial and, for him, a comfortable way. It was just at the end that it became very, very difficult for him.

But the thoughts that went through my mind when Priscilla told me she discovered the lump—I went through all of those experiences again that I had with my brother Mike.

The fundamental difference, though, between the two was early detection. Priscilla had not been active in the fight against cancer, but because our family had been dealing with the cancer issue, she had become sensitized. She had heard the messages, frankly the messages that will come from our comments here on the floor today.

I will guarantee you there will be someone out there watching and observing today that will hear what Senator BRADLEY had to say about early detection, hear what Senator ROCKEFELLER will have to say about early detection, hear what I have to say about early detection, and the realization that if you detect the disease early, you can survive, you can triumph. In fact, it has been shown that with most breast cancers, if detected and treated early, there is a 94 percent triumphant rate; 94 percent cure rate. That is a dramatic statistic. The point that the Race for the Cure is all about is we can race there to get the message out that early detection saves lives.

So, again, if I can go back on a fairly personal basis, it, frankly, is hard for me to believe that I am standing on the floor of the U.S. Senate talking about breast cancer. I mean not too many years ago most males would have said this is not something we can talk about in public. Most women would have said that not too long ago. Most of our society said we cannot even talk about cancer. The importance of what we are doing is saying that you can come out in a very public way and talk about the disease and it is OK for men and women to talk about early detection with respect to breast cancer.

Again, in Priscilla's case, she did all of the things that one is supposed to do. She had a mammogram in November prior to the discovery of the disease. It did not pick up the lump at that time. She had her annual gynecological exam in June of the following year. Nothing showed up. But there was a message about self breast exams that somehow somebody got through to Priscilla. That is the way she discovered the disease. Because of that early discovery, Priscilla is going to survive. She is going to triumph. She has won. She is so excited about having

gone through that victory, if you will, that she is out right now—she left yesterday morning—she is in Florida this week, and she is working with other survivors of cancer, other people who are engaged in getting the message out about early detection.

I will say on a personal basis that I do not think Priscilla has ever felt better in her life, both physically and emotionally, to be involved in something she believes in so deeply and the realization that by getting up and saying to people—by the way, let me back up for a moment.

When I said to Priscilla that I had decided that I was going to run for the Congress back in 1982, she in essence said, "Great. Go for it. But there are two things I do not do." She said, "One is I do not speak to the media, and the other is I do not give speeches." Well, I tell you something. Priscilla is out speaking to the media, and she is out giving speeches because she is absolutely convinced that the more she does, the more opportunities there are for people to survive, to triumph over the disease. And she had not been doing this.

I think most of us recognize that there is nothing more satisfying in life than to be pursuing something that you believe in, that you are committed to, that you are dedicated to.

So, while I am out here today to talk about the significance of the Race for the Cure and the 20,000 to 25,000 people that may join us—and I, too, will be participating in the race on Saturday, as I did last year—the real message in all of this is that early detection saves lives. One of the comments that the American Cancer Society has stated over and over again is we can increase the cure rate of cancer from the 50 percent roughly where it is today, to 75 percent without a single additional technological breakthrough.

I get very excited about the things that are happening out at the National Cancer Institute with gene therapy, and with the therapy work that is going on, and we are going to get tremendous breakthroughs. But if we did not get one more, we could increase the cure rate from 50 to 75 percent if we could just convince people to take advantage of the early detection procedures that are already available through our health care system in America today. From 50 to 75 percent, that is dramatic, absolutely dramatic.

The other comment that I would make, and I have to be careful here not to use too many statistics, but as I understand it, only roughly 35, 37 percent of women that are covered by Medicare take advantage of reimbursement for mammography—only 37 percent. And I would make this point, that as an individual gets older and older and older and the chances of being diagnosed with breast cancer go up and up and up, there is more need to take advantage of what is offered through the Medicare system, and only 37 percent of American women are in fact taking advan-

tage of that at this time. So we need to get that message out to the older women of our society.

The last point that I would make here this morning, Madam President, has to do with fear. Priscilla talks about this all the time, and we have all heard it. People say, well, gee, I think I would rather not know. And that is a rationalization on the one hand, but yet it is a recognition of fear, because we are still dealing with a situation where we are convinced that if we are told we have cancer, we are going to die, that people do not survive. That is just fundamentally wrong. So we have to get the message out that you do not have to address this with the level of fear that so many do; that you have to break through that fear and let us detect the disease early and let us provide then for the treatment of the disease so that we can see more of our loved ones triumph over this dreaded disease.

