

streams of spawning endangered salmon.

And we now know that the Federal Government is being forced to enter into far more than just a small number of contracts, and in fact, that the effect of this rider will be felt in the logging of national forests across the country.

I commend the Senator from New Jersey for his leadership on this issue, and I hope that the Senate will act expeditiously to enact the bill being introduced today and thereby repeal this extremely harmful so-called timber salvage rider.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we need our environmental laws back. Old-growth trees that have stood for 400 years are falling today, and it will the year 2400 before we get them back. We need to restore the laws.

To achieve this goal, I have cosponsored two efforts. One is a straight, fundamental attempt to overturn the salvage law, and one that is a practical attempt to stop the lawless logging. No one has worked harder than PATTY MURRAY to restore economic and ecological balance to the hoax of a "jobs versus the environment" campaign. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of her effort.

Senator BRADLEY, ranking Democrat on the Forests and Public Land Management Subcommittee, has taken the lead to simply overturn one of the worst environmental laws Congress has considered in years. As soon as the so-called salvage law passed, industry sued to cut the big old-growth trees. This will be a difficult bill to overturn, especially since we still have the same Congress through which it originally passed. Nonetheless, I am a proud original cosponsor of Senator BRADLEY's bill to repeal the salvage rider.

Proponents of logging without laws say that they must cut, build roads, risk mudslides, threaten fisheries, and scar the forest to create jobs. The facts don't support this twisted rationale. There were more than 14,200 new jobs in the Rocky Mountain-Pacific Northwest timber industry from 1992 until Congress forced through the rider, and the sector was still growing. Oregon had the lowest unemployment in a generation. We did not need to derail steady responsible growth with a return to the conflicts of the 1980's. Unfortunately, some groups have bought into the gluttony of the salvage rider, but have forgotten about putting food on the table for working families when the salvage free-for-all days are over.

Our No. 1 priority should be to restore stability to working families in rural communities. No one can tolerate another short-term logging binge. The current rider is bringing conflict. When it is repealed or expires, workers face another round of economic instability while we struggle with environmental triage on the forest resource.

But most importantly, we need to restore the environmental laws that this Congress suspended. The Forest Serv-

ice is poised to release hundreds of millions of board feet of timber, and we must not leave the door open for such abuse. Both bills are steps in the right direction, and I hope we can unsaddle the salvage rider very soon.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 684

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 684, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for programs of research regarding Parkinson's disease, and for other purposes.

S. 949

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington.

S. 1072

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1072, a bill to redefine "extortion" for purposes of the Hobbs Act.

S. 1217

At the request of Mr. COATS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1217, a bill to encourage the provision of medical services in medically underserved communities by extending Federal liability coverage to medical volunteers, and for other purposes.

S. 1268

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1268, a bill to provide assistance for the establishment of community rural health networks in chronically underserved areas, to provide incentives for providers of health care services to furnish services in such areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1452, a bill to establish procedures to provide for a taxpayer protection lock-box and related downward adjustment of discretionary spending limits and to provide for additional deficit reduction with funds resulting from the stimulative effect of revenue reductions.

S. 1483

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. BROWN], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG], and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 1483, a bill to control crime, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], and the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] were added as cosponsors of S. 1491, a bill to reform antimicrobial pesticide registration, and for other purposes.

S. 1524

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1524, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on any scheduled airline flight segment in intrastate, interstate, or foreign air transportation.

S. 1554

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1554, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the exemption for houseparents from the minimum wage and maximum hours requirements of that act, and for other purposes.

S. 1563

At the request of Mr. SIMPSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1563, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise and improve eligibility for medical care and services under that title, and for other purposes.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to repeal the amendments relating to obscene and harassing use of telecommunications facilities made by the Communications Decency Act of 1995.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 50

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], and the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER] were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 50, a joint resolution to disapprove the certification of the President under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 regarding foreign assistance for Mexico during fiscal year 1996.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226

At the request of Mr. NUNN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 226, a resolution to proclaim the week of October 13 through October 19, 1996, as "National Character Counts Week."

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 226, supra.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—RELATIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SIMON, and Mr. MACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas the People's Republic of China, in a clear attempt to intimidate the people and Government of Taiwan, has over the past 8 months conducted a series of military exercises, including missile tests, within alarmingly close proximity to Taiwan;

Whereas on March 5, 1996, the Xinhua News Agency announced that the People's Republic of China will conduct missile tests from March 8 through March 15, 1996, within 25 to 35 miles of the 2 principal northern and southern ports of Taiwan, Kaohsiung and Keelung;

Whereas the proximity of these tests to the ports and the accompanying warnings for ships and aircraft to avoid the test areas will result in the effective blockading of the ports, and the probable disruption of international shipping, for the duration of the tests;

