

CHARITABLE GIVING

Mr. SANTORUM. Madam President, I rise to talk about a plan that is being discussed here in the Halls of the Senate and a very important plan in this time of economic recovery when we are looking at the 1-year anniversary a week ago of September 11 and the tragedy that has befallen so many people.

When we look at a lot of hardships going on in America, and while we had a great response and outpouring of support from the American public to the victims of 9/11, if we look at the rest of the charitable world, charitable giving is off about 20 percent. Part of that is the stock market, and part of it is because of the funds and worthy causes supporting the victims of 9/11. A lot of the service needs, artistic needs, and educational needs in communities all across the country are doing with a lot less money this time of year—at a time when the need is very great.

We are looking at a piece of legislation and working on a piece of legislation in the Senate. The Finance Committee marked up a bill in June to try to help the situation as part of the President's faith-based initiative. It is a charitable giving package that will strengthen the nonprofit sector of our economy—those who help in the human service area—as I mentioned, education and the arts.

We have been working very hard to try to get this legislation on the floor. Senator DASCHLE, I know, has given a commitment to the President that he will in fact bring this measure to the floor of the Senate and have a vote before the end of this session. We are winding down to the final days of the session, and that has yet to happen.

Senator LIEBERMAN, I know, has been working very hard, as have I, to get this legislation to the floor and do it under a unanimous consent agreement. Obviously, there are a lot of important issues being discussed, and we want to have the opportunity to have debate and amendments offered.

We are willing on our side of the aisle to have a limitation on amendments and a limitation on debate. We have had a discussion back and forth. The majority leader has suggested the way he would feel comfortable bringing this legislation up is to have one amendment on each side.

I have been working very hard on our side. I thank our leader, Senator LOTT, and our ranking member on the Finance Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, for getting together as a team and working our side of the aisle to make sure we get that down to one amendment.

We shared that amendment with the Democratic side of the aisle last week. So we had that amendment out so everybody would know what our amendment is. There are two other amendments. One will be an amendment on the Democratic side. I understand Senator REED from Rhode Island will be the offerer of that amendment. And then there will be a managers' amend-

ment. There will be a managers' amendment because there are certain issues in the underlying CARE Act that Senator LIEBERMAN and I worked out with the White House several months ago that are not under the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee and cannot be reported out of the Finance Committee. They have to be added on the floor.

Senator LINCOLN had concerns about provisions in the act. We worked diligently. Again, I thank Senator BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY for working this issue. We now have agreement, I understand, on Senator LINCOLN's provision and that is going to be included in the managers' amendment.

We had an amendment on our side of the aisle from Senator HUTCHISON of Texas which had bipartisan support, as Senator LINCOLN's did, and we put that in the managers' amendment.

We had things pop up, and we have been able to work out compromises and make this happen.

I was just informed a few minutes ago that the majority committee staff has actually given us the managers' amendment. I thank them for moving the ball down the field. We are reviewing that amendment. We can now, with that managers' amendment, actually go through the process of hotlining the bill on our side of the aisle.

I am very sanguine about our chances of getting approval on our side of the aisle for this very important legislation affecting millions of people in need in our society and the thousands upon thousands of volunteers, people who are committed to helping those less fortunate in our society. They are waiting for this legislation to pass.

I know the President in speech after speech has asked the Senate to move forward on this legislation during this time of economic need. We are approaching that point. I encourage this work to continue.

I understand there is a good-faith effort ongoing, but we are reaching the end of the session. We have 3 weeks to go. If we pass this legislation, we have to get our colleagues in the House to act on it. We do not know how they are going to act on it, but I am hopeful we can work out something to get this bill to the President before we adjourn on the 11th of October.

I wish to report that progress is being made. I am hopeful that, with this information, we can get approval on our side of the aisle for an agreement. I am hopeful an agreement also can be reached on the Democratic side so we can move forward and get this very important bipartisan legislation passed. Senator LIEBERMAN and I are sponsors of it. I know Senator DASCHLE announced publicly he is in support of it. There is broad support on this side of the aisle for the legislation.

This bill affects the people, the armies of compassion on the front lines meeting the needs of Americans in every State of the country. This is something very good we can do. It

looks small, but it has a huge impact on millions of Americans if we do this before we leave.

I encourage all those who have an interest in this legislation to come forward and make sure a unanimous consent agreement is accomplished very quickly.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to call attention to the tenuous food security situation in sub-Saharan Africa.

The United Nations estimates that 14.4 million people are in need of immediate food aid and humanitarian assistance in southern Africa, where drought and poor harvests have combined with manmade factors—including economic mismanagement and politically-motivated disruption of agriculture in Zimbabwe—to create deadly conditions for the people of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho. This food crisis is striking a population already devastated by HIV/AIDS, compounding the difficulty of African families' struggle for survival. I have asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the causes of the food shortage and the obstacles to successfully addressing it in the hopes of gaining greater clarity as the relationship between natural and manmade obstacles to food security in the region.

In the Horn of Africa, food shortages are again threatening the well being of millions. As the people of Ethiopia and Eritrea struggle to recover from a costly war and severe food shortage in 2000, many have had no opportunity to reestablish their own economic security. Large numbers of people are living on the margin, and are extremely vulnerable to food shortages. In Angola, the brutal civil war is finally over, but the legacy of that conflict and of years of neglect has left hundreds of thousands malnourished and seeking assistance. And in West Africa, disturbing reports suggest that the people of Mauritania and Senegal are also threatened by food shortages linked to drought. Sadly, from Burundi to Liberia, populations living in conflict zones also suffer from resulting food shortages.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, I know that our interests throughout the sub-Saharan region are many, from promoting democracy and development to combating terrorism and other international criminal activity. None of those aims can be vigorously pursued when populations are weakened and governments distracted by desperate hunger and humanitarian catastrophe. I also know that our foreign policy agenda today is a crowded one, and that many crucially important issues compete for resources and attention.

There are some baseline conditions that we must strive to maintain if other elements of our policy are to have a meaningful impact around the