

MIDDLE EAST PEACE FACILITATION ACT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2161, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, just received from the House; that the bill be read three times, passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to this measure be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

So the bill (H.R. 2161) was deemed read the third time and passed.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 165, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Social Security Act, submitted earlier today by Senators PACKWOOD and MOYNIHAN; that the resolution and preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; further, that any statements on this measure appear in the RECORD at the appropriate place as though read.

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

So the resolution (S. Res. 165) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 165

Whereas on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, which represents one of the most significant legislative achievements of the 20th century;

Whereas the Social Security Act represents a national commitment between the American Government and the people;

Whereas Social Security is one of our Nation's most popular and effective programs with a 60-year track record;

Whereas 141,000,000 persons, along with their employers, pay into the Social Security system;

Whereas Social Security is an earned benefit for workers and their families when a wage earner retires, becomes disabled, or dies;

Whereas over 44,000,000 persons, including 3,000,000 children, receive Social Security benefits that are automatically adjusted for inflation;

Whereas over 95 percent of those age 65 and over are eligible for Social Security benefits, 4 out of 5 workers have worked long enough so that they could get Social Security benefits if they become severely disabled, and 98 percent of today's children would receive a monthly Social Security benefit if a working parent died;

Whereas Social Security benefits provide a financial base for retirement, to be supplemented by private savings and pensions;

Whereas Social Security is the Nation's most successful antipoverty program, saving 15,000,000 people from poverty;

Whereas Social Security is viewed by the public as one of the most important Government programs and as a pillar of economic security;

Whereas Social Security benefits help to maintain the independence and dignity of all who receive such benefits;

Whereas the American public has rejected cutting Social Security to reduce the deficit;

Whereas Social Security is a self-financed program that in 1994 had over \$436,000,000,000 in reserves;

Whereas reforms of Social Security benefits historically have been made only to strengthen the program's long-term integrity and solvency; and

Whereas Congress recently enacted legislation establishing the Social Security Administration as an independent agency so as to strengthen its ability to better serve beneficiaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Social Security Act is hereby commended on its 60th anniversary.

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, today, with Senator MOYNIHAN, I am submitting a resolution commending the 60th anniversary of the signing of the 1935 Social Security Act.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. The act, in addition to provisions for general welfare programs, created a social insurance program to pay retired workers, age 65 or older, an income after retirement from the work force.

In signing the Social Security Act, President Roosevelt said:

We can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life, but we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age.

In saluting this 60th anniversary, Senator MOYNIHAN and I emphasize the economic security that this measure of protection has brought to millions of Americans. Our attention will continue to be focused on maintaining the solvency of the Social Security trust funds so that these earned benefits will continue to be provided to working Americans in the future.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, Monday August 14 marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act by President Franklin Roosevelt in the Cabinet Room of the White House. I am pleased to introduce today, along with Senator PACKWOOD, a resolution honoring this event.

As we celebrate this occasion we marvel at the confidence of President Roosevelt and his advisers who, in the midst of the despair of the Great Depression, could conceive of a Social Security program for the United States. President Roosevelt, a former Governor of New York, appointed a Committee on Economic Security chaired by Francis Perkins also of New York. And as the senior Senator from New York, I take pride in the fact that a third New Yorker—Senator Robert Wagner—introduced the Economic Security Act in 1935 which resulted in the Social Security Act that President Roosevelt signed 5 months later. And from that moment the program evolved along a natural course.

In 1995, as a result of this evolutionary process: 141 million persons will work in employment covered by Social Security; 95 percent of persons aged 65 and over as either receiving retirement benefits or eligible to receive benefits; 98 percent of children under 18 are eligible for survivor benefits if a working parent dies; and 80 percent of men and women aged 21 to 64 are eligible for benefits in the event of prolonged disability.

To continue this success story into the next century requires a Social Security program that is soundly financed, boldly administered, and widely supported.

The best way to maintain a strong Social Security program is by maintaining public support for the program. And here we need to pay attention to what is happening and why.

Polls consistently show that a majority of nonretired adults have little or no confidence in Social Security. And no wonder why. Despite the fact that we pay into the Social Security system every week we never hear from them. Or at least that was the case until now.

As result of legislation that I first introduced in 1988 and that was subsequently included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the Social Security Administration, this year, began sending out annual benefit statements to future Social Security recipients.

These personal earnings and benefit estimate statement [PEBES] provide estimates of benefits that individuals may be eligible to receive, including retirement, survivors, disability, and dependents benefits.

Sixty years ago President Roosevelt and his advisers—in the midst of a depression—could look forward with confidence as they built a Social Security system.

Today our economy is eight times larger than the 1935 economy—and on a per-capita basis we are four times richer. Clearly we can afford Social Security.

