

Whereas governments have a primary responsibility to promote, encourage, and protect respect for the fundamental and internationally recognized right to freedom of religion; and

Whereas the United States Government is committed to the right to freedom of religion and its policies, and should encourage foreign governments to commit to this principle: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress hereby—

(1) condemns the newly passed Russian antireligion law restricting freedom of religion, and violating international norms, international treaties to which the Russian Federation is a signatory, and the Constitution of Russia;

(2) recommends that President Clinton make the United States position clear to President Yeltsin and the Russian legislature that this antireligion law may seriously harm United States-Russian relations;

(3) calls upon President Yeltsin and the Russian legislature to uphold their international commitments on human rights, abide by the Russian Constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion, and reconsider their position by amending the new antireligion law and lifting all restrictions on freedom of religion; and

(4) calls upon all governments and legislatures of the independent states of the former Soviet Union to respect religious human rights in accordance with their international commitments and resist efforts to adopt the Russian discriminatory law.

EXPORT IMPORT BANK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I submit a report of the committee of conference on the bill (S. 1026), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1026) to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by all of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of November 7, 1997.)

Mr. CRAIG. I ask unanimous consent that the conference report be agreed to.

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

The conference report was agreed to.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of calendar item No. 169, H.R. 1086.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1086) to codify without substantive change laws related to transportation and to improve the United States Code.

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. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1086) was considered read the third time, and passed.

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of calendar item No. 247, S. 759.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 759) to provide for an annual report to Congress concerning diplomatic immunity.

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 Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. REPORTS AND POLICY CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

Title I, of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Foreign Missions Act") is amended by inserting after section 204A the following new section:

"SEC. 204B. CRIMES COMMITTED BY DIPLOMATS.

"(a) ANNUAL REPORT CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.—

"(1) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the Congress, annually, a report concerning diplomatic immunity entitled "Report on Cases Involving Diplomatic Immunity".

"(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—In addition to such other information as the Secretary of State may consider appropriate, the report under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

"(A) The number of persons residing in the United States who enjoy full immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities.

"(B) Each case involving an alien described in subparagraph (A) in which an appropriate authority of a State, a political subdivision of a State, or the United States reported to the Department of State that the authority had reasonable cause to believe the alien committed a serious criminal offense within the United States, and any additional information provided to the Secretary relating to other serious criminal offenses that any such authority had reasonable cause to believe the alien committed before the period covered by the report. The Secretary may omit from such report any matter the provision of which the Secretary reasonably be-

lieves would compromise a criminal investigation or prosecution or which would directly compromise law enforcement or intelligence sources or methods.

"(C) Each case described in subparagraph (B) in which the Secretary of State has certified that a person enjoys full immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities.

"(D) The number of United States citizens who are residing in a receiving state and who enjoy full immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of such state under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities.

"(E) Each case involving a United States citizen under subparagraph (D) in which the United States has been requested by the government of a receiving state to waive the immunity from criminal jurisdiction of the United States citizen.

"(F) Whether the Secretary has made the notifications referred to in subsection (c) during the period covered by the report.

"(3) SERIOUS CRIMINAL OFFENSE DEFINED.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'serious criminal offense' means—

"(A) any felony under Federal, State, or local law;

"(B) any Federal, State, or local offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year;

"(C) any crime of violence as defined for purposes of section 16 of title 18, United States Code; or

"(D)(i) driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

"(ii) reckless driving; or

"(iii) driving while intoxicated.

"(b) UNITED STATES POLICY CONCERNING REFORM OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of State should explore, in appropriate fora, whether states should enter into agreements and adopt legislation—

"(1) to provide jurisdiction in the sending state to prosecute crimes committed in the receiving state by persons entitled to immunity from criminal jurisdiction under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities; and

"(2) to provide that where there is probable cause to believe that an individual who is entitled to immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving state under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities committed a serious crime, the sending state will waive such immunity or the sending state will prosecute such individual.

"(c) NOTIFICATION OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS.—The Secretary should periodically notify each foreign mission of United States policies relating to criminal offenses committed by individuals with immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the United States under laws extending diplomatic privileges and immunities."

