

PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FILM "FRAGILE RING OF LIFE"

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar order No. 464, H.R. 2070.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2070) to provide for the distribution within the United States of the United States Information Agency film entitled "Fragile Ring of Life."

Mr. NICKLES. 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 in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2070) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 465, House Concurrent Resolution 160.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the success of their recent democratic multiparty elections.

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

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

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

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 160) was agreed to.

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ISLAND ACT OF 1995

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 469, H.R. 1508.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1508) to require the transfer of title to the District of Columbia of certain real property in Anacostia Park to facilitate the construction of National Children's Is-

land, a cultural, educational, and family-oriented park.

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

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, there are several letters that I would like to submit for the RECORD as the Senate considers H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act. The letters are addressed to me as chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee and express support of both former and current elected officials in the District of Columbia for this bill.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD the following letters:

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 17, 1996.

Sen. TED STEVENS,
Senate Hart Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN STEVENS: The National Children's Island Act of 1995, passed the House on October 30, 1995 by a unanimous voice vote, and I understand that the bill will come before your Senate Government Affairs Committee tomorrow. I urge passage of the bill, which was overwhelmingly passed by the D.C. City Council and has the support of the city administration.

H.R. 1508 calls for the transfer of ownership of Heritage and portions of Kingman Island, located within the Anacostia River, from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia for the purposes of creating a cultural, educational and family oriented-park.

The National Children's Island project will transform a wasteland area into an educational park featuring pavilions designed to expand awareness in such areas as communications and computers, medicine, science and the environment. It will offer area youth a badly needed recreational facility. Furthermore, a share of the park's revenues have been earmarked to provide educational opportunities through grants and scholarships for our neighborhood children.

When the House of Representatives first considered this legislation, I met on several occasions with residents who were supporters and opponents of the bill, and all have contributed to its final version. Over the course of several months and countless meetings, several valid concerns were raised and addressed in the Chairman's Mark at my request:

A provision specifying that the District of Columbia's review of the project must be in full compliance with all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

A requirement that the National Capital Planning Commission review and approve the project;

A prohibition against public parking on the Islands;

A provision requiring National Children's Island to comply with previously agreed upon design parameters. Specifically, buildings cannot exceed fifty feet in height, and no more than five acres can be under roof and no more than 23% of the surface can be paved; and

A requirement that National Children's Island establish an escrow fund to restore the lands in the event they are returned to the National Park Service. Specifically, they must remove any buildings and landscape the area.

National Children's Island will offer the District of Columbia significant economic opportunities at a time when, as you know, the city is in dire financial condition. For example, over 1,700 new, full and part-time jobs and an estimated \$8.9 million in annual sales tax revenues will result. In light of the District's current state of financial crisis, the City Council and he city administrators have strongly supported the project, and I believe that on a home rule basis, it should proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

WALTER E. WASHINGTON,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Washington, DC, May 30, 1996.

Hon. TED STEVENS,

Chairman, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: During my term as the first elected mayor of the District of Columbia, it was my pleasure to organize the City's Bicentennial Commission to help the United States' 200th birthdate during that year-long national celebration. One of the projects that the citizens on that commission strongly recommended was the National Children's Island project, prior to the citizens of the District supporting this project, the National Park Service had been trying to develop these islands as a part of its overall plan for the development of the Anacostia River basin for ten years.

When I heard that your committee was about to take up H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act of 1995, I was overjoyed as it has been a long hard struggle for a very worthy project to take so long to become a reality. I want to convey my strongest support for H.R. 1508, and urge your committee to move this legislation through the Senate as early as is practical.

As an elected official, you must know how frustrating it can be to devote your time and energy to worthwhile projects that never see the light of day. I held a ground breaking ceremony and started initial construction and sought major financing for this project in 1976 and since that time the project has for the most part been tied up in red tape. I would very much like to be able to attend the opening of the project, which I am assured, only needs this legislation to speed into the planning, design and construction process. This can only happen with your help.

This project means a great deal to our citizens, as well as to the District's economic base. Please help us get rid of a dump site and help us create an environmentally safe, attractive, fun-filled learning place for our children and their families.

Sincerely,

WALTER E. WASHINGTON.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1996.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR STEVENS: I am writing to emphasize the District of Columbia's support for H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act of 1995.

I strongly urge passage of this legislation exactly as it is written. The current language of the bill is a result of months and even years of discussion, compromise and fine-tuning, with input from various sectors: the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission, environmentalists, community advocates, the District government and residents of the neighborhoods bordering the Children's Island project. All of these entities have had an opportunity to

weigh in, and I strongly believe that H.R. 1508 represents the absolute best compromise language possible. H.R. 1508, exactly as it is written, protects the environment and the interests of the community. It also provides the District of Columbia with the ability to efficiently take this project to completion.

National Children's Island (NCI), is not a new concept. In fact, the District has worked for more than 20 years with the National Children's Island Inc., a local non-profit organization, to move this project forward. Unfortunately, the National Children's Island project has been paralyzed by overlapping layers of Federal and District government laws, rules and regulations. H.R. 1508 is designed to eliminate this bureaucratic gridlock and simplify a process that has become extremely cumbersome and has taken far too long to complete.

