

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

State, both by rule and enforcement. In this day and age, that is not acceptable.

That is why I have worked, along with my colleague Senator DORGAN, to ensure this legislation remedies these inequities by establishing, for the first time, minimum uniform national health and safety standards. These provisions will ensure that every professional boxing match in the United States is conducted under these standards. Every professional boxer will know that, no matter where they fight, there will be a doctor at ringside; an ambulance available; and health insurance provided.

I also want to commend our colleagues in the House who significantly strengthened this legislation by adopting a provision I have previously proposed—prohibiting conflicts of interest on the part of boxing regulators. My investigation highlighted conflicts of interest to be among the major problems facing boxing today, always to the detriment of the boxers. Dealing with this problem is essential if we are to effect meaningful boxing reform.

Dave Tiberi has never fought again, despite numerous lucrative offers. Instead he has dedicated his efforts to working with young people in Delaware and reforming boxing. If there has ever been a role model in boxing for our young people, his name is Dave Tiberi. Although he never got his world title, knowing that his hard work will protect future boxers is his big payday; and that is why Dave Tiberi will always be a champion.

Boxing reform is not a marquee issue that appeals to a large constituency. As such, it could be easily pushed aside and lost among all the other issues clamoring for attention in the final days of this Congress. Yet, professional boxing is important, not only to its millions of fans, but primarily because the sport creates opportunities for many young men for whom such opportunities are rare. We owe these young men a system outside the ring that works as hard to protect them as they do inside the ring. That is why I have worked to reform professional boxing. While it does not go far enough, I believe this legislation is a significant step toward achieving that goal. I commend and thank my colleagues for adopting this important legislation.●

H.R. 3118, VETERANS' HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY REFORM ACT OF 1996

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3118, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, as amended by the committee substitute. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the substitute amendment, which provides for greater uniformity and flexibility in veterans' health care eligibility, enacts significant improvements in health care programs, and authorizes major construction projects.

I am especially pleased with sections of the bill that make improvements in the Readjustment Counseling Service [RCS] program. As my colleagues know, RCS operates over 200 community-based vet centers around the Nation, each of which provides a variety

of services designed to help returned veterans adjust to civilian life. These include services relating to post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness, disaster assistance, sexual trauma, alcohol and substance abuse, suicide prevention, the physically disabled, and minority veterans. To date, vet centers have successfully assisted well over 1 million veterans.

The RCS improvements in this bill include: making World War II and Korea theater veterans eligible for vet center services for the first time; directing VA to study the desirability of collocating vet centers with outpatient clinics; directing VA to report on the feasibility of providing limited, primary health care services at vet centers; making the Advisory Committee on Readjustment of Veterans a permanent, statutory entity; and clarifying and enhancing the status of the Director of RCS, which will guarantee a degree of administrative autonomy for the program.

Mr. President, these provisions are derived from S. 403, the Readjustment Counseling Service Amendments of 1995, which was cosponsored by Senators DASCHLE, WELLSTONE, INOUE, and JEFFORDS. S. 403 in turn was derived from legislation I originally offered in the 103d Congress which twice passed the Senate. I am disappointed that some of the provision of S. 403 were not included in this compromise measure. These include provisions that would have: made RCS a statutory agency within VA, required congressional notification of proposed changes to the administrative or organizational structure of RCS, required a specific RCS operating budget to be identified in VA's annual budget submission, and authorized vet centers to offer bereavement counseling to the families of service persons killed in service. Nevertheless, I am deeply appreciative that many of the goals of that legislation have been achieved in the pending measure.

Mr. President, many people deserve to be recognized for their efforts in making possible the RCS provisions in this bill. First, I would like to thank Senators SIMPSON and ROCKEFELLER and their respective staffs, notably Chris Yoder and Bill Brew, for putting together this compromise.

Second, I wish to recognize Al Batres, Susan Angell, Stephen Molnar, and other RCS employees, whose testimony before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in 1993 provided the original justification for my legislation. Steve Molnar, Director of the Honolulu Vet Center, has been, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for his untiring dedication to the Aloha State's veterans.

Last, I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Gerry Kifer, a former Congressional Fellow with my office, whose insights and hard work led to the drafting of my original RCS legislation. Gerry provided the focus and energy that made today's legislation possible.

Thank you, Mr. President. I hope my colleagues can support the RCS provisions contained in H.R. 3118, as amended. I urge swift enactment of the bill.●

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S 85TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask that the following letter of congratulations recognizing the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China be

printed in the RECORD. In light of the efforts at political reform and recent economic successes of the Republic of China, it is appropriate that we honor this important milestone.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

President LEE TENG-HUI,
c/o Foreign Minister John H. Chang, the Republic of China, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

DEAR PRESIDENT LEE: We wish to extend our greetings to you, Vice President Lien Chan and Foreign Minister John H. Chang on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China.

In the last few years, Taiwan has impressed the world with economic success and political reform. We are well aware of your efforts in cooperating with us on matters of mutual interest. We are also aware of your recent campaign to rejoin the United Nations and other international organizations. As you seek to develop even better ties with the U.S. and shoulder more international responsibility, we wish you and your countrymen every success.

Representative Jason Hu has done an excellent job of keeping members briefed on what has been happening in your country. He and his staff are to be commended for their efforts.

Mr. President, may you and your people have a wonderful 85th anniversary celebration. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

TRENT LOTT.
THAD COCHRAN.
DON NICKLES.
LARRY E. CRAIG.●

THE DEFENSE MANPOWER DRAWDOWN

● Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, almost 4 years ago I made a series of speeches about our men and women in uniform who won the cold war.

I asked my colleagues to remember their sacrifice as we undertook the unprecedented drawdown of our All Volunteer Force.

I asked that we ensure that the drawdown was accomplished in a way that preserved the legacy of national security which that force had built.

And I called on the Congress to see that people leaving military service were given a helping hand as they moved into civilian life, because we owed it to them and because the Nation needed their skills.

When I made those remarks, the post-cold-war drawdown was mostly in front of us. Although it had started in 1987, the downsizing moved slowly at first and then halted completely for Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Today, as I rise to review what has happened in the intervening 3 years, the downsizing is over 90 percent complete, and next year it will essentially be complete.

Let me begin by looking at the drawdown and how we did at meeting this enormous challenge. In the late 1980's, after the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union, it became clear that we could make significant reductions in the size of our Armed Forces. It was decided by the Bush administration and the Congress to reduce military personnel by approximately one-third over a period of 5 years.

As a nation, we had experience with large demobilizations after World War