

[Mr. FRIST] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 57, a resolution to support the commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64—TO DESIGNATE NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. ROBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 64

Whereas the operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial component of our criminal justice system;

Whereas correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the public to be safeguarded from criminal activity;

Whereas correctional personnel are responsible for the care, custody and dignity of the human beings charged to their care; and

Whereas correctional personnel work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily work lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of May 4, 1997 as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week." The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I submit a resolution to designate the week of May 4, 1997 as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

Mr. President, this resolution gives needed recognition to the vital role that correctional personnel play in our communities.

Correctional officers and employees put their lives on the line every day to protect the public from dangerous criminals. These brave men and women also protect incarcerated individuals from the violence of their circumstance, and they help prisoners work toward returning to lawful society.

I urge my colleagues to join with me to recognize the work and contributions of our Nation's correctional officers and employees.

SENATE RESOLUTION 65—RELATIVE TO COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. DORGAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 65

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM.

(A) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

Whereas spending on federal election campaigns has increased to an estimated \$2.65 billion in the most recent election cycle, a three-fold increase over campaign spending just 20 years ago, even after adjusting for inflation;

Whereas in the 1995-1996 election cycle, the Democratic party committees raised \$332 million, a 73% increase over the \$192 million raised four years earlier and the Republican party committees raised \$549 million, a 74% increase over the \$316 million they raised four years earlier;

(3) overall campaign spending for congressional races has risen from \$99 million in 1976 to \$626 million in 1996, a more than six-fold increase;

(4) since 1992, when political parties were first required to report soft money contributions to the Federal Election Commission, these contributions, which are raised outside federal election law, have tripled, from \$86 million in 1992 to over \$263 million in the last election cycle;

(5) there has been a proliferation of negative "issue" ads paid for by political parties and interest groups to influence federal elections, further increasing the cost of campaigns;

(6) as political campaigns have become longer, costlier and more negative, voter apathy has increased and voter participation in presidential elections has declined from 60% in 1948-1968, to 53% from 1972-92, to all-time low of 49% in 1996;

(7) these trends will continue if Congress fails to enact comprehensive campaign finance reform;

(8) the more than 6,700 pages of hearing records, 49 days of testimony before 8 different congressional committees, 15 committee reports from 6 different committees and 113 Senate floor votes, constitute a sufficient Senate record on campaign finance reform; and

(9) campaign finance reform has been filibustered in the Senate 17 times in the last ten years.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should proceed to the consideration of comprehensive campaign finance reform that reduces spending on political campaigns and curtails the influence of special interest money in federal elections by no later than May 31, 1997 and adopt as a goal the final enactment of such legislation by no later than July 4, 1997.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the 1996 election cycle, unprecedented amounts of money freely flowed into and out of the campaign coffers of candidates for Federal public office. The time required to raise funds is excessive, and increasingly more expensive election campaigns have fostered the view that spending is out of control.

Campaign finance reform is long overdue. The fact that we are embarking upon an intensive scrutiny of past campaign practices should not impede our effort to move swiftly and concurrently to correct deficiencies in the present system.

We must do more than just point out the errors of the past. We must make changes for the future.

Today, Senator BYRON DORGAN and I submitted a resolution stating that it is the sense of the Senate that the Senate should proceed to consideration, by no later than May 31, 1997, of comprehensive campaign finance reform that reduces spending on political campaigns and curtails the influence of special interest money in Federal elections, and that the Senate should adopt as a goal the final enactment of such legislation by no later than July 4, 1997.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information

of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, March 19, 1997, 9:30 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is on Food and Drug Administration reform. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for information of the Senate and the public that a hearing of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources will be held on Thursday, March 20, 1997, 10 a.m., in SD-430 of the Senate Dirksen Building. The subject of the hearing is Higher Education Act reauthorization. For further information, please call the committee, 202/224-5375.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding agriculture research reauthorization.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategies and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1998 and the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, to conduct a markup on S. 318, the "Homeowners Protection Act of 1997," and of certain pending nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing Tuesday, March 18, at 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406) on proposals to authorize State and local governments to enact flow control laws and to regulate the interstate transportation of solid waste.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary would ask unanimous consent to hold a nominations hearing on Tuesday, March 18, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 226, of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 9 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the presidential nomination of Alexis M. Herman to be Secretary of Labor, during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 2 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 18, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. on review of U.S. Coast Guard fiscal year 1998 budget and reauthorization.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

• Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, it is a personal honor for me to once again co-sponsor Senate Resolution 56 designating March 25, 1997, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy".

This resolution honors the anniversary of a single, victorious revolution

that occurred 176 years ago. This solitary battle returned to the citizens of Greece their freedom and democracy, rights that had been seized from them centuries before by the Ottoman Empire. Greece is a country possessing an immensely rich heritage, and one from which our own Nation has drawn generously and with great benefit. In times of peace and in times of conflict, Greece has steered a strong and steady course with the United States as a loyal friend and trusted ally.

This resolution provides me with the opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the nation of Greece, as well as our own Greek American community, for the significant contributions they have both made on behalf of our Nation—and to the inexorable ties which bind our two peoples together.●

REMARKS OF SENATOR GEORGE MITCHELL ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the moving remarks of our former Majority Leader, the Honorable George J. Mitchell, which he delivered at the American-Ireland Fund Dinner on March 13, 1997. Senator Mitchell spoke about the peace process in Northern Ireland and his own efforts to facilitate reconciliation in that troubled land.

I commend Senator Mitchell's remarks to all Senators, and I ask that the text be printed in the RECORD.

The text follows:

EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY SENATOR GEORGE J. MITCHELL, AMERICAN-IRELAND FUND DINNER, WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 13, 1997

I'm grateful for this award. The American-Ireland Fund is an important force for good in Ireland. I commend you for your efforts and I encourage you to continue them.

As you know, I've spent most of the past two years in Northern Ireland. On my trips back to the U.S., I've been asked two questions, over and over again, by Americans who care about Ireland: Why are you doing this? And, What can I do to help?

Tonight, I'll try to answer both of those questions.

Why am I doing this?

I've asked myself that question many times. To answer it, I must go back nearly 20 years, before I'd ever been to Ireland, before I'd ever thought seriously about Northern Ireland.

Before I entered the United States Senate I had the privilege of serving as a Federal Judge. In that position I had great power. The power I most enjoyed exercising was when I presided over what are called naturalization ceremonies. They're citizenship ceremonies. A group of people who'd come from every part of the world, who'd gone through all the required procedures, gathered before me in a federal courtroom. There I administered to them the oath of allegiance to the United States and, by the power vested in me under our constitution and laws I made them Americans.

It was always emotional for me, because my mother was an immigrant from Lebanon, my father the orphan son of immigrants from Ireland. They had no education and they worked hard all their lives at difficult

and low-paying jobs. But because of their efforts, and, more importantly, because of the openness of American society, I, their son, was able to become the majority leader of the United States Senate.

After every naturalization ceremony, I spoke personally with each new American, individually or in family groups. I asked them where they came from, how they came, why they came. Their stories were as different as their countries of origin. But they were all inspiring, and through them ran a common theme, best expressed by a young Asian. When I asked why he had come, he replied, in slow and halting English, "I came because here in America everybody has a chance".

A young man who'd been an American for just a few minutes summed up the meaning of our country in a single sentence. Here, everybody has a chance.

I was one of those who had a chance, and I thank God for my good fortune. Now, by an accident of fate, in a way that I did not seek or expect, I have been given the opportunity to help others to have a chance. That they are in Ireland, the land of my father's heritage, is just a fortuitous coincidence. That I am able to help, even if in just a small way, is what matters.

No one can really have a chance in a society dominated by fear and violence. And so I, who have been helped by so many, now must do what I can to help others to try to end the violence, to banish the fear, to hasten the day when all the people of Northern Ireland can lead lives of peace, reconciliation and opportunity.

Let me say, as clearly and as emphatically as I can: There will be peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. I don't know exactly when it will come. But I am convinced that it is inevitable, for one over-riding reason: It is the will of the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

They remain divided along sectarian lines, and they mistrust each other. But they share a fervent desire not to return to the violence which for so long has filled their lives with fear and anxiety.

It will take a very long time for the mistrust to end. But it need not take a long time for the violence to end. Once it does, once people can live free of fear, then gradually the walls of division will come down. Walls that exist on the ground, and in people's minds, will come down, brick by brick, person by person, slowly but inevitably.

Over the past two years I've come to know the people of Northern Ireland. They're energetic, intelligent and productive. I admire and like them. They deserve better than the troubles they have. But there is only one way to achieve that better life.

There is no alternative to democratic, meaningful, inclusive dialogue. For that to come about, there must be an end to violence and to intransigence. They are the twin demons of Northern Ireland—violence and intransigence. They feed off each other in a deadly ritual in which most of the victims are innocent.

There are those who don't want anything to change, ever. They want to recreate a past that can never be recreated. But their way will only guarantee never-ending conflict. It will insure that the next half century is as full of death and fear as was the past half century.

The people of Northern Ireland must make it clear to their leaders that they oppose intransigence, that they want meaningful negotiation. Not capitulation; not the surrender of conviction. But good-faith negotiation that places the interest of the people, the interest of peace, above personal or political considerations. Good faith negotiation can produce an agreed settlement that will command the support of the majority in Northern Ireland, including the majority in each