

2014 IOWA HUNGER SUMMIT LUNCHEON

October 14, 2014 - 12:00 p.m.

Address: Governor Terry Branstad

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

President - World Food Prize Foundation

We're so pleased to have so many elected state officials with us. And Bishop Pates and Margaret Hoover are here, who gave, oh, my gosh, back-to-back terrific addresses this morning, that, for everybody who's out there that heard them, I'm finishing way behind in this. They were just sensational. So glad that folks are here from SelfHelp to honor Merry Fredrick, and from AARP and Kent Sovern, my good friend, who, I didn't hear him speak, but I know he would be in that same league. (Where are you? There he is.)

And I just want to say that Dr. Borlaug would be so proud of all the students who are here. Where are the students? Okay, look at this. I think we have about 90 students who have come. And I want to point out we'll hear more from Dennis Dimick. Every one of you should have found a gift from National Geographic and the World Food Prize, this wonderful book that they've put together about their terrific series.

So now it is my pleasure and honor to introduce to you the Governor of Iowa. And, you know, Governor Branstad and I, the first thing we ever did when he was Lieutenant Governor was, after a terrible tornado had ripped up several Iowa towns, we went out and were there as the symbol and actually on the ground alleviating the suffering of those Iowans who had been so devastated by this. And a couple of years later, very early in his term, I was gone, but I know that he led the Iowa Cares effort, which was to raise money and send it for food and medicine to the Horn of Africa during a terrible time there.

So on this day when we gather here in a bipartisan way, I'm so glad members of the legislature here to represent that, that we come together about alleviating suffering and honoring Dr. Borlaug. So join me in welcoming the Governor of Iowa, the Honorable Terry Branstad.

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad

Governor, State of Iowa

Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much, thank you. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, thank you for that very nice introduction. As governor, I want to welcome all of you here for this Hunger Summit. We're so pleased to have all of you and all of the international visitors here in the state of Iowa.

Before I begin, I want to acknowledge a number of our elected officials, people I work closely with. Of course, our senior senator, my longtime good friend, Senator Chuck Grassley, is here. We also have Lieutenant Governor Kim Reynolds, a number of other state officials, our State Treasurer, Michael Fitzgerald, Mary Mosiman, who is the State Auditor is here. We have a number of legislators – Senator Jack Whitver, Senator Janet Peterson, Senator Matt McCoy, Representative Linda Upmeyer, Representative Rob Taylor, Representative Kenneth Koester. And they're all important people – they're people I need to work with, and I want to thank them for being here and showing their support for this very important event.

In the fall of 2006, when I was the president of Des Moines University, which is our medical school here in the capital city, Ambassador Ken Quinn contacted me about being a cofounder of a new event that honors Dr. Borlaug and recognizes Iowa's success in fighting hunger and poverty, while uniting further action against both of these subjects. The concept of the event was to provide an opportunity for people from all around our state to come together around the idea and commitment to ensure families have enough to eat, both in Iowa and around the globe.

This event, of course, became the Iowa Hunger Summit and first took place here in 2007. And I had the honor of being here as one of four governors, I think, at that time, that were present, along with Dr. Norman Borlaug to kick off this event. And I'm proud to come back again as governor and participate. It's a great event. This year is very special because this is the year that we honor Dr. Norman Borlaug as we celebrated the centennial of his birth. And we did it... And somebody asked me, "What's the highlight of your life?" I said, "This is truly one of the highlights of my life." On March 25th we, the state of Iowa, unveiled the Borlaug statue in Statuary Hall, Washington, D.C. Senator Grassley was there, our entire congressional delegation, all of the congressional leadership. We had a lot of farmers from Iowa that were there too; Craig Hill was there.

The Borlaug statue, which is really an outstanding, exquisite statue, was unveiled on that day. And it will be there for people who visit our nation's capital, to inspire them and help build this tremendous effort that he started. He started the World Food Prize. He really has made such a difference in the world. And now that he is now one of the two that represents the state of Iowa in Statuary Hall, so that's pretty exciting, and I know that Dr. Borlaug's important work will continue with things like this Hunger Summit and with the opportunity for people to be inspired by seeing his statue and learning about his outstanding career and the difference he made in preventing the starvation of nearly a billion people in the world.

To honor this occasion and Dr. Borlaug, I am pleased now to have a proclamation that designates October 16 – that's the day that the World Food Prize is going to be presented – 2014 as Dr. Norman Borlaug and World Food Prize Day in Iowa. You can see it's on official stationery. I've already signed it. I'll read the proclamation:

Whereas Dr. Norman E. Borlaug was born on a farm in Iowa, educated in a one-room school, and worked his way through college during the Depression, eventually earning a PhD in plant pathology; and whereas Dr. Borlaug spent decades in Mexico, developing a new variety of wheat, which could dramatically increase yields and resist disease, which he then brought to India and Pakistan as a great famine threatened those countries; and whereas Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Peace Prize for his role as the Father of the Green Revolution, which resulted in the saving of as many as one billion lives by averting mass starvation; and whereas the World Food Prize Foundation was endowed by Des Moines

philanthropist John Ruan, which has enabled us to have an annual \$250,000 award to be presented to laureates from around the world; and whereas the state of Iowa and the Iowa legislature have expressed consistent support for the mission of the World Food Prize and enacted a permanent day of recognition on October 16th, as Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Day; and whereas the United States Senate designated October 16th as World Food Prize Day throughout America in recognition of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug; and whereas Dr. Borlaug was acknowledged as one of history's greatest humanitarians by receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, America's highest civilian honor, and, with the receipt of that award, he became one of only three Americans in all of history of the United States of America to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal; now therefore I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the state of Iowa, do hereby proclaim October 16, 2014, as Dr. Norman E. Borlaug World Food Prize Day in Iowa, and urge all people of Iowa to take steps to recognize Dr. Borlaug and commemorate his achievement by taking part in World Food Prize events during the week of October 13th through the 19th, 2014. I further call upon all educational institutions in the state of Iowa to take appropriate steps to ensure that Dr. Borlaug's achievements and his impact on humanity are known to all students so that future generations of Iowans will appreciate the enormous contributions to mankind made by this Iowa hero and World Food Prize laureates in the battle to alleviate world hunger.