Whereas these tests are a clear escalation of the attempts by the People's Republic of China to intimidate Taiwan and influence the outcome of the upcoming democratic presidential election in Taiwan;

Whereas the decision of the United States to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rested upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be settled solely by peaceful means;

Whereas the strong interest of the United States in the peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question is one of the central premises of the three United States-China Joint Communiqués and was codified in the Taiwan Relations Act;

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that peace and stability in the western Pacific "are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern";

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act states that the United States considers "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts, or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States";

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act directs the President to "inform Congress promptly of any threat to the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan and any danger to the interests of the United States arising therefrom";

Whereas the Taiwan Relations Act further directs that "the President and the Congress shall determine, in accordance with constitutional process, appropriate action by the United States in response to any such danger";

Whereas the United States, the People's Republic of China, and the Government of Taiwan have each previously expressed their commitment to the resolution of the Taiwan question through peaceful means; and

Whereas these missile tests and accompanying statements made by the Government of the People's Republic of China call into serious question the commitment of China to the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States deplores the missile tests that the People's Republic of China will

conduct from March 8 through March 15, 1996, and views them as a threat to the peace, security, and stability of Taiwan and not in the spirit of the three United States Joint Communiqués;

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China should cease its bellicose actions directed at Taiwan and instead enter into meaningful dialogue with the Government of Taiwan at the highest levels, such as through the Straits Exchange Foundation in Taiwan and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits in Beijing, with an eye towards decreasing tensions and resolving the issue of the future of Taiwan;

(3) the President, consistent with section 3(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3302(c)), should immediately consult with Congress on an appropriate United States response to the tests; and

(4) the President should, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act (22 U.S.C. 3301 et seq.), reexamine the nature and quantity of defense articles and services that may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability in light of the heightened threat.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today as the chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs to submit Senate Concurrent Resolution 43, expressing the sense of the Congress regarding proposed missile tests in the Taiwan Straits.

Yesterday, the People's Republic of China announced that it would conduct a series of missile tests from March 8 through March 15, 1996, off the coast of Taiwan. While the Chinese have conducted other tests within close proximity to Taiwan in the past 8 months, these are especially provocative. The People's Republic of China has announced that it will conduct these tests within between 25 and 35 miles of the Taiwan port cities of Kaohsiung and Keelung. The effect will be that, for a week, a wide corridor of ocean both immediately north and south of Taiwan will be unsafe for commercial traffic. Thus, the People's Republic of China has knowingly created what is in effect a blockade of these two ports—through which flows more than 70 percent of Taiwan's ship-borne trade—for the duration of the tests. In addition, the tests come just a week before Taiwan's first fully democratic Presidential elections on March 23. Clearly, the tests are part of the People's Republic of China's ongoing attempts to intimidate Taiwan and influence the upcoming elections.

It is both the proximity to Taiwan and the timing that make these tests especially troubling to me, and the signal they send.

When we normalized relations with the People's Republic of China in 1978 and 1979, we did so on the expectation that the future of Taiwan would be settled solely by peaceful means. That expectation underlies the three United States-People's Republic of China joint communiqués, and is codified in the Taiwan Relations Act, the statute that governs our relationship with Taiwan.

However, these tests and accompanying statements made at the highest levels of the Chinese Government in my mind call into serious question the

People's Republic of China's commitment to settle the Taiwan issue by peaceful means. As such, they are of grave concern to me and, I believe, to the United States.

I hope that the People's Republic of China would move to diffuse the escalating problems in the straits and refrain from further provocations. At the same time, I hope that the Taiwan Government would do its part to reduce tensions. Both sides need to sit down with each other, and discuss the issue in a considered and rational manner, without threats and without the need to continually draw the United States into what is a matter solely for the Chinese on both sides of the straits—and Mr. President, I emphasize both sides—to decide. It is not an issue for the People's Republic of China to decide unilaterally at the barrel of a gun.

Mr. President, the resolution is fairly self explanatory.

Mr. President, in closing, let me note that I am pleased to be joined by Senator HELMS, the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senators MURKOWSKI and SIMON, two longstanding leaders on the issue of Taiwan in the Senate, and Senator MACK, in submitting this legislation today; I thank them for their support. I hope the rest of our colleagues will join us so that we can move this resolution quickly through the Senate and on the House.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator CRAIG THOMAS, chairman of the East Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee in offering this resolution that reaffirms the Taiwan Relations Act and condemns the People's Republic of China for their attempts to influence the upcoming Presidential election in Taiwan through threats and coercion.

The resolution has been submitted to the Chair previously by Senator THOMAS. This resolution makes four important points.

First, the United States deplores the missile test scheduled for March 8 to 15. It appears that these tests will impose a virtual blockade of Taiwan's two major ports and threaten international shipping lanes in the Taiwan Straits.

