

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TO THE SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to say farewell to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last 5 months and thank them for the contributions they make to the day-to-day operations of the Senate.

This particular group of pages has served with distinction and has done a marvelous job of balancing their responsibilities to their studies and to this body. Their final day as Senate pages is tomorrow, but I hope we will see some—or all—of them back in the Senate someday, as staffers or Senators.

I suspect few people understand how hard Senate pages work. On a typical day, pages are in school by 6:15 a.m. After several hours of classes each morning, pages then report to the Capitol to prepare the Senate Chamber for the day's session. Throughout the day—and sometimes into the night—pages are called upon to perform a wide array of tasks—from obtaining copies of documents and reports for Senators to use during debate, to running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, to lending a hand at our weekly conference luncheons.

Once we finish our business here for the day—no matter what time—the pages return to the dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and Senate session and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep.

Despite this rigorous schedule, these young people continually discharge their tasks efficiently and cheerfully. In fact, as one page put it, "We like working hard. When things get hectic, that's when we like it best."

This page class had the good fortune to witness some historic moments.

They saw President Bush present the Congressional Gold Medal to Dorothy Height, one of the giants of the modern civil rights movement in America.

They were present for important debates in this Chamber over such critical issues as the budget and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They've seen—and had their photos taken—with celebrities, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Just yesterday, they saw another famous visitor, the actor Mike Myers—better known to some as "Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery."

I hope the close-up view that these exceptional young people have had of the Senate at work these last few months has made this institution a little bit less of a mystery. Our government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" requires the active involvement of informed citizens to work.

I understand that many, if not most, of this semester's pages have decided to volunteer on political campaigns—both Republican and Democratic—when they return home. I'm told the campaigns run the gamut from local school board candidates to United States Senate candidates.

I am sure I speak for all Senators when I say, we applaud your continued involvement in the democratic process. We are very grateful for your outstanding service to the Senate this semester. And we wish you well in all that you choose to do in your future.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the names and hometowns of each of the Senate pages to whom we are saying goodbye today.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE PAGES—SPRING SEMESTER 2004

Andrew Blais, Rhode Island; Katherine Buck, New Hampshire; Sam Cannon, Utah; Erin Chase, South Dakota; Eric Coykendall, Arizona; Julie Cyr, Vermont; Joe Galli, Maine; Watson Hemrick, Tennessee; Jennifer Hirsch, Arkansas; Garrett Jackson, Mississippi; Kara Johnson, Illinois; Ben Kappelman, Montana; Andrew Knox, Vermont; Adam Lathan, Alabama; Betsy Lefholz, South Dakota; Brittney Moraski, Michigan; Alex Ogden, North Carolina; Jaclyn Pfahler, Montana; Aaron Porter, Tennessee; Ingrid Price, Utah; Laura Pritchard, Virginia; Laura Refsland, Wisconsin; Ryan Smith, Kentucky; Kyra Waitley, Idaho; Nathanael Whipple, California; and Elizabeth Wright, Montana.

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today in Palmyra, PA, volunteers at the Lebanon Valley Brethren Home will collect food and sell baked goods for the "Great American Bake Sale" to support their local food bank. In hundreds of small towns, suburban communities, and cities from New York to California, thousands of volunteers will help collect food, glean fields, prepare meals, and raise awareness as a part of National Hunger Awareness Day.

These dedicated volunteers and their compassionate acts represent a grassroots citizens' movement motivated to reduce hunger in America. These volunteers are the people who prepare the dinners and stock the shelves of the local charities that serve more than 9

million kids who lack basic food supplies. They are motivated by appalling statistics that show that more than 13 million children live in what the Federal Government deems "food insecure" households. And, of course, they are motivated by knowing the needs and faces of the vulnerable people in their communities.

Last year, an estimated 23 million low-income people—many of whom are from working families with children, are elderly, or have disabilities—received a meal or an emergency food box from one of the estimated 50,000 local hunger relief charities that dot the Nation's landscape. These charities, of which three-quarters are faith-based organizations, play an important and complementary role to State, local and Federal Government efforts to help low-income families achieve self-sufficiency. But for the family whose benefits have been exhausted, or the single mother who is waiting for the benefits to begin, or for those who simply don't want government help, these charities are the last line of defense against hunger.

Despite the selfless extraordinary work of these charities and their estimated one million volunteers, the need in many communities too often exceeds the available resources. At the same time, the United States throws away nearly 96 billion pounds of food each year.

