

services would be exempt from Federal income tax for up to 2 years after termination of peacekeeping activities in the hazardous duty area.

Fourth, the bill extends the time for filing tax returns, paying tax and other deadlines to allow our troops to focus on their dangerous task rather than on tax deadlines.

Fifth, the bill reduces Federal estate taxes and forgives Federal income taxes for those whose lives are taken while performing the peacekeeping mission. Let me just say that I am deeply troubled that similar relief was not provided to Americans killed while serving in Somalia.

Sixth, the bill eliminates tax withholding on military pay earned tax-free in these hazardous duty areas.

Seventh, the bill provides special rules for surviving spouses and couples who file joint tax returns, as well as an exemption from the telephone excise tax for calls made from the hazardous duty area.

Finally, in addition to the tax relief for military personnel in the hazardous duty areas, the bill also postpones various tax deadlines for support personnel. To be eligible for such tax relief, the individual must be deployed away from such individual's regular duty station and performing services outside the United States as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. Such relief would be available to Department of Defense employees.

I fully support this legislation and encourage the Senate to pass it quickly to ease the tax burden and tax filing requirements on our courageous American troops who are serving in these hazardous duty areas.

• Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, today is a significant day for our troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia. Today the Senate will pass important legislation that will provide tax relief to our military forces deployed in the former Yugoslavia.

This relief is essential to ensure that the Internal Revenue Service does not make life more difficult for our soldiers than the rigors of their Bosnian duty has already. Speaker GINGRICH and I announced in December our intention to send to the President tax filing and other relief for our soldiers. Earlier this week the House passed the legislation and I am pleased that the Senate is doing so today.

I believe that it is critical for Congress to continue demonstrating its unequivocal support for our men and women in uniform involved in Operation Joint Endeavor and Operation Able Sentry. Our troops have more important things to focus on than compiling records, meeting paperwork deadlines, or computing their tax liability. And they should receive income and estate tax relief for participating in the operations.

I thank my colleagues for voting with me to pass this critical legislation. •

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 2778,

a bill designed to provide tax relief for our service men and women participating in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. This bill is very similar to S. 1553, a bill I introduced in the Senate on February 1, 1996, mirroring the efforts of our colleague in the House, Congressman BUNNING.

I want to convey my thanks to the House for their quick action in approving this bill. The amendments of the House incorporated certain modifications and additional provisions which will improve the beneficial impact of the bill for our men and women in uniform.

Whether or not we supported the deployment of United States troops to Bosnia, all Americans are considered for the safety and security of our fellow countrymen who are deployed as part of Operation Joint Endeavor. Although this is a peacekeeping mission, it is clearly not without risk. Land mines and sniper fire will continue to threaten our troops throughout the duration of this operation. As long as our service men and women are on the ground, they may come into harm's way.

Sadly, we have already experienced the first American casualty in Bosnia, and we probably have not seen the last. Let us not forget the family of Sfc. Donald Dugan. While enactment of this legislation will not return him to his family, it contains provisions which will alleviate some of the financial hardships his family may be experiencing as a result of his death.

Because this is a peacekeeping mission and not a war, the President has not declared the area of operation to be a combat zone. Therefore, existing law does not permit our service members in Bosnia to receive any of the tax benefits and relief normally provided to those deployed to combat zones. This legislation will extend to American military personnel in Bosnia and their families the same benefits available to service members who were deployed to the Persian Gulf war.

The more than 20,000 United States military personnel deployed to Bosnia are performing their duties in service to their country. On a recent trip to Bosnia, I had the opportunity to personally visit with many of our men and women, and I let them know what a fantastic job they were doing.

This bill is a small gesture to show our troops they are not forgotten. Its provisions will alleviate their worries about financial hardships experienced by their families left at home. It is an import expression of our support for their professionalism and patriotism.

I understand the President has indicated he supports this bill. I urge my colleagues to support adoption of this legislation, and I hope the President will act promptly to sign it into law.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating

to the bill be placed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

So the bill (H.R. 2778) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar item No. 340, Senate Resolution 219.

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

The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 219) designating March 25, 1996, as "Greek Independence Day: a national day of celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

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

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

So the resolution (S. Res. 219) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas 1996 will mark the historic first official state visit to the United States of an elected head of state of Greece;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 1996 marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That March 25, 1996 is designated as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—H.R. 497

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I would inquire of the Chair if H.R. 497 has arrived from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is at the desk.

Mr. D'AMATO. Therefore, I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 497) to create the National Gambling Impact and Policy Commission.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will remain on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
7, 1996

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 7, that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of the proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and there then be a period for morning business until the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator FEINSTEIN, 15 minutes; Senator REID, 15 minutes; Senator DORGAN, 20 minutes; Senator BAUCUS, 10 minutes; Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. D'AMATO. For the information of all Senators, tomorrow the Senate will resume the pending motion to proceed to Senate Resolution 227, the Whitewater legislation. It is also possible that the Senate will begin consideration of S. 942, the small business regulatory reform bill. Rollcall votes

are therefore possible during Thursday's session of the Senate.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, before the distinguished Senator puts the proposal to recess, Senator PELL has been on the floor for quite a period of time today. We would like for him to be able to make his statement before the Senate goes out this evening.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess following the remarks of Senator PELL and Senator MURKOWSKI.

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

WHITEWATER

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, we should not be asked to consider this resolution. Senate Resolution 227 is, to my mind, simply a license to continue a wild goose chase, and to do so at the expenditure of public funds which could well be spent for true public needs.

When the Whitewater matter first came before us 2 years ago, I said that it involved distant dealings with marginal involvement of Federal interests, and that it simply did not rise to the level of scrutiny appropriate for Senate inquiry.

Nothing has happened since to change my initial judgment one iota. The Senate investigation has dragged on for 294 days at a cost of \$1.34 million and has not yielded a single result worthy of further action.

This investigation in my view is an exercise in political harassment. Its indefinite continuance would be an embarrassment to the Senate. And I might add that continuance of the investigation holds little promise of benefit to the majority party, given the widespread public indifference to the matter.

In short, Mr. President, we are being asked to approve not just the use of Senate funds but indeed the exploitation of the full constitutional authority of the Senate to continue a so-called inquiry into matters of little consequence, and to do so for clearly partisan purposes.

(The remarks of Mr. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the submission of Senate Concurrent Resolution 43 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submission of Concurrent and Senate Resolutions.")

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands in recess until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, 1996.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., recessed until Thursday, March 7, 1996, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 6, 1996:

THE JUDICIARY

ERIC L. CLAY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE U.S. CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE RALPH B. GUY, JR., RETIRED.

JOSEPH F. BATAILLON, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA VICE LYLE E. STROM, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HAROLD WALTER GEISEL, OF ILLINOIS, 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 MAURITIUS AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL AND ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE COMOROS.

AUBREY HOOKS, OF VIRGINIA, 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 THE CONGO.

ROBERT KRUEGER, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

SUZANNE K. HALE, OF VIRGINIA
FRANK J. PIASON, OF NEW JERSEY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

LLOYD J. FLECK, OF TENNESSEE
JAMES D. GRUEFF, OF MARYLAND
THOMAS A. HAMBY, OF TENNESSEE
PETER O. KURZ, OF MARYLAND
KENNETH J. ROBERTS, OF MINNESOTA
ROBERT J. WICKS, OF VIRGINIA