

“(B) The Secretary shall provide, directly or by grant to or contract with public or private nonprofit agencies or organizations—

“(i) technical assistance and resource and referral information to assist State or local governments with termination of parental rights issues, in recruiting and retaining adoptive families, in the successful placement of children with special needs, and in the provision of pre- and post-placement services, including post-legal adoption services; and

“(ii) other assistance to help State and local governments replicate successful adoption-related projects from other areas in the United States.”.

SEC. 404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 205 (42 U.S.C. 5115) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$10,000,000,” and all that follows through “203(c)(1)” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2001 to carry out programs and activities authorized”;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

TITLE V—ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1986

SEC. 501. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 104(a)(1) of the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 670 note) is amended by striking “\$20,000,000” and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting “\$35,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1995 through 1997, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2001”.

TITLE VI—REAUTHORIZATION OF VARIOUS PROGRAMS

SEC. 601. MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 408 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777) is amended—

(1) by striking “To” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL,—”

(2) by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, and 1997 through 2001”; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(b) EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall use not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (a) to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities established and operated under this title.”.

SEC. 602. VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT OF 1990.

Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, and 1997”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, through 2001”.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—REPORT NO. 104-319

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that report number 104-319 be star printed with the changes that I understand are at the desk.

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

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF MFN TREATMENT TO THE PRODUCTS OF ROMANIA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3161, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3161) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Romania.

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. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3161, a bill to extend permanent most-favored-nation trade status to Romania. I believe it is premature to surrender leverage over developments in Romania less than 4 months before their national elections. Adoption of this measure now will weaken our ability to extend support to democratic forces in Romania.

I spoke in opposition to the Senate version of this measure, S. 1644, when the Finance Committee held a hearing on it on June 4, 1996. Before that, as Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I joined with our Chairman, the distinguished Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, in a letter to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, urging postponement of action on this initiative until after Romania's elections.

On Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 3161, after a spirited debate on the previous day. Their action, and the likely passage of this bill by this Chamber, surrenders leverage over developments in Romania which is uniquely ours. The semi-annual review process for Romania's most-favored-nation gives Congress the ability to express itself if the slow but steady progress with democratization and privatization that has been occurring in Romania should suffer a reverse after this fall's election.

I do not need to recite the horrors that occurred in the former Yugoslavia, just over the border from Romania when extremists seized control of the political process. Genocide in Bosnia has not yet been redressed, and thousands of American troops are deployed there on the ground to help the Dayton Accords succeed.

Romania has a substantial ethnic minority population. Approximately 9 percent of Romania's population of 23 million is ethnically Hungarian. Relations between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians have not always been easy.

The current Romanian Government is a coalition government. It contained three extremist minority parties for 3 of its 4 years in office, with two leaving the government only this past December.

All of the experts I have spoken with, and all knowledgeable Romanian officials believe that the next government will be a coalition government, too. I think it is very important for those who support democratic progress and privatization in Romania to keep a

close eye on these national elections and the government they produce.

The opposition did very well in this spring's local elections. This bodes well for their chances in the fall, but it appears that no single party has the strength or public support to form a government on its own. Even if the opposition wins, this does not resolve the question of who will be included in the coalition government.

Romania has made clear that its first priority in its foreign relations is NATO integration. They view passage of this measure and receipt of unconditional MFN status as a step in this direction, a credential that they have made progress.

I have no trouble saying that they have made progress. Measured since Ceaucescu's fall, the progress has been serious. Over a shorter time-frame, it sometimes appears to be one step forward and two steps back, but it is progress nonetheless.

Having said that, there are also problems. I think these problems are serious enough for Congress to want to keep the leverage it has through the semi-annual MFN report and review process until after this fall's national elections. Then, once we see how the elections have turned out, who is in the coalition government, and what their policies will be, we can make a well-considered judgment on whether to terminate the review process and make their MFN trade status unconditional. Action now is premature.

I know that the Romanian Assembly and Senate both passed resolutions stating that all parties agreed that MFN would not be a political issue in the fall campaign. I ask you to imagine what would happen if both our House and Senate passed a resolution stating, for instance, that NAFTA would not be a campaign issue.

In a nation with a free press, passage of such a resolution would have the immediate effect of moving the issue to the top of the political agenda, and focusing hard questions on the leadership of both parties. It would not take the issue off of the agenda.

I received a copy of a May 27, 1996 letter from the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, the DAHR, which states, “In the opinion of the DAHR, the entire population of Romania has great need of Most Favored Nation status, but we believe that the best method for the American government would be to continue to link this benefit to respect for human rights and minority rights until such time as practical results are achieved in these areas.”

Mr. President, it does not sound to me as if there is unanimous support within Romania for pressing ahead with unconditional MFN. In fact, the ethnic minority most vulnerable to oppression and discrimination, and the one that has suffered serious human rights violations in the past, is the very one that asks the United States to retain the MFN review process.

I received another letter from the Ad Hoc Committee for the Organization of Romanian Democracy, Inc. That letter, dated July 15, 1996, points out shortcomings in the property restitution and compensation process in Romania, and talks about developments in a human rights case.