The thrust of H.R. 1508 is to make the National Children's Island project, a home-rule, District project by transferring legal title of Heritage Island and a portion of Kingman Island to the District and by subjecting Children's Island to the laws and regulations of the District. In addition, a variety of other protective provisions designed to ensure that this project moves forward in a responsible manner are included in the bill. Some of these protections include:

A provision calling for title to the Islands to revert back to the Federal government in the event the Islands are converted to a use other than as specified. (page 6, lines 13-17).

Subjecting the National Children's Island, Inc., to the "Children's Island Development Plan Act of 1993," D.C. Act 10-110, which requires that the National Children's Island project be subject to the review and approval of the District Council. (page 2, lines 20-22 and page 8, lines 17-18).

Calling for final design plans for National Children's Island to be approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, (NCP), and to be in full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA), before construction can commence. (page 8, lines 12-21).

I would like to point out that the National Children's Island project enjoys the overwhelming support of the Council of the District of Columbia, and more than 70 community organizations have sent letters in support of the project. The project is also in full compliance with the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, DCMR Title 10, Section 1735(h) guides the District to avoid commercial development that would adversely affect the neighborhoods adjacent to Kingman Island (Children's Island) and explicitly dictates that the parcels be used for community and city-wide recreation. In fact, the public planning process has advised this project from the beginning, and will continue as a key requirement of the Master Planning process.

For all of these reasons, I therefore ask you to support H.R. 1508 in its present form and support the District's effort to bring a worthwhile, viable project to our beloved District of Columbia and to our children.

Sincerely yours,

MARION BARRY, Jr.,
Mayor.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, DC, June 18, 1996.

Hon. TED STEVENS, Chairman,
Hon. JOHN GLENN, Ranking Member,
Senate Governmental Affairs Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN STEVENS AND SENATOR GLENN: I am writing to request your support for H.R. 1508, the National Children's Island Act of 1995, which was introduced by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and approved by the House of Representatives, and

which is currently pending in the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. This legislation, which provides for the transfer of the ownership of Heritage Island and a portion of Kingman Island ("Children's Island") located on the Anacostia River from the National Park Service to the District of Columbia, will facilitate an environmentally sensitive development of Children's Island which will provide significant recreational, educational and economic benefits for the District of Columbia.

A transfer of jurisdiction over this property was previously approved by the Council of the District of Columbia on July 13, 1993, and by the National Capital Planning Commission ("NCP") on January 7, 1993. The NCP found that the proposed use of Children's Island—as a family-oriented recreational and educational park on 32 acres and a free children's playground on 13.5 acres—would serve to enhance the recreational potential of both the parkland and the river, and that the proposed use is consistent with both the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and the previously approved concept plans for this portion of the Anacostia park system.

Although I was not on the Council at the time, the Children's Island Development Plan Act of 1993 (D.C. Law 10-57, effective November 20, 1993) was unanimously approved by the Council three years ago. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the law, along with the accompanying Report by the Council's Committee of the Whole ("Report"), which stated:

The Children's Island project envisions a development which will transform an inaccessible, man-made, trash-filled property with little redeeming value into an expertly designed and beautifully landscaped park which has recreational, educational and cultural activities and exhibits for residents and tourists of all ages.

The Report also estimated that the Children's Island project would generate approximately 1,700 permanent part-time and full-time jobs and millions of dollars in desperately needed new tax revenues to the District.

As you may know, D.C. Law 10-57 requires that, in addition to all other requirements for approvals, permits and procedures which are necessary to allow the development of Children's Island, a development plan for Children's Island must be prepared and submitted to the D.C. Council for review and approval. The law requires this development plan to include, among other information, an environmental impact statement ("EIS") which would identify all measures necessary to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts from the proposed development. The EIS process will ensure that the Children's Island development proposal will be subject to full community and governmental participation in a comprehensive assessment of its impacts.

In summary, I urge your favorable consideration of legislation to facilitate the development of Children's Island as a recreational and educational park that will be accessible to and enjoyed by millions of area residents and visitors to our nation's capital each year. The project offers the opportunity to provide the public with an amenity in the eastern part of the District that would be similar in landscaping, density and cultural value as that provided by the National Zoo in the western part of our city. Moreover, the Children's Island project—like the proposed arena, convention center and municipal parking projects in the District each of which has required Congressional legislation to move forward—is an important component in the ongoing effort to revitalize the

District's traditional position as the economic and cultural heart of this region.

Sincerely,

DAVID A. CLARKE,
Chairman.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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.

The bill (H.R. 1508) was deemed read for the third time and passed.

MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT FOR BULGARIA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar Order No. 399, H.R. 2853.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows.

A bill (H.R. 2853) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Bulgaria.

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

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

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be deemed read a 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.

The bill (H.R. 2853) was deemed read for the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 608, 665 through 674, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, the Army, and Marine Corps.

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

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

ARMY

The following-named officer for reappointment to the grade of general in the U.S.