So, again, I thank the Chair. I thank Senator BRADLEY for getting us this opportunity to get together to talk about this. I look forward to being out there on Saturday with him and with the other 20,000, 25,000 as we raise more money to add to the coffers to do the research and get the message out that early detection saves lives. I thank the Chair.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

EARLY DETECTION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF
CANCER

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I rise also to support the Race for the Cure. I do not have the same personal experience that Senator BRADLEY and Senator MACK have, but I am profoundly moved by the experiences they have gone through. As they communicated to all of us about much more devastating experiences that their wives have been through and to some extent are still going through, it is interesting that both men, in my judgment, both Senators are reticent about personal matters. That is their nature. But when it comes to something like this, where there is so much that they can do to help so many people, and where they know that as Senators people will at least from time to time listen to what they have to say, they know they have a duty, and I think we all do, to make people aware of what can happen through early detection and through public awareness.

America is a very interesting country. We battle about whether we are going to reform health care or whether we are going to increase or decrease Government spending on research, but Americans are very unique in the way that they sometimes can just galvanize themselves to make things known, and this Race for the Cure is a very dramatic example. The numbers have grown over the years. This year the international community will be in-

volved for the first time on Saturday, June 17.

I really was interested in what Senator MACK had to say about fear. I think that is true. I have seen that in my own work as a Senator, even going back to the time I was a VISTA volunteer in West Virginia, the fear that people sometimes have either because there is enough that is going to be wrong in their lives they do not want to take a test to find out something which might tell them there is something much more seriously going wrong in their lives or simply because Americans often are generically optimistic; they figure "it will not happen to me." Of course, it does. And the figures about how you can cut down through mammograms, through self-testing, the spread of this disease and mortality of this disease are really just staggering.

I am impressed by the difference between the 95 percent cure rate upon early detection and then over a 5-year period, that a 5-year survival rate goes all the way down to 18 percent.

If there has not been early detection and there has been such a spread on a more general basis, that argues so totally for prevention, for self-examination, for mammograms, for doing everything we possibly can.

So I think it is very important; the statement that more women die from this disease than any other is something that we have to understand and something that we have to talk about so that people will be strong in their response and that a husband and wife and friend, all of us feel a responsibility to each other about problems with diseases like this which are difficult for women in this case and others for men in other cases; that we have to be able to talk openly, publicly, freely, and instructively about this to each other and to the American public. It is one of our roles I think as public officials.

So that I congratulate Senator BRADLEY and Senator MACK, both for their own combination of privacy in the way they handled this ordinarily but, on the other hand, when it comes to helping others, the way they are determined to be more public so as to broaden public education and thus increase the possibility for a better cure rate. And symbolically, here we come to the Race for the Cure on Saturday, and I hope that it is the largest one ever.

I thank the Presiding Officer and I yield the floor.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida controls the time.

Mr. MACK. I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute 11 seconds.

Mr. MACK. I yield that 1 minute 11 seconds to my colleague from New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS STAMP

Mr. D'AMATO. I thank my colleague and friend. Let me commend Senator MACK and Senator BRADLEY for their extraordinary efforts in this area of education, of bringing about public awareness of not only the disease but the horrible impact it has not only on women but the families of America.

Mr. President, I rise today to commend the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for sponsoring the sixth annual national Race for the Cure, which will take place this coming Saturday, June 17, here in our Nation's Capital.

This annual event raises critically needed funds to combat breast cancer—a horrible disease that, unthinkable, has become the most common form of cancer in women, and the leading cause of cancer death for all women between the ages of 35 and 54. It is a disease that—with no known cure and no known cause—can only be understood, and eventually conquered, through increased research.

In addition to raising funds for research, this race helps raise the level of public awareness of this disease, while bringing needed public attention to the importance of early detection.

We must continue to seek new and creative ways to promote breast cancer awareness. I want to take a moment to recognize the efforts of one of my Long Island constituents, Diane Sackett Nannery, who has proposed the creation of a special pink ribbon postage stamp to help bolster breast cancer awareness in our Nation. Such a stamp would serve as a strong reminder of the magnitude of this disease, while reinforcing public health officials' efforts to promote the benefits of early detection.

I believe this stamp deserves the strong and immediate support of the United States Postmaster General. Today I am forwarding a letter to the Postmaster General—signed by all 100 U.S. Senators—urging his support for the prompt approval of the important breast cancer awareness stamp. I am hopeful that the voice of our Nations' women will be heard through this unanimous statement by their elected officials, and that this stamp will soon become a reality.

