

he was Vice President and I was an intern in the office, hired by Dick when he was Chief of Staff.

And then I got to see him back in Minnesota, where he was, literally, working at the law firm with me, and I saw him in grocery lines, where he would engage in long discussions with the clerk at the grocery station on how we could get, say, peace in the Middle East or what we should be doing about an economic crisis.

And Mondale had that same thing that drew Dick Moe to him, and that was a grounding in the people that you represent.

So we all know what a great job he did running that office and his Norwegian sense of humor—I know those words don't always go together, but it was a very dry sense of humor—and just this belief in decency.

Senator SMITH recounted how Dick helped Fritz prepare for that meeting with Jimmy Carter. And I had one interesting perspective on how prepared Walter Mondale was for that meeting.

When I actually went to Plains, a few years back, and met with President Carter and Mrs. Carter, what they told me, over the pimento and cheese sandwiches that the former First Lady made, was that it was Walter Mondale that knew that her name was pronounced “Rosalynn” and not “Rosalynn.” And I have a very strong feeling that Dick Moe drilled that into Mondale's head when running down there. And Carter actually said that really stood out because a bunch of the candidates mispronounced his wife's name.

Among other things, as Tina explained, this was a model that they, after getting elected, embarked on, and Dick Moe became Vice President Mondale's Chief of Staff. He crafted that 11-page memo that redefined the Vice Presidency, giving an active role in shaping policy, and he also served on President Carter's senior staff, which was very unique.

That is when I got to be an intern at that time. I still remember writing in, sending in my letter, and interviewing over the phone. I have this cherished picture in the Vice President's home backyard that Dick Moe is in with all the interns, which included me and Tom Nides, who went on to be our Ambassador to Israel. It was quite an intern class, and he was there. I remember it was the first time I ever had lobster; so it is very memorable to me.

I was so eager when I got there to do these policy memos that I had talked to Dick about and write all of these very smart ideas for them. And they, in fact, assigned me to do the furniture inventory of every piece of furniture in the Vice President's office and write down the numbers on a spreadsheet and make sure that they were all there and turn it into some government office. And I literally crawled around on the floor for 2 weeks, checking serial numbers on desks and chairs.

So the first thing I learned from all that is that Walter Mondale and his

Chief of Staff, Dick Moe, were scrupulously honest, and nothing was missing and, second, was to take every job seriously. I often share that with young people, including the interns in the Capitol.

That internship that Dick Moe hired me for was my first government job in Washington, DC, and this was my second. So I remind them: Take those internships and the people you work with and the relationships, even if they are fleeting, that you form as you are meeting people and getting to know them, because they are oftentimes the key to your future. And never complain about what assignments you get.

So Dick Moe believed in preparing the next generation of public servants. I think Senator SMITH's story of that just really says it all. And then, in his later years, when he is not feeling as good, he takes that time to be such a mentor to her.

So we talked about the longest serving president for the National Trust for Historic Preservation—a 17-year tenure. He led the efforts to rebuild so many historic neighborhoods in New Orleans, after Hurricane Katrina. Working on restoring President Lincoln's cottage is such an amazing thing. To think it had not been restored, but Dick Moe knew how important that was.

I don't think he saw preservation as nostalgia. I think he saw it as honoring our country and honoring the Americans that had served.

There was a lot about that book, “The Last Full Measure,” that I just love, and it is now recognized as the definitive history of the First Minnesota Regiment, which, as we know, fought for the Union in the Civil War, before Minnesota was even a State.

There had been another book, the historical novel “The Killer Angels,” which, OK, won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1975, but Dick felt it did not correctly account for the bravery of the Minnesotans in the First Minnesota, and he more than righted that wrong.

So that story that I have often quoted around our State about the 262-member First Minnesota Regiment, which held the line against 1,600 Confederate troops while desperately needed reinforcements were brought in on the Union side, is truly worthy of the book that Dick wrote.

I went with a number of Senators, including Senator KING and a number of Republican Senators, to take a 1-day deep dive on the Gettysburg battlefield site, Monday. It was led by the head of the War College and another veteran member of that War College. And we went to that site.

We first talked about Maine and the historic story of Maine, and then we went to the Minnesota site, which is a very big monument, but it is not nearly as much visited.

The head of the War College, at the time, actually started to shed a tear when he told the story because he said,

as Dick knew, the story of the First Minnesota was a story like no other.

They asked them to hold the line—262 men, 200—and they didn't pause. They went and did it. And we saw that open field. And 215 of them were struck down by bullets, an 82-percent casualty rate, the highest percentage of casualty suffered by any Union regiment in a single engagement in the entire war.

That sacrifice, which Dick researched and captured, is summed up by a Churchill quote:

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

Those ragtag soldiers that didn't even have proper uniforms, that were farmers, that were laborers, that were part of a regiment from a State that wasn't even a State, stood up when it couldn't be more of a difficult burden, and they didn't hesitate, and they did their jobs.

That is what Dick honored with that story, and it is something I think we all should be thinking about right now. What is truly sacrificed? What does it mean to be an American? What does it mean to stand up for your country?

So Dick's wife Julia and his kids Alexandra and Andrew, and the granddaughters, we send our love and gratitude. Our State is so much better and our country is so much better because of Dick Moe. He showed us, and clearly Senator SMITH, that public service is worth it, that this devotion to history is not just some ancient thing in a dusty book. It matters to now.

He showed us that the ties that bind us—whether it is small towns and historic preservation of buildings, like Lincoln's Cottage—mean something in the now; that history matters. And I think we all need to remember that today.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, it is day 23 of the Schumer shutdown, making this the second longest shutdown in modern history. While Senator SCHUMER says “every day gets better” for Democrats, the stunt is taking a real toll on Americans. Closing the government may be a game for Washington politicians, but it is not fun for the folks in Iowa who work hard and expect Congress to do the same.

A social service provider in Sioux City is facing challenges providing shelter for the homeless because the Social Security Administration is closed.

The wife of a civilian employee at the Rock Island Arsenal worries that if he doesn't get paid, the family may have to dip into their daughter's college funds to make ends meet.

Another frustrated constituent in Council Bluffs says:

We have families here living paycheck to paycheck. They cannot afford food, much less healthcare.

An employee of the Farm Service Agency in Taylor County, which is a

neighboring county to my county, Montgomery, in rural southwest Iowa, says the shutdown is putting a strain on beginning farmers as well as the elderly producers in her community.

And the closure of USDA service centers is financially impacting farmers, which will have ripple effects on everyone for months to come. Thousands of families in Iowa are already facing the real possibility of not being able to put food on the table.

Recipients of SNAP will not receive benefits next month, and WIC—Women, Infants, and Children—support for mothers and babies will also run out very soon.

And Iowans aren't alone in this.

If Democrats do not allow the government to reopen, half of our States will run out of money to provide SNAP benefits in November. That means millions of children across the country will have food taken away from them by the Schumer shutdown. This is a particularly cruel way to make a political point, especially at Thanksgiving time.

So most folks here in this body really understand that there are a lot of families that mean a lot to me, not only my families in Iowa but then also all of our military families across the United States.

So my daughter and my son-in-law serve on Active-Duty Army. My daughter and I talk just about every day, either by FaceTime or by phone, and the shutdown is really impacting her younger soldiers. So every day my daughter and I go through those discussions of where will the soldiers find food. Her discussion with me today centered around a talk she had with their military chaplain yesterday. She was typing up a letter so that her soldiers could receive gift cards before Thanksgiving from the chaplain's funds. But unfortunately, the chaplain said: I don't even know that we will have funds so that we can give the gift cards for the families because of the shutdown.

One of the military units has actually started its own internal food bank so that soldiers can go to that food bank and get food for their families. Anyone that has served in the military or knows someone that serves in the military understands that already our military men and women, many of them qualify for SNAP even though they are employed by the military.

These are families that are currently serving every single day with the inability to get paid. Now, thankfully, the President was able to scratch together dollars from the Department of Defense to pay them their first check, but this is a long-term problem we are facing now. And the President won't be able to keep doing that.

So we have all of our Federal employees, our military men and women that are not getting paid. They can't literally put food on the table. One of my daughter's soldiers has had to drop out of college. This NCO works full-time

during the day and tries to do better by going to college at night. And she can't afford to pay the tuition now that is required, and there are no appropriated funds to move forward with her college. And so she had to pull her enrollment yesterday.

So we are impacting families in all of our home States. We are impacting the men and women that are defending our Nation. This standoff is a fight for survival. But what I am doing here, I am fighting for the folks who are continuing to work hard every single day without a paycheck or going without the help they need just simply to get by. But the Democrats are fighting for their own political survival.

We witnessed here on this very floor earlier today the majority of Democrats vote no on paying these essential workers in the Federal Government. Air traffic controllers, our military men and women, the Capitol policemen that protect this complex, the staff that we see here sitting today. They voted no. One Democrat Senator candidly confided to *The Hill* newspaper that if Democrats vote to reopen the government, "people are going to get hammered" by their liberal base.

Another admits there are enough Democrats who would vote to reopen the government "if people were not terrified of getting the guillotine."

Apparently, the socialist uprising within the Democrat party is turning into a modern-day French revolution, folks.

And playing the role of Marie Antoinette proclaiming, "Let them eat cake," is Senator SCHUMER.

The truth is, Democrats are literally—I mean literally—taking food out of the mouths of babes to save themselves from their own unhinged voters, instead of bending to the loud-mouthed, liberal lunatics and socialist sociopaths who make up their base. Democrats should listen to their colleague Senator FETTERMAN of Pennsylvania.

Senator FETTERMAN called the shutdown "bad political theater," adding that "there are no winners here. It's not getting better every day here. People are going to start to get really hungry."

He is absolutely right, folks, and the Democrats know it is causing pain. In fact, that is the whole point of this exercise. Congresswoman KATHERINE CLARK, the second in line, the second in line in the House Democratic leadership, said the quiet part out loud, stating: "Families are going to suffer because of the shutdown."

She calls that suffering "leverage." Leverage. The American people and their suffering babies are leverage. Using the suffering of the very people we were elected to serve as political leverage is just plain sick.

Perhaps Republicans need to start using our own leverage: the Senate schedule. If CHUCK SCHUMER cancels Thanksgiving for millions of families across America who can't feed their

children, the holidays should be canceled for the Senate as well.

We should all be prepared to stay here until we reopen the government so no child will go to bed hungry because of Schumer's shutdown shenanigans.

This is a serious job, folks. We need to take it seriously. We need to act seriously. And we need to ensure the shutdown ends.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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### REMEMBERING BRUCE SAGAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, local papers are the lifeline of our communities. They inform citizens of not only what is going on in their city halls, but their wedding halls as well. These papers connect Americans and remind us that we are part of a community greater than ourselves. This was something that Bruce Sagan understood well, and for more than 70 years, he saved newspapers, theatres, and helped preserve Chicago's cultural vibrance. Bruce was the embodiment of an engaged citizen; he was someone who constantly strived to support his community, and it is with great sadness that I share the news of his passing.

Bruce was born in Summit, NJ, and at just 16 years old, he moved to Chicago to study at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park. While professors may have missed Bruce in the classroom, they could not miss him in the pages of the *Chicago Maroon*, UChicago's newspaper. Bruce was an avid writer and supporter of the *Maroon*, constantly working to ensure that the paper covered the important issues of the day.

On UChicago's campus, the issue of racial discrimination was dominating the discussion. A group of students were working to expose the medical school's practice of rejecting Black students, and while students lined the streets in protest, Bruce was busy behind a typewriter, working to publicize their efforts and shine a light on discrimination. His work at the *Maroon* in support of integration was an early sign of the values Bruce brought to journalism.

Bruce's passion for journalism couldn't be satisfied by a student paper, so he left college and the *Chicago Maroon* to go work for the *City News Bureau*. Known across Chicago as the "reporter's boot camp," *City News*