

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Ogdan, North Carolina; Jaclyn Pfaehler, 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