



News from

THE RIPON SOCIETY

May 19, 2010

Ripon Society Hosts Roundtable Discussion with Senior Senate Staff Members

The Ripon Society hosted its third roundtable discussion of the year on May 18, an event that focused on the United States Senate and featured 11 key aides and senior staff members from that chamber.

The event kicked off with remarks from Matt Zabel, the Chief of Staff for South Dakota Senator John Thune. Among other things, Zabel discussed the agenda in the Senate and the legislative items that could be considered as Congress approaches the Memorial Day recess.

He also spoke of the work Thune is doing as Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, and the effort the South Dakota Senator is spearheading to develop new policy ideas and push new policy proposals into the marketplace. These ideas and proposals, he noted, are available at the Policy Committee's website -- www.rpc.senate.gov.

In addition to Zabel, the Roundtable also included: Bret Bernhardt, Chief of Staff to Senator Jim DeMint (SC); Mary Beth Carozza, Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Homeland Security Committee; Rob Epplin, Legislative Director for Senator Susan Collins (ME); Paul Fassbender, General Counsel, for Senator Bob Corker (TN); Nicole Foltz, Counsel for the Senate Budget Committee; Peter Fischer, Chief of Staff to Senator Mike Crapo (ID); Dean Hingson, Legislative Director, for Senator Judd Gregg (NH); Malloy McDaniel, Policy Advisor, for Senator Mitch McConnell (KY); Paul Vinovich, Chief Counsel for the Senate Rules Committee; and, Shawn Whitman, Chief of Staff to Senator John Barrasso.

According to Jim Conzelman, the President and CEO of The Ripon Society, the format of the roundtable was intended to foster discussion among the featured participants and those who attended the event. The senior Senate staff members circulated among the tables, answering questions and discussing the many concerns that people had.



Matt Zabel, Chief of Staff to South Dakota Senator John Thune, delivers opening remarks at The Ripon Society's May 18th Roundtable.

Among other things, Zabel discussed the agenda in the Senate and the legislative items that could be considered as Congress approaches the Memorial Day recess.

Conzelman also noted that this was the third roundtable discussion The Ripon Society has hosted in 2010. In April, the Society hosted Chiefs of Staff and Staff Directors from the House of Representatives for a similar event, while in

March the group played host to the Ranking Member and Republican leadership of the Ways and Means Committee. Between 70 to 80 people have been in attendance for all three roundtables, Conzelman noted

The Ripon Society is a public policy organization that was founded in 1962 and takes its name from the town where the Republican Party was born in 1854 -- Ripon, Wisconsin. One of the main goals of The Ripon Society is to promote the ideas and principles that have made Amer-

ica great and contributed to the GOP's past success. These ideas include keeping our nation secure, keeping taxes low and having a federal government that is smaller, smarter and more accountable to the people.

For more information on The Ripon Society, please visit <http://www.riponsociety.org>.

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**The Ripon Society
Senior Senate Staff
Roundtable Discussion
May 18, 2010**

Clockwise from top left:
Bret Bernhardt, Chief of Staff to Senator Jim DeMint (SC); Mary Beth Carozza, Deputy Staff Director of the Senate Homeland Security Committee; Rob Epplin, Legislative Director for Senator Susan Collins (ME); Paul Fassbender, General Counsel, for Senator Bob Corker (TN); Nicole Foltz, Counsel for the Senate Budget Committee; Peter Fischer, Chief of Staff to Senator Mike Crapo (ID); Dean Hingson, Legislative Director, for Senator Judd Gregg (NH); Malloy McDaniel, Policy Advisor, for Senator Mitch McConnell (KY); Paul Vinovich, Chief Counsel for the Senate Rules Committee; and, Shawn Whitman, Chief of Staff to Senator John Barrasso.



*For more information on future Ripon Society events,
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