

popular, earned him a nickname. Some called him "St. Paul." Now St. Paul has gone on to meet St. Peter. And I suspect he is still working, trying to arrange some divine intervention to help us balance the budget.

Years ago, when Paul Tsongas still sat in this Chamber, he spoke to a reporter about his hopes for his political career. He admitted that he might like to be President, if the opportunity were given to him.

But, he said, "if it turns out that my job in this business is to help provide direction—if that's what I end up being remembered for while someone else carries the ball—well, I could live with that. With a severe pang every once in a while, but I could live with that."

Paul Tsongas gave us a sense of direction. He lived with purpose and passion. And we will all miss him.

Today, our thoughts and prayers go out to Senator Tsongas immediate family, to his twin sister, Thaleia Schlesinger and stepsister Victoria Peters, and to those who remember him as we remember him today. And we thank him for that.

FAREWELL AND THANKS TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to say farewell and thanks to this class of Senate pages. Tomorrow is graduation day, and I know many of their parents are in town today and tomorrow for that special occasion.

Their job is a difficult one, with most days beginning long before the Senate convenes—early in the morning—and continuing until after the Senate adjourns, which quite often is late at night.

I thank them for their service. I wish them well.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the names of the 1996 fall pages, which was a historic time to be a page, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the names were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

1996 FALL PAGES

Republicans:

Begin, Mary—Rhode Island
Diehl, Ryan—Washington
Haliwanger, James—South Carolina
Heydt, Zachary—Wyoming
Lyon, Morgan—Utah
Poole, Robert—Alabama
Ruff, Justin—South Carolina
Sperry, Kelly—Utah
Ulbrich, Brad—Delaware
Vongsasonh, Power—Rhode Island
Wachtel, Sarah—Vermont
Walden, Michelle—Mississippi
Weyer, Mercedes—Utah

Democrats:

Bravman, Rachel—Massachusetts
Crow, Cameron—South Dakota
Fitzgerald, Taylor—Montana
Golden, Lewis—Mississippi
Kitzmiller, Amy—Vermont
McMenamin, Amanda—Maryland
McMillan, Kevin—California
Schultz, Melissa—New Mexico
Sheldon, Kathryn—Wisconsin

Sydnor, Nathan—Virginia
Wright, William—Maryland
Zukas, Nathan—Wisconsin

TRIBUTE TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today the Senate must bid farewell to a great group of young people who served as U.S. Senate pages during the fall semester.

These young men and women from across the country witnessed history during their service to the Senate. Among other things, this class of pages saw the inauguration of President Clinton, the first Democrat to be reelected President since Franklin Roosevelt. They also were here for the confirmation of the first woman to become Secretary of State, Madeleine K. Albright.

These pages witnessed the final weeks of Senate service of our colleagues who retired at the end of the 104th Congress, many giants of the Senate among them. In the last few weeks, they also saw the swearing in, the first speeches, and the first votes of our new freshmen Senators, any one of whom may be a Senate giant of the future.

Having seen our debates and deliberations up close, this group of pages will take away from here many memories and valuable learning experiences. But they also should take with them our gratitude for everything they have done for us and recognition for a job well done.

Mr. President, a page's life is not easy. They are up before dawn, at page school at 6:15, then here in the Senate for the rest of the day. While they are here, their duties run the gamut. They help set up the Chamber, deliver messages all over the Capitol complex, help things work here on the Senate floor, and pack up the Chamber at the end of the day. Then, it is back to the dorm for homework, a little down time, and a little sleep before they wake up and do it again the next day.

On behalf of all Democratic Senators, I would like to thank the following Democratic pages for all their hard work and contributions to the Senate: Rachel Bravman of Massachusetts; Cameron Crow of South Dakota; Taylor Fitzgerald of Montana; Lewis Golden of Mississippi; Amy Kitzmiller of Vermont; Amanda McMenamin of Maryland; Kevin McMillan of California; Melissa Schultz of New Mexico; Kathryn Sheldon of Wisconsin; Nathan Sydnor of Virginia; William Wright of Maryland; and Nathan Zukas of Wisconsin.

I hope that each member of this page class takes back to his or her home State a better understanding of how this government works and a better appreciation of the need to work together to achieve a common goal. These young people are our future leaders. Measured by their brief service here in the U.S. Senate, we can all feel confident about our country's future. Perhaps someday, one or more of them

will return as Members of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

First of all, let me associate myself with the remarks of the minority leader. I never really had a chance to serve with Senator Tsongas, and I really never had a chance to get to know him, but it is hard not to admire his work. He will be missed by his family and loved ones, and he will also be missed by our country. As a Senator from Minnesota, I certainly want to send my love to Paul Tsongas' family.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, for just a brief period of time today, I want to talk about reform because I think the whole issue of the mix of money and politics and what we are going to do to change the system is going to become the key issue of this 105th Congress.

People have been reading in the newspapers and they have been hearing on the radio or they have been seeing on TV all sorts of comment about the abuses which took place in this past campaign. My argument is that these abuses are embedded in the very ways in which we finance our campaigns.

What has happened—and I do not think any of us should fool ourselves here, whether we are Republicans or Democrats—is that to most of the people in the country, from Pennsylvania to Minnesota to California, it does not even look like elections; it looks like auctions, and I think all too many people believe that national political leaders are for sale.

I would like to say today on the floor of the Senate that I do not believe that is the case. I do not want to have anything to do with bashing of people in public service. I believe in public service. That is why I am here. That is why we are here.

I also want to say today on the floor of the Senate that as a matter of fact we are talking about a certain kind of corruption, not as in the wrongdoing of individual officeholders, but it is systemic, and it is more serious. It has to do with the ways in which money determines what issues are on the table. It has to do with the ways in which money determines who has the disproportionate amount of access to decisionmaking. It has to do with the relationship between money and political clout. It has to do with the political system where too few people probably have too much wealth, power and say and the vast majority of the people feel locked out, not well represented.

I would argue that the way big money has come to dominate politics has become the ethical issue of our time. I say to all of my colleagues—I make this appeal, and I want to follow