

bear that in mind as we begin debate on the budget for the coming fiscal year.●

20TH ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE BENEFIT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 20th Annual "Respect Life" Benefit presented by the Knights to Columbus, Michigan State Council and the Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund.

The benefit is a very important pro-life event for Michigan. It will take place on the evening of Thursday, March 26, 1998 at the Burton Manor in Livonia, Michigan and is expected to attract over one thousand people. When a large group like this gathers to celebrate the gift of life it sends a great message. In light of the current struggle in our nation regarding partial birth abortion there could not be a more urgent time for a gathering like this one.

Another way in which those of us who respect the sanctity of life can send a message is through media channels. Michigan will lead the way in the pro-life movement through a major media campaign. The 1998 Media Campaign, of which the proceeds will go, will be showcased at the event. In addition, Dr. Alan Keyes will be the featured speaker for the evening.

The efforts of Richard F. McCloy, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, Michigan State Council, and Barbara Listing, President, Right to Life of Michigan Educational Fund are truly commendable. They have generously devoted their time and efforts, not only to this event but to a very worthy cause. I extend my best wishes for both a very successful event and Media Campaign.●

CURBING TOBACCO USE IN THE THIRD WORLD

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, public and private institutions all across the United States have invested enormous amounts of time and money to educate Americans about the dangers from smoking, and to curb tobacco advertising especially that targets minors. Nationwide campaigns have raised awareness about the health and economic costs of cigarettes. Lawmakers have focused on holding the tobacco companies responsible for the incalculable harm their products, and their decades of lies, have done to our society. Parents, schools and local governments have joined together to keep children from starting to use tobacco.

The attention has paid off, although there is much more that needs to be done. Laws that seek to protect children from tobacco advertising have become stricter, warning labels on cigarette packaging contain stronger language, the price of cigarettes has gone up, and regulations on second-hand smoke have become broader and more inclusive. The number of stories in the

media about the tobacco industry and the horrors of lung cancer and emphysema are an indication of how far we have come.

What has been sorely lacking, however, is the same kind of attention on the effects of tobacco use in developing nations where an estimated 800 million people smoke and the consumption of cigarettes is rising steadily. As the market for tobacco products in the US declines, tobacco companies are aggressively pursuing these lucrative foreign markets. It is projected that adult consumption of cigarettes in the developing countries will exceed that in the industrialized countries within the next decade. These figures do not even take into account that in many developing countries the number of people under eighteen—those most susceptible to tobacco advertising and most inclined to start smoking—is more than fifty percent of the population. In a matter of years, tobacco will be a leading cause of death in countries whose poor healthcare systems cannot possibly care for them.

Why should this matter to us? Each year, we provide billions of dollars in foreign aid to improve the lives of people overseas. We spend tens of millions of dollars to support foreign health programs. It is absurd that in the same countries where we are spending precious American tax dollars to try to save lives, American tobacco companies are pushing their deadly products.

Until recently, it was even worse than that. According to a February 16, 1998 "New York Times" article, there has been a long history of collaboration between the US Government and tobacco companies to introduce American cigarettes into foreign markets and to fight anti-smoking regulations overseas. It is reported that in 1992 the US Government and the tobacco companies worked hand-in-hand against an effort by Thai authorities to require tobacco companies to disclose the ingredients in their cigarettes.

Fortunately, the US Government is finally catching up with the times. In February, the State Department directed our embassies and foreign commercial offices to stop promoting the sale or export of American tobacco products. They were also told to stop trying to block restrictions from being placed on these products.

Mr. President, the dangers of smoking have been established and Americans are responding by taking steps to curb their tobacco consumption. As our efforts against tobacco in the US pay off, we must also help the developing countries curb their own consumption. One step in the right direction is the Healthy Kids Act, of which I am a co-sponsor. Introduced by Senator CONRAD on February 12, 1998, the Act contains a provision to establish the "American Center on Global Health and Tobacco" to assist other countries curb tobacco use.

