

After the war, Mr. Chalot returned to the United States, and was finally naturalized as a U.S. citizen on September 18, 1945.

On September 20, 1996, he applied to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission for compensation pursuant to the Agreement Between the United States and Germany Concerning Final Benefits To Certain United States National Socialist Measures of Persecution.

On September 5, 1997, the Commission denied Mr. Chalot's claim on the ground that he was not a U.S. citizen during his time as a Nazi prisoner of war and was, therefore, ineligible for compensation. H.R. 2731 would modify the date Mr. Chalot became a U.S. citizen and make him eligible for compensation under the Agreement Between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States of America.

The other bill, H.R. 2732, provides relief for Mr. Roy Desmond Moser, a Massachusetts resident with an almost identical situation.

This legislation would make Mr. Chalot and Mr. Moser eligible for compensation by deeming them to be naturalized U.S. citizens as of the dates they began their military service.

Mr. President, I believe that these two bills provide relief for two courageous men who fought for our Nation during World War II. I hope my colleagues understand the personal significance of these measures for these two individuals.

ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 278, H.R. 1787.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1787) to assist in the conservation of Asian elephants by supporting and providing financial resources for the conservation programs of nations within the range of Asian elephants and projects of persons with demonstrated expertise in the conservation of Asian elephants.

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. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1787) was read the third time and passed.

CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 399

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now

proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 66, submitted earlier today by Senator McCain.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) to correct the enrollment of S. 399.

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. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 66

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill (S. 399), to amend the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 to establish the United States Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution to conduct environmental conflict resolution and training, and for other purposes, the Clerk of the Senate shall make the following correction in section 10 of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental and Native American Public Policy Act of 1992 (as amended by section 6 of the bill): Strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

“(c) NOTIFICATION AND CONCURRENCE.—

“(1) NOTIFICATION.—An agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall notify the chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality when using the Foundation or the Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a).

“(2) NOTIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS.—In a matter involving 2 or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government, notification under paragraph (1) shall include a written description of—

“(A) the issues and parties involved;

“(B) prior efforts, if any, undertaken by the agency to resolve or address the issue or issues;

“(C) all Federal agencies or instrumentalities with a direct interest or involvement in the matter and a statement that all Federal agencies or instrumentalities agree to dispute resolution; and

“(D) other relevant information.

“(3) CONCURRENCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In a matter that involves 2 or more agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality), the agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government shall obtain the concurrence of the chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality before using the Foundation or Institute to provide the services described in subsection (a).

“(B) INDICATION OF CONCURRENCE OR NONCONCURRENCE.—The chairperson of the President's Council on Environmental Quality shall indicate concurrence or nonconcurrence under subparagraph (A) not later than 20 days after receiving notice under paragraph (2).

“(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) LEGAL ISSUES AND ENFORCEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) that concern purely legal issues or matters, interpretation or determination of law, or enforcement of law by 1 agency against another agency shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.

“(B) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) this does not apply to a dispute or conflict concerning—

“(i) agency implementation of a program or project;

“(ii) a matter involving 2 or more agencies with parallel authority requiring facilitation and coordination of the various government agencies; or

“(iii) a nonlegal policy or decisionmaking matter that involves 2 or more agencies that are jointly operating a project.

“(2) OTHER MANDATED MECHANISMS OR AVENUES.—A dispute or conflict involving agencies or instrumentalities of the Federal Government (including branches or divisions of a single agency or instrumentality) for which Congress by law has mandated another dispute resolution mechanism or avenue to address or resolve shall not be submitted to the Foundation or Institute.”.

GROUP HOSPITALIZATION AND MEDICAL SERVICES FEDERAL CHARTER REPEAL ACT

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 261, H.R. 497.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 497) to repeal the Federal charter of Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., and for other purposes.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. CHARTER FOR GROUP HOSPITALIZATION AND MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.

The Act entitled “An Act providing for the incorporation of certain persons as Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc.”, approved August 11, 1939, is amended—

(1) by inserting after section 9 the following new section:

“SEC. 10. The corporation may have 1 class of members, consisting of at least 1 member and not more than 30 members, as determined appropriate by the board of trustees. The bylaws for the corporation shall prescribe the designation of such class as well as the rights, privileges and qualifications of such class, which may include, but shall not be limited to—

“(1) the manner of election, appointment or removal of a member of the corporation;

“(2) matters on which a member of the corporation has the right to vote; and

“(3) meeting, notice, quorum, voting and proxy requirements and procedures.

If a member of the corporation is a corporation, such member shall be a nonprofit corporation.”;

(2) by redesignating section 10 as section 11; and

(3) by adding at the end of section 11 (as so redesignated) the following: “The corporation

may not be dissolved without approval by Congress."

SEC. 2. CONSISTENT COVERAGE FOR INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN A HEALTH PLAN ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCIES.

(a) **ENROLLMENT IN CHAPTER 89 PLAN.**—For purposes of chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, any period of enrollment shall be deemed to be a period of enrollment in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of such title, if such enrollment is—

(1) in a health benefits plan administered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation before the termination of such plan on January 3, 1998; or

(2) subject to subsection (c), in a health benefits plan (not under chapter 89 of such title) with respect to which the eligibility of any employees or retired employees of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System terminates on January 3, 1998.