And I'm proud to have signed this on the 5th day of September, and I'm now going to present it to Ambassador Ken Quinn.

Ambassador Kenneth Quinn

Thank you, Governor. That was terrific. All right, thank you. Thank you, Governor for that wonderful welcome, for this terrific proclamation. And I've asked the Governor to stay, because we have another special presentation. But I want to take from your remarks talking about Dr. Borlaug and the statue, which to say that not only, of course, is Dr. Borlaug honored by Iowa – all around the world. So here's Dr. M.S. Swaminathan who is here from India. And they have a statue of Dr. Borlaug in India, which the Governor saw when he was there. And Dr. Swaminathan worked with Dr. Borlaug on those early days of the Green Revolution, and then I found out, and I of course knew that, and there are statues of him in Mexico. I think the minister of agriculture in Mexico is just arriving today.

But I found out that in Iran they also consider Dr. Borlaug a hero and invited me to come there. And I said, "Oh, my gosh." And they gave him a gold medal, Dr. Borlaug, in 2000. And we have Dr. Goodarz Najafian here from Iran, who has come – he's a wheat scientist – to be part of our program in that kind of Iowa kind of exchange around agriculture and food that helps build understanding in the world. So, Dr. Najafian, welcome to you.

So now I want to invite Merry Fredrick to come up here, because we have a special award and presentation for you. Last year... And I'm so sorry that Governor Bob Ray couldn't be here. He, with Dr. Borlaug, is one of my great inspirations in life, and he asked me to explain to you that he couldn't be here. But we want to present to you the Robert D. Ray Iowa Shares Humanitarian Award for the work, as your leadership, at SelfHelp International, helping children in Ghana, Nicaragua. SelfHelp has worked there since 1979, and Dr. Borlaug personally urged SelfHelp to become involved and help farmers use quality protein maize, nutritious maize in Ghana, and continuing that Norman Borlaug legacy. It's now more than 25,000 children receive school lunches with the support of SelfHelp, and their headquarters in

Ghana is in the home village of John Kufuor, Perspective Kufuor, our 2011 laureate. And so we're so pleased... Where's Nora Tobin? Nora, come on up here. Nora is the new Executive Director of SelfHelp, and, Merry. And, thank you, Governor, for helping us present the Robert D. Ray Iowa Shares Humanitarian Award to Merry Fredrick. And so we also have... Where are you going, Nora? Come back, come on. And so we have one for SelfHelp International because Merry is going to take this now home with her, and since she's retired, we wanted SelfHelp to have one to hang up there. So I'm going to come over here, and we'll have a picture. You don't have to hold it while you speak. So I invite Merry to say a few words.

Merry Fredrick

Thank you very much. I've been coming since 1999 with the World Food Prize, and this is the eighth year for the Iowa Hunger Summit. I think it's a marvelous thing. I just want to do one little quick thing. In 1999, some woman came up, and she started talking and she said, "I just love coming to Iowa because all the towns are named after their water towers." Well, all of us started laughing, except the people from other countries who were scratching heads, saw no humor understanding. I love that. Thank you, Ambassador Quinn, and the World Food Prize Nominating Committee for selecting me for this prestigious award. I'm deeply honored and humbled. I thank the staff in Waverly, Ghana, Nicaragua, as well as SelfHelp International board manages. They worked with me as a team to strengthen and to expand the programs.

Dr. Borlaug was my mentor, and I'm sure he's here in spirit today, pleased especially to see the many young people in this room, challenging you to reach the stars. On behalf of SelfHelp International and the spirit of Dr. Borlaug, I have two requests. Be proud of and spread the word about SelfHelp International. It's a small, mighty organization in Iowa that has helped thousands of farm families become self-sufficient. Secondly, I ask each of you, especially the young today to remember those less fortunate and become part of the solution to ending hunger so we can have world peace. Thank you very much.

Ambassador Quinn

So, thank you, Merry. We're so pleased to recognize you, honor you. So this morning there has been the Iowa Hunger Fight, sponsored by DuPont Pioneer and Meals from the Heartland. And I know Dave Bradley from Meals from the Heartland is here. And we have a great video to show you. It's what was going on this morning, meal packaging, over at Bishop Pates' office. So thank you for letting them move in there. And they are packaging the same food that we're going to have today, and we're so pleased to feature the meals from Outreach. Floyd and Kathy are here. Where are you guys, Floyd and Kathy? Oh, all right, there they are back there. They were recognized with President Obama and President Bush, George Herbert Walker Bush, with the Points of Life Award. We're so proud of you.

All three meals we're getting were developed at Iowa State University. There's a rice and beans meal, comprised of rice, fortified soy protein, vegetables and essential vitamins and minerals. Then there's the macaroni and cheese, packaged and donated to food pantries to help alleviate domestic hunger. And these are the meals being packaged today at the Catholic Pastoral Center. And there's also a tomato basil dinner, which is brand new, developed... It sounds like *The Register* food writers, Floyd and Kathy, additional vegetables for older Iowans. So lunch is

served. It'll be out, and I'll be back shortly, since there isn't much to eat, to introduce our guest speaker.

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