In addition, on July 23, 1997 Senator LAUTENBERG introduced the Worldwide

Tobacco Disclosure Act. It would subject exported cigarettes to the same restrictions on labeling that apply to the sale and distribution of cigarettes in the United States and prevent U.S. Government officials from working against other countries' restrictions on tobacco. We should do everything we can to try to protect the people in those countries from the dangers of tobacco, as we are protecting ourselves. Hundreds of millions of lives, and billions of dollars that could otherwise be used to educate, house and employ people, are at stake.●

COMMEMORATING THE RESTORATION OF LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on this day, the eighth anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence, I would like to pay tribute to the perseverance and sacrifices of the Lithuanian people which enable them to achieve the freedom which they now enjoy.

On March 11, 1990, the newly elected Lithuanian Parliament, fulfilling its election mandate from the people of Lithuania, declared the restoration of Lithuania's independence and the establishment of a democratic state.

The people of Lithuania endured a 51-year foreign occupation which began as a result of the infamous Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939. During that time the people of Lithuania courageously resisted the imposed communist dictatorship and cultural genocide of this foreign occupation.

During this time, the people of Lithuania were able to mobilize and sustain a non-violent movement for social and political change which came to be known as Sajudis.

On February 24, 1990 Sajudis, the people's movement, through citizen action guaranteed a peaceful transition to independence and democracy by fully participating in the first democratic elections in Lithuania in more than half a century.

In January 1991, ten months after this restoration of independence, the people and government of Lithuania withstood a bloody and lethal assault against their democratic institutions by foreign troops. Lithuania's successful restoration of democracy and independence is remarkable for its use of non-violent resistance to an oppressive regime.

On September 17, 1991, Lithuania became a member of the United Nations and is a signatory to a number of its organizations and other international agreements. It also is a member of the Organization and Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the Council of Europe. Lithuania is an associate member of the EU and has applied for NATO membership and is currently negotiating for membership in the WTO, OECD and other Western organizations.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Lithuania on July 28, 1992. U.S. representation accredited to Lithuania served from the legation in Riga, Latvia, until May 31, 1930, when a legation in Kaunas was established. The Soviet invasion forced the closure of Legation uninterrupted for over 50 years. The U.S. never recognized the forcible incorporation of Lithuania into the U.S.S.R., and views the present Government of Lithuania as a legal continuation of the interwar republic. Lithuania has enjoyed Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) treatment with the U.S. since December, 1991. Through 1996, the U.S. has committed over \$100 million to Lithuania's economic and political transformation and to address humanitarian needs. In 1994, the U.S. and Lithuania signed an agreement of bilateral trade and intellectual property protection, and in 1997 a bilateral investment treaty.

For over fifty years, there was a bipartisan consensus on maintaining a strong policy of non-recognition of the forcible incorporation of Lithuania into the former Soviet Union.

Since Lithuania regained their independence on March 11, 1990, the United States has played a critical role in helping these states implement democratic and free market reforms strengthening their security and sovereignty.

The 1998 U.S. and Lithuania signed The Baltic Charter Partnership which recalls the history, and underscores that the United States has a "real, profound, and enduring" interest in the security and independence of the three Baltic states. This is because, as the Charter also notes, our interest in a Europe whole and free will not be ensured until Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are secure.

Mr. President, I commend the people of Lithuania for their courage and perseverance in using peaceful means to regain their independence. I join with the people of Lithuania as they celebrate their independence day.●

RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE—CUT BACK ON HUNGER

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the nation's economy is the best it's been in decades. Under the leadership of President Clinton, business productivity has reached historic highs. Enterprise and entrepreneurship are flourishing, generating an extraordinary expansion, with remarkable efficiencies and job creation. Inflation and unemployment are at record lows.

In the midst of this extraordinary prosperity, however, millions of Americans go to bed hungry each night. A report yesterday by Second Harvest, the network of food banks, documents that 26 million Americans received food and grocery products through Second Harvest in 1997.

The report contains conclusions that should shock the conscience of us all. Children and the elderly are over-rep-

resented at emergency food outlets. Over a third of the beneficiaries are children, and 16% are senior citizens age 65 and older. Women make up 62% of those served at soup kitchens and food pantries. 47% are white, 32% are African-American, 15% are Latino and 3% are Native American.

Even more disturbing, the report finds that 39% of all emergency client households have at least one member who is working. Nearly half the employees in those households are working full-time. It is shocking that in America today, so many households with full-time workers are forced to rely on emergency food aid. 86% of households receiving emergency food aid earn less than \$15,500 a year. 67% earn less than \$10,000 a year. Kim, a single mother who works as a nurse, said "I never thought I'd be in this situation. People think of the single mother and immediately stereotype her. Requiring emergency food assistance in today's blossoming environment is one thing that the public doesn't understand."

The reason why so many Americans need emergency food aid is obvious—the current prosperity has passed them by. Their earnings are too low. Wanda, an emergency food client and mother of two, put it this way: "My husband works, but at the end of the month we just run out of money. I wouldn't know what to do if it weren't for the food pantry."

Raising the minimum wage is an important step toward solving this problem. Today, full-time minimum wage workers earn \$10,712 a year—\$2,600 below the poverty level for a family of three. According to the Department of Labor, 60% of minimum wage earners are women; nearly three-fourths are adults; over half work full time. Their families need the money, and they deserve an increase in the minimum wage. If we believe in rewarding work, we have to be willing to pay working families more than a sub-poverty minimum wage.

The American people understand that you can't raise a family on \$5.15 an hour. The 26 million Americans receiving food aid last year understand this fact of life all too well. We must raise the minimum wage, and raise it now. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

I ask that the first chapter of the Second Harvest report "Hunger 1997: The Faces and Facts," be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

THE FACES & FACTS OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY

A *kaleidoscope* of faces that makeup the hungry in America can be found behind the charts and graphs of this report. Young and old. Employed and looking for work. Living in suburbs, cities and rural areas. Many of them never anticipated that they would ever need this type of support. The *reasons* and *circumstances* are varied. The hidden face of hunger in America is often missed. To reveal the faces behind the facts, interviews were conducted at food pantries, food shelves,

soup kitchens, and emergency shelters—nearly 28,000 clients in all have provided their personal stories to this research study. They have made an invaluable contribution to this research effort.

Their plight is the reason for this study. "Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts" describes the *health and social consequences* of hunger. Second Harvest can use the understanding of their situation to be able to serve them more efficiently and effectively.

This first part profiles the recipients of emergency food. According to "Hunger 1997: The Faces & Facts," 26 million people in 1997 received food and grocery products through the Second Harvest network of food banks.

EDUCATION

According to labor statistics, educational attainment is perhaps the greatest indicator of job and income mobility. Thirty six percent have a high school diploma or equivalent. Forty percent have not completed high school. Only five percent of all emergency clients have attended college or received a college degree.

GEOGRAPHY

US Census Bureau statistics show that 90 percent of all low-income people live outside urban ghettos. Census figures indicate that the low-income population of suburbs is growing at a faster rate than that of central cities or rural areas. Agency service areas reflect the changing demography of the people they serve with nearly one-third of agencies serving suburban areas.

EMPLOYMENT

More than one-third (38.6 percent) of all emergency client households have at least one member who is working. Of those households, 49 percent contain someone who is working full-time, 47.8 percent include someone who is working part-time or has seasonal work. Two percent of all households include someone who is enrolled in JOBS or other government sponsored job-training program. Twelve percent of all emergency client households include someone who is retired. Twenty one percent of all emergency client households include someone who is disabled. Thirty-five percent of all emergency client households include someone who is unemployed.

Eighty six percent of emergency client households earn less than \$15,500 annually. Ninety percent of emergency client households served by the network have incomes at or below 150 percent of poverty.

"Nearly everyone of us is just two paychecks away from financial crisis," says Richard Goebel, executive director of the St. Paul Food Bank and a member of the Second Harvest Board of Directors.

Despite the strong economy and a low unemployment, many emergency food recipients have limited incomes and job security. As someone who has utilized emergency feeding programs, Kim, an employed nurse and single mother, can strongly relate to Goebel's words. "I never thought I'd be in this situation. People think of the single mother and immediately stereotype her. Requiring emergency food assistance in today's blossoming environment is one thing that the public doesn't understand."

*Note—households may represent more than one family member so numbers total more than 100%.

REASONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

For many who have never had to deal with the problem of hunger, it is beyond comprehension the reasons. Why do people depend on emergency food? How Long have people depended on emergency food programs? What about government resources?

WHY?

Despite the strong economy, the percentage of people living in poverty has hardly