(b) **ENROLLMENT; CONTINUED COVERAGE.**—

(1) **ENROLLMENT.**—Subject to subsection (c), any individual who, on January 3, 1998, is enrolled in a health benefits plan described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) may enroll in an approved health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, either as an individual or for self and family, if, after taking into account the provisions of subsection (a), such individual—

(A) meets the requirements of that chapter 89 for eligibility to become so enrolled as an employee, annuitant, or former spouse (within the meaning of that chapter); or

(B) would meet the requirements of that chapter 89 if, to the extent such requirements involve either retirement system under such title 5, such individual satisfied similar requirements or provisions of the Retirement Plan for Employees of the Federal Reserve System.

(2) **DETERMINATIONS.**—Any determination under paragraph (1)(B) shall be made under guidelines established by the Office of Personnel Management in consultation with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(3) **CONTINUED COVERAGE.**—Subject to subsection (c), any individual who, on January 3, 1998, is entitled to continued coverage under a health benefits plan described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall be deemed to be entitled to continued coverage under section 8905a of title 5, United States Code, but only for the same remaining period as would have been allowable under the health benefits plan in which such individual was enrolled on January 3, 1998, if—

(A) the individual had remained enrolled in that plan; and

(B) that plan did not terminate, or the eligibility of such individual with respect to that plan did not terminate, as described in subsection (a).

(4) **COMPARABLE TREATMENT.**—Subject to subsection (c), any individual (other than an individual under paragraph (3)) who, on January 3, 1998, is covered under a health benefits plan described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) as an unmarried dependent child, but who does not then qualify for coverage under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, as a family member (within the meaning of that chapter) shall be deemed to be entitled to continued coverage under section 8905a of that title, to the same extent and in the same manner as if such individual had, on January 3, 1998, ceased to meet the requirements for being considered an unmarried dependent child of an enrollee under such chapter.

(5) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Coverage under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, pursuant to an enrollment under this section shall become effective on January 4, 1998.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY FOR FEHBP LIMITED TO INDIVIDUALS LOSING ELIGIBILITY UNDER FORMER HEALTH PLAN.**—Nothing in subsection (a)(22) or any paragraph of subsection (b) (to the extent

that paragraph (2) relates to the plan described in subsection (a)(2)) shall be considered to apply with respect to any individual whose eligibility for coverage under the plan does not involuntarily terminate on January 3, 1998.

(d) **TRANSFERS TO THE EMPLOYEES HEALTH BENEFITS FUND.**—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall transfer to the Employees Health Benefits Fund, under section 8909 of title 5, United States Code, amounts determined by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management after consultation with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to be necessary to reimburse the Fund for the cost of providing benefits under this section not otherwise paid for by the individuals covered by this section. The amounts so transferred shall be held in the Fund and used by the Office of Personnel Management in addition to amounts available under section 8906(g)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(e) **ADMINISTRATION AND REGULATIONS.**—The Office of Personnel Management—

(1) shall administer the provisions of this section to provide for—

(A) a period of notice and open enrollment for individuals affected by this section; and

(B) no lapse of health coverage for individuals who enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, in accordance with this section; and

(2) may prescribe regulations to implement this section.

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to amend the Federal charter for Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., and for other purposes."

Passed the House of Representatives February 26, 1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.

AMENDMENT NO. 1616

(PURPOSE: TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION)

Mr. CRAIG. Senator THOMPSON has a technical amendment at the desk, and I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], for Mr. THOMPSON, proposes an amendment numbered 1616.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 8, line 15, strike "(2)".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 1616) was agreed to.

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment, as amended, be agreed to, the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the title amendment be agreed to, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 497) was considered read the third time and passed.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER RUSSIA'S NEWLY PASSED RELIGION LAW

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 251, Senate Concurrent Resolution 58.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) expressing the concern of Congress over Russia's newly passed religion law.

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. CRAIG. 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 appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 58) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the Russian legislature approved a bill "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Association", and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed it into law on September 26;

Whereas under the new law, the Russian government exercises almost unrestricted control over the activities of both Russian and international religious groups;

Whereas the new law will grant privileged status to some religions while discriminating against others through restrictive reporting and registration requirements;

Whereas the new law jeopardizes religious rights by permitting government officials, in consultation with privileged religious groups, to deny or revoke the registration of minority religions and order their possible disbandment or prohibition, on the basis of such activities as home schooling, nonmedical forms of healing, "hypnotic" sermons, and other vaguely defined offenses;

Whereas the law also restricts foreign missionary work in Russia;

Whereas under the new law, religious organizations or churches that wish to continue their activities in Russia will have to provide confirmation that they have existed at least 15 years, and only those who legally operated 50 years ago may be recognized as national "Russian" religious organizations;

Whereas although Article 14 of the Russian Constitution stipulates that "religious associations are separate from the state and are equal before the law", Article 19 states that restriction of citizens' rights on grounds of religious affiliation are prohibited, and Article 28 stipulates that "each person is guaranteed freedom of conscience and freedom * * * to choose, hold, and disseminate religious and other convictions and to act in accordance with them", the new law clearly violates these provisions of the Russian Constitution;

Whereas the Russian religion law violates accepted international agreements on human rights and religious freedoms to which the Russian Federation is a signatory, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Final Act and Madrid and Vienna Concluding Documents, and the European Convention on Human Rights;