

weeks ago that he came by my office, as he went by many Senators' offices, not stopping, not resting at all, but arguing for, making the case for a wonderfully innovative program that helps expand and express the understanding of Americans, of college students, of people just out of college for events around the world, to give people the opportunity to serve overseas for a period of time and then to come back and share that knowledge and experience.

The fact that he came by the office—and it seems like yesterday; it was several weeks ago now—and he had his flip charts. One by one, in that sort of scholarly, serious, academic way, expressing the truth, what he knew would work in a creative and innovative way impressed me. Indeed, it should be the goal of all of us, once we leave this body, to continue the process, participating as actively as he demonstrated several weeks ago.

He was a champion of the people and, indeed, a credit to the United States of America. To his family, to his friends, to his loved ones, our condolences go out to them over the coming days.

THE FIRST ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Mr. DASCHLE. There is a great, possibly prophetic, story from the end of the Constitutional Convention in 1789. For weeks, delegates to the convention had labored in the Philadelphia heat to draft a Constitution. Every day, crowds waited outside Independence Hall for any news of their progress. Finally, a draft was agreed upon. As Benjamin Franklin emerged from the hall, a woman asked, "Dr Franklin, what have you given us: A monarchy? Or a republic?" Franklin famously replied, "A republic—if you can keep it."

Some of our founders would, no doubt, be surprised that we have indeed managed to keep this republic they dared to imagine and create more than 200 years ago.

What has enabled the United States to become the world's oldest surviving democracy is more than luck. It is more, even, than divine providence. It is also the result of deliberate work and effort by generations of Americans to understand and protect the principles on which our nation was founded, and to pass those lessons on, undiminished, to future generations.

That is the heart of what we mean by "civic education."

I know the majority leader shares my belief that Congress has an important role to play in ensuring that civic education in America remains strong and vital and that it reaches all Americans. For that reason, it was an honor for both of us, along with many of our colleagues, to attend the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education from September 20th to the 22nd of this year, in Washington, D.C.

The conference brought together education and civic leaders and others

from all 50 States and the District of Columbia and gave them an opportunity to compare notes about what is happening in their States to strengthen civic education. Each State team also adopted a State action plan, which they will implement before the Second Annual Conference, which will be held in December 2004, also in Washington. I have the South Dakota State action plan, which I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CIVIC EDUCATION PLAN FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Members of the South Dakota delegation, who attended the First Annual Conference On Civic Education in Washington D.C. in September 2003, have devised a plan for analyzing and improving civic education in the state. The South Dakota delegation comprised of Glenna Foubert, President of the South Dakota State Board of Education, Representative Gerry Lange, Jack Lyons, Chair of the South Dakota Humanities Council, Bob Sutton, Executive Director of the South Dakota Community Foundation, and Senator Drue Vitter have planned a conference entitled "Dialogue On Civic Education in South Dakota." This event will take place in the capital building in Pierre on November 10, 2003.

A variety of state educators and state administrators have been invited to attend the conference that will focus on a historic overview of civic education, the current status of civic education, state certification requirements and teacher preparation, and successful programs. Members of the S.D. delegation will act as panelists for the event. Plenty of time will be allowed for observations and questions from those attending the conference.

The S.D. delegation has tentative plans for a follow-up conference to be held in the state in either the spring or summer. This event probably would be held in the Eastern part of the state.

The South Dakota delegation hopes to convey to its conference attendees the enthusiasm that they encountered at the Washington conference for improving and revitalizing civic education in the nation and the state.

Mr. FRIST. I was very pleased to join the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, Senator DASCHLE, and our leadership colleagues in the House of Representatives in hosting Congress's first Civic Education conference.

On behalf of the entire Senate, I want to recognize and thank the cosponsors of the first conference, the Alliance for Democracy and its members: the Center for Civic Education, the Center on the Congress at Indiana University and the National Conference of State Legislatures.

It is my understanding that there will be a total of five Congressional Conferences on Civic Education. These conferences will enable us to give civic education and civic participation the sustained, national attention they deserve but have not always gotten.

It is our hope to explore, at these annual conferences, the critical role civic education plays in promoting civic participation—which is really the lifeblood of any democracy.

We also want to find new and better ways to work with schools and with education leaders to create first-rate citizenship education programs in our nation's schools. I know this is an interest that the Senator from South Dakota shares.

I think this first conference provided an excellent start on that goal. I ask unanimous consent to have the State action plan for my State of Tennessee printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CIVIC EDUCATION PLAN FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

"Civic education should be a central purpose of education essential to the well-being of representative democracy."

"Civic education should be seen as a core subject. Well-defined state standards and curricular requirements are necessary to ensure civic education is taught effectively at each grade level."

"Policies that support 'Quality teacher education and professional development' are important to insure effective classroom instruction and raise student achievement."

"Classroom programs that foster an understanding of fundamental constitutional principles through . . . service learning, discussion of current events, or simulations . . . are essential to civic education."

Mr. FRIST. With these four principles in mind, the Tennessee delegation has made the following Tennessee State Action Plan:

Reconvene in Tennessee to discuss further plans, an early December meeting is planned to include the entire delegation.

A follow-up meeting will include each delegate bringing "to the table" persons of influence that will help deliver our mission reviving "Civics in the Classroom."

Janis Kyser and Rep. Joe Towns will attend a Youth For Justice meeting to help with organizing a 501c3 organization to serve as a statewide clearing house for LRE services; Conduct an intensive state-wide LRE survey to determine what is happening, what needs to happen and where are the gaps in service; Plan and conduct a Statewide LRE conference.

Tennessee Delegation: Ms. Janis Kyser, State Facilitator; Senator Randy McNally, Tennessee State Senate; Representative Beth Harwell, Tennessee House of Representatives; Representative Joe Towns, Jr., Tennessee House of Representatives; Mr. Richard Ray, Chairman State School Board; Mr. Bruce Opie, Legislative Liaison, Tennessee Department of Education; Dr. Ashley Smith Jr., President Tennessee Middle School Association.

Mr. DASCHLE. I share the Majority Leader's belief that schools are critical in this effort. We must do a better job of educating our children to be the productive and involved citizens that our democracy, our country, needs.

Mr. FRIST. The Senator from South Dakota is correct. There are other important partners as well.

Democracy isn't something that just happens to us. It's something each of us must actively create. Citizenship gives us rights, but it also gives us responsibilities. Each of us has a responsibility to understand the great principles on which our great country was