

As the Senator from Kentucky knows, I have a particular interest in the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad or ASHA Program. Funding for this program falls under the Foreign Operations Assistance Appropriations bill. I am particularly concerned with the manner in which the bill's conference committee report resolves the question of ASHA funding. With the support of the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Vermont, my amendment to earmark \$15 million for this program in fiscal year 1997 was included in the final version of the Senate bill. The House, however, did not include a similar provision in its bill. The conference committee also did not choose to include the earmark in the bill. But the conference committee did insert strongly worded language in the conference report which refers to ASHA funding.

I understand that during conference deliberation on this matter the managers of both the House and Senate agreed to two specific principles. First, it was agreed to that AID should not phase out ASHA. Second, the managers insisted that the ASHA Program be funded at an amount at least equal to that in fiscal year 1996. I would like to ask the Chairman for clarification as to the actual funding level contemplated by this language.

As the Senator from Kentucky knows, on September 6, 1996 AID formally notified Congress that grants made through ASHA in fiscal year 1996 would total \$17.6 million. Based on this figure, it would be my interpretation of the report language that AID should award ASHA grants totalling at least \$17.6 million for fiscal year 1997. In other words, in referring to the fiscal year 1996 funding level, the conference committee had in mind the ASHA funding level for the most recent year; it was not concerned with the fiscal year in which allocated funds were actually appropriated. Could the Senator from Kentucky tell me if my interpretation is correct?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I thank the Senator from Michigan for his kind words. I am pleased to say that his interpretation is correct. The Conference Committee intentions were to make clear to AID that it strongly disagrees with the agency's proposal to phase out ASHA over the next 2 fiscal years. There is broad agreement in both the Senate and the House that this program should be continued at levels close to those of the recent past. As for the fiscal year 1997 grant cycle in particular, we expect AID to make grants of at least \$17.6 million. So, although the conferees did not retain the specific language of the amendment by the Senator from Michigan, we certainly concur with its spirit.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the Senator from Kentucky for that clarification.●

A PLACE TO STAY

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President there is a publication in Chicago called Street-

wise that is sold by homeless people. They sell it for \$1.00 each, and my guess is that most of that money goes to the person who sells it.

In an issue that I bought the other day from someone on Michigan Avenue, who appeared to be homeless, is a brief analysis about who the homeless are and why they are homeless.

It gives as a source for this the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

They also have a story written by Jeff Mason about a man named Mike who tells about his 24 hour experience as a homeless person.

This takes place at the Pacific Garden Mission, which I've had the opportunity to visit on several occasions. It is a religious organization where people are obviously committed to living their faith and helping those who are less fortunate.

Mr. President, I ask that both items from Streetwise be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From Streetwise, Sept. 16-30, 1996]

A PLACE TO STAY

(By Jeff Mason)

7 p.m. It's a summer Wednesday night in Chicago. The sky is getting dark as people hustle to their cars, trains and buses. Everyone has some place to go, it seems. Everyone, that is, except Chicago's homeless. They remain on the streets or go to a shelter, looking for a place to stay.

Like any other night during the year, guests at the Pacific Garden Mission, located at 646 S. State St., are sitting on folding chairs in the assembly room waiting for church to begin. The room is large, easily accommodating the more than 400 men and women the shelter serves every night. Rectangular signs hang from the walls with Bible verses proclaiming the wonders of salvation. Men dressed in suit coats and ties patrol the aisles, telling the guests not to lean against the walls and not to wander around the room.

Some of those seated in the chairs are dressed in shabby, dated clothing. Many men have overgrown beards and messy hair; others are better groomed and wear newer clothes. To stay the night, the guests must attend the church service. So they sit, they wait and, eventually, they worship.

"You either feel like you're in the military or you feel like you're in jail," says "Mike," a 35-year-old homeless man staying in the shelter. "They treat you like a child—like you don't have common sense. I guess they have to do it like that. Otherwise, it would be total chaos."

Mike, who declined to give his real name, has been homeless since his basement apartment flooded earlier this year. Pacific Garden Mission is his first shelter. He can't live at home because of a falling out with his family. In fact, his family and most of his friends don't even know he's staying here.

According to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, approximately 15,000 people are homeless like Mike on any given night in Chicago. The Chicago Department of Human Services reports that there are approximately 5,500 shelter beds available in the winter. Some shelters close during the summer, though, making the search for overnight housing even harder.

Michael Stoops, Director of Field Organizing for the National Coalition for the Homeless, recognizes that shelters meet a gaping social need but criticizes the way homeless people are treated in them.

"The regimentation is abominable," Stoops says. "They treat people who are adults like children."

High numbers force shelters like Pacific Garden, which is open all year, to enforce strict rules on the people who stay there.

"The reason it has to be so regimented is for the safety of everyone involved," says Pastor Phil Kwiatkowski, director of the men's division at Pacific Garden. "We want this to be a safe haven."

Father Jim Hoffman, director of the Franciscan House of Mary and Joseph, a shelter located at 2715 W. Harrison St., agrees. "We've been at 99 percent occupancy for the last two years," Hoffman says. "If procedures are followed, people feel safe here."