Second, the Congress calls on the People's Republic of China to cease its threats, and instead enter into a constructive dialog with the Republic of China, perhaps through their respective informal organizations: the Straits Exchange Foundation in Taiwan and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits in Beijing.

Third, the resolution directs the President of the United States to consult with the Congress, as required by the Taiwan Relations Act, because there is a threat to the security and the social and economic system of the people of Taiwan.

Fourth, the President and the Congress should reexamine the nature and quantity of the defense articles and

services that may be necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability in light of the heightened threat.

Mr. President, I suggest that President Nixon must be simply spinning in his grave tonight. When Richard Nixon first opened relations with Beijing some 20 years ago he believed that Asia could not progress if China remained isolated. His actions promised to help that country enter into a new and constructive relationship with the rest of the modern world. But in recent months, the leaders of Beijing have taken a number of self-defeating actions that can only turn back the pages of history and cripple China's economic progress.

Over the past 8 months, the People's Republic of China has conducted a series of military exercises, including missile tests, in close proximity to Taiwan. Now, we hear reports of the largest and closest military exercise to take place next week, just 1 week before the first democratic Presidential elections on Taiwan. What is more, Beijing has reportedly included veiled threats against the United States for supporting the process of free elections. One news report indicated that during an interview, a Chinese leader scoffed at the notion that the United States would defend Taiwan by saying the United States cares more about "Los Angeles than Taiwan." China, of course, produces missiles capable of launching nuclear warheads against both Taiwan and Los Angeles, and certainly against my home State of Alaska.

I feel confident that these reports, of course, are false, but China's most recent announcement that it intends to conduct massive tests near Taiwan, in effect imposing a miniblockade of Taiwan's two major ports prior to the Taiwan Presidential elections, does little to inspire confidence.

Some China watchers are inclined to rationalize Beijing's behavior. Apologists have blamed China's belligerence on the firm stand taken by this Congress. Today it is clear that China, not the Congress, is to blame for the current state of United States-China relations. Time and time again, before and after the 1989 Tiananmen Square attack on student protesters, China's rulers have shown themselves to be almost oblivious to the fact that a larger world—a world sensitive to human rights concerns, one that believes in religious and political freedom, and free and fair trade—exists beyond the People's Republic of China's borders.

People's Republic of China's President Jiang Zemin and his lieutenants must understand that this is why the United States finds China's ballistic missile diplomacy unacceptable. We support the peaceful settlement of differences between China and Taiwan and cannot idly watch a peaceful, democratic ally—which Taiwan is—be threatened.

Therefore, it is time for Congress, as set forth in this Senate resolution, to recommit the United States to the Tai-

wan Relations Act of 1979, which clearly states that America believes that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security and economic interests of the United States.

Further, the law of the land, the Taiwan Relations Act, commits the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security or the social or economic system of the people of Taiwan.

We must remind Beijing that the decision of the United States to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China in 1979 was based upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means.

We also must continue selling Taiwan defensive weapons to help counter any thoughts China may have of using military force against the island. Along with these weapons, we must let the leaders in Beijing know that threats are useless as tools of foreign policy and are the rusted relics of diplomacy from a bygone and dangerous era.

China's leaders must know economic gains will evaporate if continued military threats—or worse—create havoc in East Asia. Beijing's officials must understand they cannot conduct business as usual with the world if missiles start falling in the Straits of Taiwan. They also need to know that the fear of war is often every bit as chilling to investment as the real thing.

Mr. President, I also want to add that Congress should congratulate the people of Taiwan for their continued advancement toward democracy. Congress should also state our support for the people of Taiwan to become involved in international organizations. Taiwan has emerged as a force for democracy and stability in Asia, and its people should be represented. The United States must also continue at the same time to encourage a true dialog between Beijing and Taipei that will lead to understanding and conciliation, rather than threats and confrontation.

With this latest round of threats against Taiwan—and the United States—it simply is time to step back and gather forces to support reason and dialog rather than the rumblings of hostility and war.

President Nixon was certainly correct in seeing the vast potential importance of China as a world economic power. But 25 years later the world still waits for Beijing to abandon its totalitarian ways and behave consistently as a civilized nation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, in open session, to receive testimony on the 1996 ballistic missile defense update review.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, in open session, to receive testimony on the Department of Energy Environmental Management Program [EM], and on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board [DNFSB] activities.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on the issue of competitive change in the electric power industry.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Wednesday, March 6, for a joint hearing with the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing on the Oversight of the Government Performance and Results Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 10 a.m. in SD-226 to hold a hearing on "Interstate Transportation of Human Pathogens."

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the Reauthorization of National Institutes of Health, during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 6, 1996, at 10 a.m., in room SR-428A, to mark up legislation pending in the committee.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select