Legislation I have sponsored, the Charity Aid, Recovery and Empowerment Act, or the CARE Act, would help close the gap between the need and available resources. The CARE Act provides farmers and ranchers, small businesses, and franchisees with a tax incentive that would allow these smaller business entities to enjoy the same tax incentives that large corporations receive when they donate food to charity. The CARE Act's food donation tax incentives will enable farmers with surplus crops to donate the food to a food bank or emergency shelter, recouping some of the cost of production and transportation—and preventing them from having to plow the crops back into the ground. The CARE Act gives a restaurant owner the incentive to donate surplus meals to a soup kitchen rather than throwing good food into a dumpster. America's Second Harvest, the Nation's food bank network, estimates that the CARE Act will help generate more than 878 million new meals for hungry people over the next 10 years.

This legislation, despite broad, bipartisan support for the food donation tax incentives and the other provisions in the act, is now stalled in the Senate, not being allowed to go to conference. The CARE Act is in jeopardy, and with its fortunes go the hopes of tens of thousands of people that serve America's most vulnerable families. We cannot allow partisan differences, unrelated to this legislation, to undo the promise that the CARE Act offers to millions of Americans. The CARE Act

should be allowed to go to a bipartisan conference and thereby ensure that no food bank, pantry or soup kitchen will have to turn away a hungry family, senior, or child because the cupboard is bare.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today is National Hunger Awareness Day, and it is an opportunity for all of us in Congress to pledge a greater effort to deal effectively with this festering problem that shames our Nation and has grown even more serious in recent years.

The number of Americans living in hunger, or on the brink of hunger has increased every year during the current administration. It now includes 13 million children—400,000 more than when President Bush took office.

These Americans deserve higher priority by all in Congress. Day in and day out, the needs of millions of Americans living in poverty have been overlooked, and too often their voices have been silenced.

These are real people, struggling every day to get by. They are single mothers serving coffee at the local diner at 5 a.m. and cleaning houses in the afternoon, yet are still unable to afford both shelter and food. They are low-wage workers holding down two jobs, yet still forced to make impossible choices between feeding their family, paying the rent, and obtaining decent medical care. They are children who go to bed hungry every night whose parents can't afford to give them more than a single slim meal a day.

The World Food Summit in 1996 called global attention to this crisis and in response the Clinton administration pledged to begin an effort to cut hunger and food insecurity in half in the United States by 2010. In the boom of the Clinton years, we made progress toward that goal—hunger decreased steadily through 2000. We now have 6 years left to fulfill our commitment, and we must not fail.

The answer is a renewed commitment to reaching that goal. The fastest, most direct way to reduce hunger in the Nation is to improve and expand the current Federal nutrition programs. Sadly, it is difficult to persuade the current administration and the current Congress to fund important child nutrition programs such as the school breakfast and school lunch programs and the summer food program, but numerous groups throughout the Nation are doing their best to make a difference.

Project Bread in Massachusetts helps fund nearly 400 food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks and food salvage programs across the State, and also coordinates local efforts to develop effective solutions to reduce hunger.

Congress can also do better. The Senate Agriculture Committee approved a bipartisan child nutrition bill last month to strengthen and expand nutrition programs, and it deserves to be enacted into law as soon as possible.

A strong job market will also significantly reduce hunger. A major challenge in today's troubled economy is that it has been creating just one job

for every three out-of-work Americans. We need an economy that works for everyone, and a job creation plan that enables every American to afford a decent quality of life.

That means jobs that pay a living wage. Right now, we are sending the wrong message to low-income workers. We are telling them that hard work does not pay. We are saying that workers who play by the rules deserve little or even nothing in return. Why can't we all agree that no one who works for a living should have to live in poverty, constantly wondering where the next meal is coming from?

For too many adults of all ages, the fight against hunger is a constant ongoing struggle. It undermines their productivity, their earning power, and even their health. It keeps their children from concentrating and learning in school.

It makes no sense to allow the gap between rich and poor to grow wider. We can not ignore the poorest in our Nation, and all those who need our help the most. National Hunger Awareness Day is our chance to rededicate ourselves in Congress to this cause, and we can't afford to miss it.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President. I rise today to speak about a problem impacting communities across the United States and throughout the world. As many of my colleagues know, today is National Hunger Awareness Day. It is a day meant to focus our attention on our friends, coworkers, classmates, and neighbors for whom putting food on the table continues to be a daily struggle. Sadly, for the nearly 35 million Americans who are "hungry" or "food insecure," hunger is more than a statistic, it is an insomnia within the American dream. This is a reality that the people of my home State of Oregon know far too well.