8 p.m. The church service at Pacific Garden has started. A college student opens the service with a prayer for those who haven't been saved. A chorus of junior high girls sings. A preacher delivers his sermon. "First-timers" are ushered into a small hallway adjacent to the meeting room to await counseling with one of the staff. After the service, the men and women are separated. Then, sandwiches and fruit are served and the guests get in line to go upstairs for bed.

"When you're hungry, you go to the shelter," Mike says. "When you want to sleep, you go to the shelter. When you want to take a shower, you go to the shelter. Without the shelter where would you get these things? What would you do? Where would you go?"

Some wouldn't go to a shelter at all. "I would always want to stay on the street instead of a shelter," says Joel Alfassa, Street Wise vendor # 267, who was homeless for almost two years. "I'm a very independent person. I don't like to be regimented, and that [freedom] is what the street offered."

9:30 p.m. The men stand in line for mandatory showers. Belongings are left in a locked room downstairs and each man is frisked before walking up to the second floor. The men are given hangers and told to strip in a communal dressing room next to the showers. Each man hands his hanger of clothing to an attendant and takes a timed two-minute maximum shower. A staff member walks in the room where the men are undressing and sprays the floor with an aerosol can. The men shout their approval; the spray masks the smell.

"This is home for a lot of individuals," Kwiatkowski says. "When you're living in a communal environment, everyone has to be clean."

A small towel and a thin hospital gown are issued after the showers and the dripping men plod their way to a bunk bed or a place on the floor. The mission has approximately 250 beds, but Kwiatkowski says they serve anywhere from 400 to 550 people a night.

"Unless you get there early to get a bed, or you're a first-timer, you'll be sleeping on the hard, stone floor. Unless you're exhausted, your first night in a shelter, you can't sleep," Mike says. "You have to be sure you're in a safe area. You have to hide your things. With so many people, it tends to be overcrowded; tempers flow easily. So, you've got your guard up on that."

"It could be a night in hell for you," Mike says.

11 p.m. The lights are dimmed. The room is filled with the sounds of snoring and farting—sounds of men going to sleep. Though all the men have bathed, the room still smells of sweat and body odor. Talking is prohibited, but the noises of communal living keep some like Mike from getting a good night's sleep.

"Man, these guys snore like crazy. A lot of people may think that's not a big deal. But, let's say you're one of the fortunate people that does have a job—you don't get enough rest to go to work."

Mike works as a telemarketer for a company in Chicago. Beyond being tired, the stigma of living in a shelter hangs over him in the workplace. He has told no one where he lives for fear of getting fired.

"I would be a fool to say that I was staying in a mission," he says. In most people's eyes being homeless means you're a drunk, an addict or a criminal. Mike fears that reputation—a reputation he says does not fit him.

"If people knew that you are homeless or are a transient, that would lessen your opportunities to advance yourself or get yourself back on track," he says. "In order for you to advance yourself, to pull yourself out of the situation that you're in, in a way you have to don a disguise."

But the trappings of homelessness are hard to hide. People can spot it just by the grocery bags some carry. "Who's gonna go in that interview area with a bunch of bags and all your clothes and try to be taken seriously?" Mike asks. "People are dressed to the nines and here you are—you're lucky to have a shirt and tie. Do you think you're gonna get that job? You have to have a hell of an amount of character to rise above that situation."

Though the shelter gives bag lunches to those who are employed during the day, Mike says it is not as helpful as it could be for people who have jobs. "You only get a change of clean clothes once a week," he says. "How are you are going to feel comfortable going to a job wearing the same clothes every day?"

In addition, the shelter staff often refuses to store things for residents who have job interviews. "You have a hell of a time trying to convince them to let you leave your clothes there for an hour without throwing them out," Mike says. "It seems like if you're trying to help yourself, they really don't want you there."

Kwiatkowski says the shelter will help guests with special needs such as storage on an individual basis. Mike says the clothes he stored at Pacific Garden were thrown away. Now Mike stashes his clothes in a closet where he works, but says he doesn't know what he'll do if someone finds them there.

1 a.m. Most of the residents at Pacific Garden are asleep. Those who can't sleep—especially first timers—are awake with their thoughts.

"You've got all of this stuff on your mind," Mike says. "Where am I going to go in the morning? Do I smell okay? What does my appearance look like? Am I presentable? Nine times out of 10 I'm not because I'm wearing the same clothes I was wearing yesterday."

4:30 a.m. The lights go on. Residents are awakened for the morning church service. Like the night before, attendance is required to eat. "All we ask is that they sit through the service," Kwiatkowski says. "I believe you shortchange an individual if you give them a bowl of beans and a suit of clothes and you shove them out the door."

Not everyone likes it, though. "It's forever in your face. I mean, forever in your face when you're there," Mike says. "It makes you not want to go to church sometimes."

Not all shelters in Chicago have the same religious requirements Pacific Garden has. Not all shelters allow people to keep coming back, either. "There is no limited length of stay here," Kwiatkowski says.

At Hilda's Place, a homeless shelter in Evanston, Ill., men and women have three days to establish goals or they are not permitted to return. "We will not let people stay on unless they are willing to work with the case managers and with the staff on goals," says Carolyn Ellis, the shelter's director. Hilda's Place does not have any religious requirements. However, Ellis says mandatory showers are handled on a "case-by-case basis" for those who need them.

5:30 a.m. The men are quiet as they collect their clothes. Those with their own soap clean up for the day. The rest go downstairs to get their bags and go to the service. Many fall asleep again until they are dismissed for breakfast. Breakfast consists of grits, eggs, a hard bagel and a glass of water or coffee. "The food is one of the better things," Mike says.

7 a.m. When they finish eating, the men leave the shelter, re-entering street life for another day. Mike's job doesn't start until late afternoon, so he heads for a park bench to sit for awhile.

"You have nowhere to go in the morning. You're wearing the same clothes. If it's raining, you're out here in the rain. If it's freezing, you're out here in the cold."

The stigma of homelessness follows him out of the shelter and on to the streets. "Just hanging out here in the park—people act as if you're invisible," he says. "Time moves very slowly sitting on a bench waiting for a place to open up. I wish I had enough money to go hang in McDonald's or White Hen."

Mike says he wishes the shelter would let people stay there longer during the day. According to Kwiatkowski, the shelter stays open all day during the winter but not the summer so guests can use the time to look for jobs.

"I don't even know of a job that's interviewing at seven o'clock in the morning," Mike says.

Les Brown of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless sees a larger problem than how long shelters stay open. "The biggest danger with shelters is we've begun to, as a society, accept shelters as a normal way of housing people," he says. "It's becoming an institution—an institutionalized way of helping people who really need jobs and housing."

8 a.m. "It is now eight o'clock," Mike says. "Where am I gonna go?" Mike has to kill time until his job starts at 1:30 p.m.

"For me, this is just temporary," he says. "I need to get the hell away from here. I want something out of my life."

Until he has more money, though, Mike will continue going to the shelter at night. It's not a home, but at least it's a place to stay.

WHO ARE THE HOMELESS?

In Chicago, 80,000 are homeless during the course of one year.

42% are single men.

40% are families with children: The fastest growing segment of the homeless population is women with children. Domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness among women with children.

17% are single women.

7% are unaccompanied youth: 25% of homeless youth become homeless before their 13th birthday.

25% are disabled.

Almost 50% are veterans: More Vietnam veterans are homeless today than the number of U.S. soldiers who died during the entire war.

WHY ARE THEY HOMELESS?

Lack of affordable housing

For every 225 households seeking housing, only 100 affordable housing units are available.

61% of poor Chicagoans spend 50% or more of their income on rent.

In Chicago, 700 single room occupancies for low-income people are destroyed each year.

The waiting period of public housing is 5½ years, and the waiting period for Section 8 housing certificates is 10 years. The Chicago Housing Authority has closed the list to new names.

Lack of decent jobs or sufficient income:

50% of homeless adults work full- or part-time but still cannot afford rent.

Chicago has lost more than 130,000 manufacturing jobs in the last decade.

In Chicago, a family of four must earn an annual income of \$33,490 to meet a basic budget including rent, transportation and child care.

In Illinois, the ratio of low-skilled, unemployed workers to jobs that pay a living wage is 222 to 1.

Lack of health care or support services:

30% of the homeless suffer from varying degrees of mental illness.

40% are substance abusers.

8% have AIDS or are HIV-positive.

Source: The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless; City of Chicago's "Report on Hunger and Homeless in American Cities" for the U.S. Conference of Mayors 1990–1994.●

PROFESSIONAL BOXING SAFETY ACT

● Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, the Senate's passage of the Professional Boxing Safety Act marks a red letter day for what is often called the red light district of sports. For this Senator, it also marks the culmination of nearly 5 years of working to make professional boxing a safer sport for our young people who choose to enter the ring. One of those young men, in particular, is largely responsible for achieving this milestone. I believe it is important that we recognize and acknowledge the contribution of this boxer, from my home State of Delaware—Dave Tiberi.

It was through Dave Tiberi's misfortune and subsequent hard work that I focused my attention up close and personal on the problems currently facing professional boxing. On February 8, 1992, in a nationally televised world title fight, Dave Tiberi, an unheralded challenger, lost a controversial split decision to the International Boxing Federation's middleweight champion, James Toney. The ABC-TV announcer proclaimed it as "the most disgusting decision I have ever seen."

As a result of that fight, I directed that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations undertake a comprehensive investigation of professional boxing, the first in the Senate in more than 30 years. Unfortunately, that investigation revealed what many of us had suspected—that the problems plaguing the sport remained much as Senator Kefauver found them when the Senate last investigated this issue three decades earlier.

First and foremost among all the problems facing the sport today, is protecting the health and safety of professional boxers. During the Olympics in Atlanta, we saw the great lengths to which we go to protect our amateur boxers. Yet, when these and other young men graduate to the professional ranks, we fail to provide even the most basic health and safety protections through minimum uniform national standards. Instead, we leave professional boxers at the mercy of a patchwork system of health and safety regulations that vary widely State by