

even though three-fourths are eligible for the relief. This bill will help rural families apply for food stamps online or by telephone. It eliminates the need to travel to food stamp offices. In addition, the bill also supports stronger public-private partnerships to distribute information about nutrition assistance programs.

Finally, the bill increases federal support for emergency food programs, which have had sharp increases in requests for help in the past year. Many food banks find themselves unable to meet the heavy new demands. America's Second Harvest reports that 23.3 million people—equal to the combined population of the 10 largest U.S. cities—received emergency hunger relief last year—two million more than in 1997. One-in-five local charitable agencies were already facing problems that threatened their ability to serve hungry people in their communities—before the current economic crisis.

For all of these reasons, it is critical that we maintain the \$6.2 billion funding level for the nutrition title of this bill. This amount is urgently needed and it must be part of the final bill. The policy changes that will be accomplished will make an enormous difference in the lives of many families. Fewer children will go to bed hungry and arrive at school hungry and unfed.

The current downturn in the economy means that even more families, including farm families, are facing the impossible choice between feeding their children and paying the rent, a choice no person should have to make. We have the resources to make the modest investment that is necessary. Once again, I commend Senator HARKIN and Senator LUGAR for their skillful work and I urge my colleagues to support the needed funding levels for nutrition.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 30 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, it would appear that after more than a decade of discussions about campaign finance reform, the House of Representatives and the Senate may be nearer an accord on a historic change of how Federal elections are conducted in the United States. It is none too soon. Confidence in our political process has been undermined, the integrity of the Congress itself has been questioned, and the system is badly in need of repair.

We are very indebted to a number of people in this institution and different

institutions around the country, but in a strange irony, at a stroke before midnight, one of the elements that has been driving reform is undermining a critical component of the change.

Much of what America knows about the abuses of campaign reform has come through the media. Across the Congress today, the Broadcasters Association, led by scores of lobbyists representing millions of dollars of donations of the very type and scale that we seek to control, is undermining the bill.

Campaign finance reform, as passed by this Senate and the legislation pending in the House, includes a critical component for controlling and reducing the cost of television advertising.

The amendment, widely accepted in both Houses of Congress, is based on the proposition that controlling the amount of money raised must be met by an ability to control the amount of money spent. Controlling campaign fundraising without helping with the cost of campaigns will simply result in a diminished national political debate. Candidates will raise less money, and if the cost of advertising remains as high, we will lose the competitive debate, the exchange of ideas so vital to our democracy.

As any candidate for Federal office in the United States is painfully aware, the cost of campaigns is the cost of television advertising. Eighty-five percent of the cost of a Senate campaign goes to the television networks.

Under the amendment as passed by this institution, the networks would be required to sell time at the lowest unit rate available; that is, whatever rate they have set for their customers and sold at their lowest cost they must make available to a candidate for Federal office.

This provision was in previous Federal law since 1971, but in 1990 an FCC audit found that 80 percent of the stations had failed to give the lowest rate available. During the 2000 elections, a typical candidate had 65 percent of their advertising sold at above that lowest rate.

With my amendment now placed in the McCain-Feingold bill, passed by this Senate by a 69-to-31 vote on a bipartisan basis, that provision is now strengthened. It becomes mandatory, and it has the best chance of controlling these costs.

The chart on my left shows the scale of the problem: The percentage of ads actually sold at the lowest unit rate in the fall of 2000. Congress believed it made this a requirement before, but it has been evaded in the majority of cases.

Let's look at a few examples: Minneapolis, WCCO, 95 percent of the ads sold were not at the lowest rate; Detroit, WXYZ, 88 percent were not sold at the lowest rate. In my own market in northern New Jersey, WNBC New York, 78 percent were not sold at the lowest rate.

In the year 2000, the buying of these television ads cost candidates \$1 billion. This chart indicates as well the deluge of these ads, the amount of them now being placed on television.

Very simply, if we cannot hold in the McCain-Feingold bill and the Shays-Meehan bill in the House this element of controlling cost, this vital compromise that is campaign finance reform will be broken. It must be raising and it must be spending, and I ask the television networks to forgo these excess profits on the Federal airways, licensed by the Federal Government for the public good. Be part of reform. Don't undermine the reform. Let's change the system now for everybody's benefit.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SENATOR HERB KOHL

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I rise today to offer a tribute on the occasion of the birthday of one of our colleagues in the Senate, that of Senator HERB KOHL, Senior Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

I have known Senator KOHL for many years, since he first came to the Senate in 1989, and over that period of time, my respect and admiration for Senator KOHL has grown as I have watched him learn the role of a legislator and master the methods and the means of becoming a fine United States Senator.

Senator KOHL is hard-working, tenacious, and will fight to the end for the interests of this institution and those of his state. A few years ago when the Senate was debating legislation regarding the dairy industry, I remarked that Senator KOHL was the Stonewall Jackson of Wisconsin, standing firm for the interests of the dairy farmers in his state. When it comes to fighting for his state, or other issues of importance to him, such as measures to help and protect our nation's children, there is no one to outshine Senator KOHL in his dedication for the values he holds dear. That is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a good Senator.

But HERB KOHL is more than just a fine United States Senator, he is a good and decent man. His hallmark is honest modesty, a man of few words, but words of great meaning and words that deserve being heard. He is consistently kind to the people who work around him, especially his staff, who will follow him faithfully through thick and thin. His word is his bond, and to this Senator, there is no greater tribute than recognition of that fact.

Senator KOHL represents what is best about Senators and about Americans generally. He is a self-made man whose parents came to this country during the last century without an ability to speak the English language. From those humble beginnings, they and their son and other family members worked to develop a family grocery business in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that became successful and grew to have national recognition. If you drive around