Just as I am heartened by the overwhelming support for this stamp, I am likewise encouraged by the tremendous public response the Race for the Cure has received over its short history. In just 6 years, the national Race for the Cure has grown to become the largest 5K race in the country, with close to 20,000 participants expected in 1995. True to its name, those who enter run not to win the race to the finish line, but to help our Nation win the race against the clock to discover a cure for this devastating disease.

Mr. President, I want to commend all those involved in planning, organizing, supporting, and, not least of all, running in this important event. I hope that it will exceed all expectations, and

that it will bring us closer to the day when the horrible ravages of breast cancer are a thing of the past.

Madam President, this great race, Race for the Cure, which is going to take place Saturday here in our Nation's capital, is just a small part of what my colleagues are attempting to do, and I am proud to be associated with them in this endeavor.

Let me also say that yesterday I was able to obtain the signature of every single Member of this body, 100 Senators, within a matter of several hours that would ask of the Postmaster General that a stamp be commemorated to bring about breast cancer awareness.

One of my constituents, Diane Sackett Nannery, proposed that there be the creation of a special pink ribbon postage stamp to help bolster breast cancer awareness in our Nation. And as I said I am very proud of my colleagues for the manner in which all of them were so supportive of this attempt to create a greater awareness in our Nation so that we can do more in our efforts to find not only the cure but also to do more in detection and prevention.

I can say to you that there has probably been no area in our Nation that has been harder hit than Long Island, my hometown, Nassau County, where we have the highest rate of breast cancer in the United States, a sad distinction to have.

So I want to commend my colleagues for their leadership, and I want to say that I am tremendously encouraged by the tremendous public response for the Race for the Cure, not only here but I think nationwide. We have brought people together with this magnificent endeavor.

I yield the floor and thank my colleagues.

Mr. BRADLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. BRADLEY. Madam President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. One minute fifty-five seconds.

Mr. BRADLEY. I yield all my time to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

BREAST CANCER—A THREAT TO WOMEN'S HEALTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing support for research on breast cancer and the Race for the Cure. This frightening disease has taken the lives of far too many women, and the long list of those who have died include many of my own friends.

As has been stated, breast cancer is a growing public health problem in this Nation and a great threat to women's health. Many women are very confused about the mixed messages being sent to us today about breast cancer. One year we are told to have annual mammograms beginning at the age of 40. The next year, after we faithfully comply with that, we are told something else. We remain worried and confused, and it is time for better research on the issue.

Clearly, research has to be done. More needs to be done in prevention and treatment of breast cancer, and the Race for the Cure is a way for all of us to express our desire to do better in this and to bring this to the public's attention.

I think it is an opportune time also for this Senate to recognize that it has been 6 months without a Surgeon General. Dr. Foster has the ability, if appointed, to bring this issue to the forefront of this Nation, and I hope that the majority leader brings Dr. Foster's nomination to the Senate expeditiously so that we can, again, have another way of making sure that women's health diseases are brought to the Nation's forefront.

I will be joining my husband and my children this weekend in the Race for the Cure. I urge all of my colleagues to not only walk the walk but talk the talk and get some good research done on this issue.

I thank my colleague from New Jersey.

Mr. BRADLEY. Madam President, as we conclude this morning business on the Race for the Cure, I simply pay tribute to a member of my staff, Katie Konnorton, who has coordinated the 56 people who will come from my office, associated with it, family members and staff members, to make the race on Saturday. She deserves a lot of credit.

I think because of her and because of the commitment of other people on the staff, we will have a tremendous turnout, and I hope that other Senators' offices—I am very pleased the Senator from Washington is going to be there with her family, I respect that—I hope other Senators might check off that Saturday is the day for them to be counted for the cure for breast cancer: The Race for the Cure, Saturday, Senators' offices here in Washington. It sends the message of early detection and fight for a cure. I thank the Chair.

COMMENDING JACKSON HOLE SKI AREA

Mr. THOMAS. Madam President, I would like to take a minute to commend the Jackson Hole ski area in my State of Wyoming. Recently this ski area received the prestigious Golden Eagle Award, sponsored by the Skiing Co. which is part of Times Mirror Magazines and publisher of Ski, Skiing, and TransWorld Snowboarding magazines. The Golden Eagle Award was established by the Skiing Co. and Times Mirror to recognize exceptional environmental excellence in ski area management by North American ski areas. It was presented at the annual meeting of the National Ski Areas Association in Palm Springs, CA, last month.

The Jackson Hole Ski Corp. won the top award for overall environmental excellence. The resort was commended by a panel of judges for downsizing its mountain master plan by a third, in order to provide a better ski experience