As needed, the system will be modified to reflect changing demographics and labor markets. But those changes must be guided by a simple principle enunciated in the 1983 report of the National Commission on Social Security Reform—the Greenspan Commission on which I proudly served:

The National Commission believes that changes in the Social Security program should be made only for programmatic reasons, and not for the purposes of balancing the budget.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 150, Senate Resolution 103.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 103) to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995,

as National Character Counts Week, and for other purposes.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

So the resolution (S. Res. 103) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 103

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, the nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the United States;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families, their communities, and institutions such as schools, youth organizations, religious institutions, and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of the individual citizens comprising the nation;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character, and that character counts in personal relationships, in school, and in the workplace;

Whereas scholars and educators agree that people do not automatically develop good character and, therefore, conscientious efforts must be made by youth-influencing institutions and individuals to help young people develop the essential traits and characteristics that comprise good character;

Whereas character development is, first and foremost, an obligation of families, efforts by religious institutions, schools, and youth, civic, and human service organizations also play a very important role in supporting family efforts by fostering and promoting good character;

Whereas the Senate encourages students, teachers, parents, youth, and community leaders to recognize the valuable role youth in the United States play in the present and future of the United States, and to recognize that character plays an important role in the future of the United States;

Whereas, in July 1992, the Aspen Declaration was written by an eminent group of educators, youth leaders, and ethics scholars for the purpose of articulating a coherent framework for character education appropriate to a diverse and pluralistic society;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that "Effective character education is based on core ethical values which form the foundation of democratic society";

Whereas the core ethical values identified by the Aspen Declaration constitute the 6 core elements of character;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character are trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, and civic virtue and citizenship;

Whereas the 6 core elements of character transcend cultural, religious, and socioeconomic differences;

Whereas the Aspen Declaration states that "The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character.";

Whereas the Senate encourages individuals and organizations, especially the individuals and organizations that have an interest in the education and training of our youth, to adopt the 6 core elements of character as intrinsic to the well-being of individuals, communities, and society as a whole; and

Whereas the Senate encourages communities, especially schools and youth organizations, to integrate the 6 core elements of character into programs serving students and children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate proclaims the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995, as National Character Counts Week, and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to embrace the 6 core elements of character and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO REPORT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding adjournment of the Senate, on Wednesday, August 30, committees have from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to file any legislative or executive reported business.

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

STAR PRINT—SENATE REPORT 104-133

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate report 104-133 be star printed to reflect the changes that I send to the desk.

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

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 5 P.M.

Mr. DOLE. I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open for submission of statements and introduction of legislation until 5 p.m. this evening.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent as in executive session that the Senate immediately proceed to the following Executive Calendar nominations:

Cal. No. 184. James Hoecker;
Cal. No. 232. Vincent Ryan, Jr.;
Cal. No. 238. Victor Jackovich;
Cal. No. 244. John Hirsch;
Cal. No. 252. Vera Alexander;
Cal. No. 253. John Callahan;
Cal. No. 255. Howard Schloss;
Cal. No. 256. Lynne Waihee;

Cal. No. 257. Mary Furlong;
Cal. No. 268. Andre Davis;
Cal. No. 269. Catherine Blake;
Cal. No. 270. B. Lynn Winnmill;
Cal. No. 271. Edward Blair;
Cal. No. 272. John Garamendi;
Cal. No. 273. Charles Curtis;
Cal. No. 274. Jeanne Ferst;
Cal. No. 275. Terence Evans;
Cal. No. 276. Michael Murphy;
Cal. No. 277. Joseph McKinley;
Cal. No. 278. James Moody;
Cal. No. 279. William Sessions;
Cal. No. 280. Ortrie Smith;
Cal. No. 281. Evan Wallach;
Cal. No. 282. Donald Pogue;
Cal. No. 283. Lt. Gen. John Otjen;
Cal. No. 284. Lt. Gen. James Clapper;
Cal. No. 285. Maria Haley;
Cal. No. 286. Herbert Collins;
Cal. No. 287. Roberta Gross;
Cal. No. 288. Jill Long;
Cal. No. 289. Jill Long;
Cal. No. 290. William Courtney;
Cal. No. 291. Stanley Escudero;
Cal. No. 292. Joseph Presel;
Cal. No. 293. Mark Gearan;
Cal. No. 294. Lee Jackson;
Cal. No. 295. David Burke;
Cal. No. 296. Edward kaufman;
Cal. No. 297. Tom Korologos;
Cal. No. 298. Bette Lord;
Cal. No. 299. Alberto Mora;
Cal. No. 300. Cheryl Halpern;
Cal. No. 301. Marc Nathanson;
Cal. No. 302. Carl Spielvogel;
Cal. No. 303. Jerome Stricker;
Cal. No. 304. Sheryl Marshall;
Cal. No. 305. William Leblanc;
Cal. No. 306. Jacob Lew;
Cal. No. 307. Beth Slavet;
Cal. No. 308. Stephen Potts;
Cal. No. 309. Jay Ehle;
Cal. No. 10. Robert Francis;
Cal. No. 311. John Goglia.

I further ask unanimous consent the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that any statements relating to any of the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD, and the Senate then immediately return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

James John Hoecker, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2000.

PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION

Vincent Reed Ryan, Jr., of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Commission.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Victor Jackovich, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

John L. Hirsch, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone.