

worked tirelessly with me over the last several months to shape and enhance tribal welfare provisions that could be acceptable in any welfare reform plan. Senator HATCH is a member of the Senate Finance Committee and he is a new member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. He has demonstrated a great level of understanding and commitment to the betterment of the lives of Indian people, and I commend Senator HATCH for his steadfast leadership in ensuring that Indian tribal governments are fairly treated in the welfare reform debate.

Mr. President, I understand that other major welfare reform proposals make an effort to similarly address the needs of Indian tribes. While I have placed my full support behind the provisions of H.R. 4 related to Indian tribal governments, I want to make sure to recognize the attention that has been paid and the work that has been done on behalf of Indian tribal governments by my colleague so the other side of the aisle. For example, I know that S. 1117 would have provided a 3-percent allocation of funds to Indian tribes under the JOBS Program and would have authorized new funding for teen pregnancy prevention and for teen parent group homes, and like the Dole substitute bill, provides continued funding for child care and development block grants to tribes.

The spirit in which the Senate has acted has adhered to a principle that I believe should guide the Congress in matters of Indian affairs: Indian issues are neither Republican, nor Democratic. They are not even bipartisan issues—they are nonpartisan issues. They are day-to-day human issues which call for a level of understanding on both sides of the aisle. While this body is not in total agreement with just how to reform welfare, the one thing we all agree upon is that whatever new form this Nation's welfare system takes, providing equal access to the Nation's Indian population is not only the right thing to do, it honorably discharges some of our continuing responsibilities under the U.S. Constitution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEE PERFORMED WITH HONOR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, one definition given for the word "ethics" by the Random House Dictionary is—and I quote—"The branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human con-

duct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions."

Members of this body who are called to service on the Ethics Committee are asked to make judgments quite unlike the judgments required by service on any other committee of the Senate. These individuals are called upon to grapple not only with public policy and legal and constitutional questions, but also with the deeper philosophical questions which have confronted the human race since Adam and Eve found themselves tempted in the Garden—namely "the rightness and wrongness of certain actions" by their own colleagues. There is no more daunting task than this.

To be asked to sit in judgment of another's actions and motives is, in one sense, an honor, but it is also a humbling experience for those who are so honored to sit in judgment. And with that charge must come the certain inner realization that no one among us is without fault, that none of us is free from errors in judgment, weakness, and at times failings of character. Such task is made all the more difficult in a body such as this, where politics too easily intrudes, and where friendships developed over long years can cloud one's objectivity.

I am deeply saddened by the tragedy that has befallen our colleague, Senator PACKWOOD. However, he has done the right thing in choosing to spare the Senate further agony over his fate. Although this experience has been difficult for all concerned, one thing is clear. The Senate Ethics Committee has again performed its most arduous function with honor, thoroughness and professionalism. I commend the chairman of the committee, Senator MCCONNELL, vice chairman, Senator BRYAN, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator SMITH, Senator DORGAN, and Senator CRAIG for their handling of this extremely contentious matter. I commend the very professional staff of the Ethics Committee for their diligent work stretching over some 2½ years. I understand that the staff read 16,000 pages of documents, spent approximately 1,000 hours in meetings and interviewed over 260 witnesses during the investigation of this matter. That staff has served the Senate well.

We live in times which are, unfortunately, more politically charged and ruthlessly partisan than I have ever witnessed in my tenure in the Senate. And it is nothing short of amazing that the Ethics Committee, evenly split among Democrats and Republicans, could come to a unanimous decision on this very unfortunate and highly politically charged matter. They were pulled and they were tugged by the media, by other colleagues, by an enormous workload, by political forces outside this body, and I am sure by their own personal inner turmoil over judging the actions and determining the fate of a fellow human being. Still and

all, they came through. The ability of the Senate to police itself has been questioned time and time again. In this instance, perhaps the committee's toughest test in many years, I believe that the question has certainly been answered in the affirmative.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. SANTORUM. If the Senator will withhold.

Mr. BYRD. I withhold my request.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

AMENDMENT NO. 2588 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2280
(Purpose: To require States to provide voucher assistance for children born to families receiving assistance)

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment on behalf of the Senator from Rhode Island, Senator CHAFEE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], for Mr. CHAFEE, proposes an amendment numbered 2588 to amendment No. 2280.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 50, beginning with line 12, strike all through line 17, and insert the following:

(2) Vouchers for children born to families receiving assistance—States must provide vouchers in lieu of cash assistance which may be used only to pay for particular goods and services specified by the State as suitable for the care of the child.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that that amendment be set aside for later consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2589 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2280
(Purpose: To provide for child support enforcement agreements between the States and Indian tribes or tribal organizations)

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment on behalf of the Senator from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], for Mr. MCCAIN, proposes an amendment No. 2589 to amendment No. 2280.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.