

and Burgraben. During these four years, Ratz and his father managed to stay alive by luck—for example, being in the second half of a line from which the Nazis take the first half to kill, and by what Ratz says can only be attributed to God's grace.

Unlike many survivors, who lost not only their loved ones but also their faith somewhere in the camps, Ratz's faith stayed intact. It was his belief in God that allowed him to weather those years and survive. "If I would not believe in God, I would not be alive today," he says. "By believing it, I felt I survived. God actually picked up his hand and showed me the way."

One time, that way meant masquerading as a skilled craftsman with his father so they could be eligible for a work slot in a factory near Stuthoff outside of the firing range. On another occasion, it meant stealing cigarettes from guards to trade for food from more recent arrivals who were not yet starved. The loaf of bread that was bartered for two cigarettes helped Ratz and his father ward off hunger a little longer.

Ratz links his experience during those years to that of Jews throughout history, dating back to biblical times—Jews who were persecuted and whose faith was tested. Ratz, whose Hebrew name is Isaac, says that when his father first went with him to the ghetto in Riga, his father identified with Abraham, sensing that he too was being called upon to sacrifice his son, his Isaac.

For his part, Ratz appears in the book as a latter-day Joseph. Like the biblical figure who gave food from the Egyptian storehouses to his hungry brothers during a famine, Ratz, himself weak and hungry, whenever possible retrieved food to give to people in the camps who were hovering ever closer to starvation. On one occasion, he managed to salvage scraps of food from refuse bins in a camp kitchen where he worked; another time, Ratz accidentally discovered a dead horse from which he was able to give to people what was a rare commodity in the camps: meat. "God also showed me how to help people instead of how Hitler destroyed people," Ratz explains.

In Ratz's book, the brutality of the camps springs to life most poignantly in small details that are often overlooked by historians. He tells of sand irritating his throat because the Nazis would use potatoes still caked with soil for the inmates' soup and of relishing the straw matting on the bunks in one camp because he had just come from a camp where he and three others slept on a single wooden board. And he describes his father sewing his few valuables into his hernia belt so that he would have something to trade for food when all else failed.

In 1945, when the Russians finally liberated Ratz and his father, the freedom was initially hollow. "You have to be lucky how you're liberated also," Ratz says. "To be liberated by Russians was not freedom."

Unlike the survivors liberated by Americans or British who were immediately assigned to "displaced persons" camps and given medical treatment, those freed by the Russians were left to fend for themselves. "We were all free, but we did not know what to do or where to go," Ratz writes.

The Russian zone is described by Ratz as chaotic. When it became clear the Russians were not making any arrangements to treat the sick, some newly-free Jews stole to bring those in need of medical care to a hospital. Those Germans from the camps who eluded imprisonment tried to disguise themselves as Jews so that the Russians would not capture them. Ratz chillingly recounts seeing guards from the camp, now wearing prisoners' uniforms, hiding in a crowd. Speaking to the Soviet soldiers in Russian, he pointed them out and watched as the soldiers shot them on the spot. ●

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1645

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the 9:30 a.m. vote on Friday, the Senate proceed to S. 1645.

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

#### INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 560, S. 1770.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1770) to elevate the position of Director of the Indian Health Service to Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, to provide for the organizational independence of the Indian Health Service within the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of Health and Human Services the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Health in order to, in a manner consistent with the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian tribes—

- (1) facilitate advocacy for the development of appropriate Indian health policy; and
- (2) promote consultation on matters related to Indian health.

(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.—In addition to the functions performed on the date of enactment of this Act by the Director of the Indian Health Service, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Health shall perform such functions as the Secretary of Health and Human Services may designate. The Assistant Secretary for Indian Health shall—

- (1) report directly to the Secretary concerning all policy- and budget-related matters affecting Indian health;
- (2) collaborate with the Assistant Secretary for Health concerning appropriate matters of Indian health that affect the agencies of the Public Health Service;
- (3) advise each Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health with respect to which that Assistant Secretary has authority and responsibility;
- (4) advise the heads of other agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health with respect to which those heads have authority and responsibility; and
- (5) coordinate the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health.

(c) REFERENCES.—Reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of or relating to the Director of the Indian Health Service shall be deemed to refer to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Health.

(d) RATE OF PAY.—

(1) POSITIONS AT LEVEL IV.—Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

- (A) by striking the following: "Assistant Secretaries of Health and Human Services (6)."; and
- (B) by inserting the following: "Assistant Secretaries of Health and Human Services (7)."

(2) POSITIONS AT LEVEL V.—Section 5316 of such title is amended by striking the following: "Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services."

(e) DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INDIAN HEALTH.—Section 601 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1661) is amended in subsection (a)—

- (1) by inserting "(1)" after "(a)";
- (2) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), as so designated, by striking "a Director," and inserting "the Assistant Secretary for Indian Health,"; and
- (3) by striking the third sentence of paragraph (1) and all that follows through the end of the subsection and inserting the following: "The Assistant Secretary for Indian Health shall carry out the duties specified in paragraph (2)."

(2) The Assistant Secretary for Indian Health shall—

"(A) report directly to the Secretary concerning all policy- and budget-related matters affecting Indian health;

"(B) collaborate with the Assistant Secretary for Health concerning appropriate matters of Indian health that affect the agencies of the Public Health Service;

"(C) advise each Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health with respect to which that Assistant Secretary has authority and responsibility;

"(D) advise the heads of other agencies and programs of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health with respect to which those heads have authority and responsibility; and

"(E) coordinate the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services concerning matters of Indian health."

(f) CONTINUED SERVICE BY INCUMBENT.—The individual serving in the position of Director of the Indian Health Service on the date preceding the date of enactment of this Act may serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Health, at the pleasure of the President after the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENTS TO INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT.—The Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 601—

- (i) in subsection (c), by striking "Director of the Indian Health Service" both places it appears and inserting "Assistant Secretary for Indian Health"; and
- (ii) in subsection (d), by striking "Director of the Indian Health Service" and inserting "Assistant Secretary for Indian Health"; and

(B) in section 816(c)(1), by striking "Director of the Indian Health Service" and inserting "Assistant Secretary for Indian Health".

(2) AMENDMENTS TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The following provisions are each amended by striking "Director of the Indian Health Service" each place it appears and inserting "Assistant Secretary for Indian Health":

(A) Section 203(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 761b(a)(1)).

(B) Subsections (b) and (e) of section 518 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1377 (b) and (e)).

(C) Section 803B(d)(1) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b-2(d)(1)).

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to; that the bill be considered read a third time