What is the National Crime Information Center database? This is the database that every police officer in America accesses when they apprehend someone to see if the person is wanted anywhere in the country. If you had a DUI in Washington State, and you did not show up for your trial but they catch you in Mobile, AL, and you are entered in the NCIC because of your DUI in Washington State, the officers in Mobile will hold you, and send you back to Washington State for your trial. But if you jump bail and do not show up for your immigration hearing or for your deportation proceeding, you are not treated the same way, your information is not currently being entered into the NCIC.

So I have been raising this and talking about it for quite some time now, and I have raised it with top officials in the Department of Homeland Security, and they say they are working on it and trying to enter the names faster. I know they as of December of last year they only had about 15,000 names entered into the Immigration Violators File of the NCIC which is really pathetically small. We ought to have them all of the absconder immigration violator files entered in there. This amendment would provide $1 million to make sure those names are entered into the system.

Tomorrow we will proceed, hopefully, to call that amendment up and I will seek to have it made a part of the appropriations bill that is moving forward.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair for your time tonight.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I believe we have, on behalf of the majority leader, Senator Frist, some closing remarks and matters.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1382

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1382) to require the Secretary of the Interior to accept the conveyance of certain land, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Indian tribe.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1394

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.
and effective organization. It shifts funding mechanisms for 18 programs of the U.N. from the regular assessed budget to voluntarily funded programs in an effort to make these programs more accountable to those who fund them. It calls for budgetary practices that increase the efficiency of the U.N., to measure their effectiveness and relevance of programs. And it creates an Independent Oversight Board, an Office of Ethics, and a Chief Operating Officer to increase the accountability of the U.N.

The bill also addresses the shameful anti-Semitism inherent in U.N. structures by calling for Israel to have a permanent seat in one of the regional groups, with all the accompanying rights and privileges. And it requires the State Department to review U.N. agencies that focus exclusively on the Palestinian agenda.

Title II deals with the human rights mandate of the U.N. It establishes basic criteria that member states must meet to be eligible to serve on U.N. human rights bodies and requires the U.N. entity that selects members on these bodies to abide by these criteria.

Title III mandates reforms of the International Atomic Energy Agency so that our focus on the key issues of nuclear safety and security, and nuclear verification activities.

Title IV calls for a review of U.N. peacekeeping operations and requires that the U.S. deny support for new or expanded peacekeeping until procedures are in place to prevent further sexual exploitation by U.N. peacekeepers.

These measures, including adopting a Code of Conduct for all personnel participating in these operations, and establishing a data base so that past abusers are not able to participate in future operations, have been specifically endorsed by the Secretary General’s special advisor on sexual exploitation and abuse and should be in place by this summer. Yet it is incumbent upon us to ensure that they are not stalled by member states that don’t see this tragic situation as a serious problem.

Title V puts forward ways to improve budget practices by requiring more details about the U.N. budget, including proposed increases, to be presented to Congress.

And finally Title VI provides the leverage. If I could come up with a better way, I would pursue it wholeheartedly. But even the strongest supporters of the U.S.-U.N. relationship acknowledge that the only way the U.N. pays attention to calls for reform is when its budget is threatened. Experience has shown that the U.N. will institute needed improvements only when Congress threatens to withhold U.S. funding.

This is not meant to be draconian. These reforms, if implemented, will increase the power, the legitimacy, and the effectiveness of the U.N.

In fact, I want to underscore the importance I place on a United Nations that can fulfill its core objective—to serve as an institution that supports the preservation of international peace and security. I feel this objective is at risk.

Finally, it is important to highlight the flexibility that is built into this legislation. It sets a minimum authorization of 2 years to work with the U.N. to make these necessary reforms before the withholding provision is triggered. Even after 2 years, it does not insist that every one of the reforms be implemented during the optional year for the U.N. to complete the job. If the U.N. adopts measures that achieve the same purpose as those outlined in this bill, it allows the full U.S. contribution to be expended. And if the U.N. chooses not to implement these needed reforms, the legislation authorizes the contributions that are withheld from expenditure to remain available until the U.N. acts.

In 1949, Dean Acheson said that the United States must work actively to make the United Nations an effective instrument of international cooperation. There is, and always will be, a role for America in ensuring that the U.N. lives up to the ideals of its charter. By pushing for these critical reforms, I believe that we can forge the U.N. into the effective instrument of international cooperation that we all hope it can be.

It is my belief that this legislation is the instrument to get the job done—to make the U.N. organization that its founders envisioned 60 years ago.

I yield the floor.