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute 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 appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 759) was considered read the third time.

The title was amended so as to read:

A Bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress concerning diplomatic immunity.

AVIATION INSURANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar item No. 274, Senate 1193.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:.

A bill (S. 1193) to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the authorization of the aviation insurance program, 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 Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Aviation Insurance Reauthorization Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. VALUATION OF AIRCRAFT.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY FOR INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE.—Section 44302(a)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "as determined by the Secretary." and inserting "as determined by the Secretary in accordance with reasonable business practices in the commercial aviation insurance industry."

(b) LIMITATION ON MAXIMUM INSURED AMOUNT.—Section 44306(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "as determined by the Secretary." and inserting "as determined by the Secretary in accordance with reasonable business practices in the commercial aviation insurance industry."

SEC. 3. EFFECT OF INDEMNITY AGREEMENTS.

Section 44305(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: "If such an agreement is countersigned by the President or the President's designee, the agreement shall constitute, for purposes of section 44302(b), a determination that continuation of the aircraft operations to which the agreement applies is necessary to carry out the foreign policy of the United States."

SEC. 4. ARBITRATION AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF BINDING ARBITRATION.—Section 44308(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: "Any such policy may authorize the binding arbitration of claims made thereunder in such manner as may be agreed to by the Secretary and any commercial insurer that may be responsible for any part of a loss to which such policy relates."

(b) AUTHORITY TO PAY ARBITRATION AWARD.—Section 44308(b)(2) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) pay the amount of a binding arbitration award made under paragraph (1); and"

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44310 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "September 30, 2002" and inserting "December 31, 1998".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) takes effect on October 1, 1997.

SEC. 6. USE OF AIRCRAFT FOR DEMONSTRATION.

Section 40102(a)(37)(A) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" in clause (i);

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following: "(ii) owned by the United States Government and operated by any person for purposes related to crew training, equipment development, or demonstration; or".

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be considered and read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The committee substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1193), as amended, was passed.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar item No. 272, Senate Resolution 93.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 93) designating the week beginning November 23, 1997, and the week beginning on November 22, 1998, as "National Family Week", and for other purposes.

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 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 resolution (S. Res. 93) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 93

Designating the week beginning November 23, 1997, and the week beginning on November 22, 1998, as "National Family Week", and for other purposes.

Whereas the family is the basic strength of any free and orderly society;

Whereas it is appropriate to honor the family unit as essential to the continued well-being of the United States; and

Whereas it is fitting that official recognition be given to the importance of family loyalties and ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week beginning on November 23, 1997 and the week beginning on November 22, 1998, as "National Family Week". The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

UNIFORM RELOCATION ASSISTANCE AND REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICIES ACT OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1258.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1258) to amend the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1617

(Purpose: Technical Amendment)

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, Senator BENNETT has an 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. BENNETT, proposes an amendment numbered 1617.

On page 2, line 3, strike "(a)".

On page 3, line 4, strike "under this Act,".

On page 3, beginning on line 5, strike "on the basis of race, color, or national origin".

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to make a brief statement regarding S. 1258, a bill I introduced on October 6, 1997. This legislation will amend the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 to prohibit an alien not lawfully present in the United States from receiving assistance under that act. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has reviewed this bill and approved it for Senate floor action.

My purpose in bringing this bill before the Senate is to address a loophole that was inadvertently created when immigration and welfare reform bills were recently enacted. In part, these bills were crafted to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the United States by denying Federal taxpayer paid benefits to illegal aliens. Currently, illegal aliens are still eligible to receive relocation assistance. Often, this assistance turns out to be a significant sum of money.

This legislation was originally introduced in the other body following an incident in California in which an illegal immigrant was awarded \$12,000 because her legal status in this country made her ineligible to be moved into section 8 housing. In other instances, relocation assistance is being awarded to illegal aliens who then use the money to buy homes in their countries of origin.

This legislation simply closes a loophole which was overlooked in previous legislation and fully complies with the intent of Congress when it enacted immigration and welfare reform laws. I note that this legislation will not affect foreign nationals residing in the