In that regard, it states, "To further emphasize the injustices of the present Romanian regime, we wish also to inform you that we have just received a fax from Romania informing us about two newspapermen, Radu Mazare, Chief Editor and Constantin Cumpăna, Chief of Section, of the Telegraph, from the city of Constanta, who have just been sentenced for slander to 7 months in prison and a fine of 25 million lei (approx. \$8000)."

Their letter continues, "In view of the above injustices, the Committee appeals to you, Senator D'AMATO, to consent to urging the postponement, until after the Romanian Presidential-Parliamentary elections in September-October 1996, of debates and voting in respect to the granting of permanent MFN status to Romania."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania's letter and the Ad Hoc Committee's letter be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. D'AMATO. Let me continue by pointing out some other problems in Romania. Rights of national minorities to receive an education in their native languages have been restricted by the Romanian education law of July 24, 1995, and the government has not supported the opening of an independent Hungarian university.

An ethnic Hungarian, Pal Cseresznyes, remains in jail on questionable charges, an imprisonment that has lasted for 6 years and during which he allegedly suffered frequent beatings.

I am concerned by reports that the local elections revealed serious inaccuracies in voter lists, a problem that had been identified by international observers in previous elections and that the government has had time to repair. Those same inaccurate lists appear to be going to be used this fall. Use of those lists could call into question public trust in the results of the national election.

Mr. President, I regret that this measure has moved forward with such speed. I note that it was not referred to committee. Its consideration now coincides with the visit to the United States of the Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Teodor Melescanu. It appears that part of the rush to judgment this effort reflects is to produce a victory on this issue for the President of Romania, Ion Iliescu. Regardless of the protestations of parliamentarians and Romanian officials to the contrary, I firmly expect that passage of this

measure will immediately be touted as a great victory for Romania.

I hope that it will not, in fact, be a defeat for human rights, democracy, and free enterprise in Romania. I will watch the results of this election closely, and I join with those who support this bill in hoping that their results will justify the faith passage of this measure represents. I have, however, found that hope, when dealing with entrenched Balkan issues, is seldom well rewarded.

I will be watching to see who is in the resulting coalition government and what policies they adopt. While passage of this bill will end the MFN review process, inclusion of Romania in NATO will require additional steps. Without the MFN review process leverage, if the elections produce negative results, the consequences in terms of U.S. policy will have to be more severe.

EXHIBIT 1

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF ROMANIAN DEMOCRACY, INC.,

Mount Vernon, NY, July 15, 1996.

Hon. ALFONSE D'AMATO,
U.S. Senate, HSOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR D'AMATO: At the request of the owners of the properties nationalized-confiscated by decrees in 1949, we are forwarding to you the English translation of the memorandum addressed to President Iliescu of Romania and submitted and registered at the office of the President. The signatory is Mrs. Alexandrina Ionescu, Strada Franceza No. 56, Bucharest 3.

The gist of the memorandum, condensed in a few sentences, is as follows: By sentence of Lower Courts of Justice, Mrs. Ionescu and other owners obtained the restitution of property. They complied with all the prescribed legal requirements by paying the taxes and registering the legal deeds of property with the appropriate authority. Nevertheless, the Attorney General has started proceedings to annul the decisions of the Lower Courts.

The attached memorandum, translated into English and French, has also been submitted to the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

To further emphasize the injustices of the present Romanian regime, we wish to also inform you that we have just received a fax from Romania informing us about two newspaper men, Radu Mazare, Chief Editor and Constantin Cumpăna, Chief of Section, of the Telegraph, from the city of Constanta, who have just been sentenced for slander to seven months in prison and a fine of 25 million lei (approx. \$8000).

In view of the above injustices, the Committee appeals to you, Senator D'Amato, to consent to urging the postponement, until after the Romanian presidential-Parliamentary elections in September-October 1996, of debates and voting in respect to the granting of permanent MFN status to Romania.

We thank you, Senator D'Amato, for your consideration and understanding of the Romanian people who desire true democracy in their country.

Very truly yours,

STEFAN ISSARESCU, M.D.,
Chairman.

SIMONE M. VRABIESCU KLECKNER, J.D.,
Co-Chairman.

Mr. LOTT. 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.

The bill (H.R. 3161) was deemed read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 22, 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, July 22; further, that following the prayer, the Journal of the proceedings be deemed approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the 2 leaders be reserved for their use later in day; I further ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of the reconciliation bill under the previous order agreed to last night.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, on Monday there will be 4 hours of debate on the reconciliation bill for Members to offer and debate all remaining amendments as provided under the unanimous consent agreement. Following that debate I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the consideration of the agriculture appropriations bill.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, when the Senate turns to the agriculture appropriations bill it will be the majority leader's intention to stack any rollcall votes on amendments and hopefully final passage over until Tuesday, following the previously ordered stacked series which will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Therefore, rollcall votes will not occur during Monday's session of the Senate. But Senators that are intending to offer amendments or raise points of order with respect to the reconciliation bill or the agriculture appropriations bill must do so on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M., MONDAY, JULY 22, 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate now stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:51 p.m. adjourned until Monday, July 22, 1996, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate July 19, 1996:

THE JUDICIARY

JEFFREY T. MILLER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA VICE GORDON THOMPSON, JR., RETIRED.