For the last several years, Oregon has been at or near the top of repeated nationwide studies of hunger and food insecurity in the United States. And I can tell you that as a member of this chamber and an Oregonian, the statistics on hunger and food insecurity continue to confound me. Despite all of our advances in agriculture technology and food distribution, children and families in my State and around the country will go to bed hungry tonight. The sad irony is that many of the communities most affected by hunger are the very ones that grow the food upon which the rest of us rely.

On the horizon, Oregon's economy appears to be brightening. While there are no quick fixes, I believe that solving hunger is within our grasp. Later today, Senator LINCOLN and I will be announcing the creation of the Senate Hunger Caucus. This caucus will serve as a forum to raise awareness and foster cooperation among business interests, community leaders, and local, State, and national non-profits to work with Congress to address hunger.

As policymakers, our job is to take the pieces of this puzzle and put them together in a way that leaves our communities whole and healthy. Govern-

ment cannot act alone to solve the problem but must work in concert with those who are best able to help. I believe the creation of the Senate caucus is an important step in focusing on this problem. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and groups back in Oregon to address these issues.

In Oregon, we have been blessed with a number of organizations and individuals who have taken it upon themselves to help in this effort and assist their neighbors in need. Groups such as Birch Community Services and the Oregon Food Bank have shown themselves to be true assets to their communities. As an Oregonian, I can tell you that I am especially proud of how they have responded to what has been a difficult last couple of years in our State, and I look forward to continuing to work with them in the fight against hunger.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to the fact that it is National Hunger Awareness Day and to raise the visibility of issues of hunger in America.

What is the face of hunger in America? A child. A mother. A father. A single working parent. A homeless person. A grandmother raising grandchildren. A grandfather. A senior citizen living off of social security. An unemployed person. A disabled worker. A military veteran. People of all races and ethnicities.

These are the faces of the almost 35 million Americans that live in households that are food insecure. Food insecurity is not isolated to one region. These 35 million Americans live in the small towns of New England, in the large cities of New York, Boston, Chicago and Atlanta. They live in the deltas of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi and the plains of the Dakotas down to Kansas. There is food insecurity and hunger in the timber regions of Washington and Oregon and on the beaches of California. Food insecurity affects the States of the four corners down into Texas and Oklahoma. No region of this country is without hunger.

Today is National Hunger Awareness Day. I have come to the Senate floor to talk about hunger in America and to raise awareness about the complex issues surrounding hunger.

When many Americans think of hunger they often think of starving people in developing countries around the world, and the number of hungry people living around the world is staggering.

Eight hundred million people, including children, are hungry and food insecure in the world today. America must continue to lead in its generosity to aid the world's food insecure. But hunger is not just a distant problem for developing countries. Hunger exists among our own citizens here in America.

Because today is National Hunger Awareness Day, I will focus my remarks on the less recognized face of

hunger and that is the face of the Americans, our neighbors, and our fellow citizens who are hungry and food insecure.

What does food insecurity mean? Food insecurity is limited or uncertain access to nutritional food. Food insecurity is not knowing from where the next meal is coming.

Food insecurity is not unique among the homeless and unemployed. On the contrary, many food insecure households in America have at least one working adult. We need only compare the national unemployment numbers with the food insecurity numbers to see that they don't match up. There are far more food insecure individuals than there are unemployed people. America's working poor are finding it difficult to make ends meet and at times provide the most basic needs for their family—nutritious food.

Perhaps our most vulnerable food insecure individuals are our children and seniors. Due to the high costs of healthcare and living expenses, many seniors often find themselves choosing between medicine and groceries because they may not be able to afford both. Programs such as Meals on Wheels and local community senior programs are so important to the health of our seniors.

Children rely on parents to provide for their basic needs. Of the 35 million people who are food insecure in America, just over 13 million are children. This is the same number of children that are receiving free lunches through the National School Lunch Program. This vital program provides many children with the most nutritious meal they will receive in a given day. We must continue to find opportunities to fill in the gaps because the National School Lunch Program only covers Monday through Friday during the school year. The traditional three months of summer vacation from school is a critical time when many children are missing essential nutrition in their diets.

One example of a successful program in my home State of Arkansas is helping feed children outside of school. The Arkansas Rice Depot's Food For Kids program provides hungry children with a quick, high-energy snack during school and then provides a backpack filled with nutritious foods children can prepare for themselves at home. The Food For Kids program is serving 329 schools and 15,000 students in Arkansas. Founded in 1995, this program is the first of its kind in the Nation and now 20 cities across the Nation have established similar programs.

Throughout my remarks I have mentioned the word nutrition. In the fight to end hunger, providing access to nutritious food is key. Many Americans are now waking up to the long-term health complications caused by obesity. It may seem strange to talk about obesity and hunger at the same time but the reality is that people with limited access to money and food typically

consume the cheapest food that they can purchase in large quantities, and often these foods lack important nutrients for a balanced diet. We can fight obesity early on by educating children about nutrition and help provide opportunities for children to access nutritious foods at school and at after school programs. Additionally, through food assistance programs we must continue to encourage adults to access nutritious foods and help provide opportunities to learn about nutrition.

For Americans, hunger does not mean entire towns and villages full of starving people—people literally starving and dying because they cannot eat. Fortunately, we are able to provide the citizens most in need with access to some kind of food to meet basic needs through Federal and State assistance programs such as Food Stamps, WIC, the National School Lunch Program, and thousands of non-profit organizations, churches, faith-based groups, and dedicated individuals.

The challenges in America are to continue to find ways to provide Americans that are food insecure with access to nutritious meals and opportunities to gain skills to improve their economic situation and quality of life.

To that end, today, along with my friend from Oregon, Senator SMITH, I am pleased to announce the formation of the U.S. Senate Hunger Caucus. We are delighted that many of our colleagues are joining us in this bipartisan effort to work on national and international hunger issues. The Senate Hunger Caucus will be a vehicle through which Senators can work together to promote initiatives to help address the root causes of hunger and to help form partnerships with the many valuable organizations and programs that are committed to ending hunger.

Just a few hours ago, I was joined by my good friends, Senators SMITH and DOLE, at the D.C. Central Kitchen where we announced the formation of the Senate Hunger Caucus and discussed many of the key hunger issues in America. The D.C. Central Kitchen is located just a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol and is a nationally known food rescue organization. The D.C. Central Kitchen converts rescued or donated food into 4,000 meals each day, 365 days a year, which feed the hungry in the Washington metropolitan area. As a part of the D.C. Central Kitchen program, unemployed people are trained to gain job skills that enable them to find work in the culinary arts industry. The D.C. Central Kitchen is a great model for taking wasted food and turning it into nutritious meals and economic opportunities for people in need.

We were pleased to be joined at today's event by representatives of many of the national anti-hunger groups that we look forward to partnering with in this effort. Some of these groups include: America's Second Harvest, American School Food Service Asso-

ciation, Bread for the World, Congressional Hunger Center, Food Research and Action Center, Share Our Strength, the World Food Program and Heifer International.

At this time, I want to recognize many of the Arkansas groups working to fight hunger and encourage nutritious living, and they include: Arkansas Hunger Coalition, Arkansas Foodbank Network, Harvest Texarkana, Potluck, Inc., Arkansas Rice Depot, Northwest Arkansas Foodbank, Northeast Arkansas Foodbank, North Central Arkansas Foodbank, Southwest Arkansas, Food bank, Bradley County Helping Hand, Ozark Foodbank, Memphis Foodbank, Winrock, Heifer International, Arkansas School Food Service Association, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Arkansas Community Action Agencies, Arkansas Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, local food pantries, churches and many others who work to feed Arkansans in need. Many of these groups are also using today as a time to talk about hunger and food insecurity.

In closing, it's easy for me to be passionate about the issue of hunger. As a farmer's daughter I was raised with an understanding of the value of having access to food—to good, safe and nutritious food. As the daughter of two compassionate, Christian parents I was taught to help others and to share my blessings with those in need. As a mother of two young boys I can empathize with the fear that a parent feels when they must answer a hungry child when there is no food to be eaten. Just the other day, one of my boys ran into the house and said "Mom, I'm starving." And I replied, "what would you like?" Later on I thought about the mothers whose children ask the same question but they don't have food to offer, they can't just reach into the cabinet to pull out food. It was a devastating thought and my heart goes out to the mothers and fathers who at times are not sure where the next meal is coming from.

My home State of Arkansas knows hunger. With almost 600,000 Arkansans living below the national poverty line, hunger, food insecurity, obesity and limited access to nutritious foods are key issues. With a State population of 2.6 million, approximately 380,000 Arkansans live in food insecure households.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate as well as hunger non-profit organizations in my State and across the Nation to find solutions to hunger problems plaguing our nation and world. And to dream of the day when globally, working together to harness our vast resources, we can end hunger.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY