

cosponsors of S. 496, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 24, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for women and men.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 7

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD], and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 7, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Federal retirement cost-of-living adjustments should not be delayed.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], and the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 13, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the display of the Ten Commandments by Judge Roy S. Moore, a judge on the circuit court of the State of Alabama.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 19—RELATIVE TO PROPERTY CLAIMS

Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. REID, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 19

Whereas Fascist and Communist dictatorships have caused immeasurable human suffering and loss, degrading not only every conceivable human right, but the human spirit itself;

Whereas the villainy of communism was dedicated, in particular, to the organized and systematic destruction of private property ownership;

Whereas the wrongful and illegal confiscation of property perpetrated by Fascist and Communist regimes was often specifically designed to victimize people because of their religion, national or social origin, or expressed opposition to the regimes which repressed them;

Whereas Fascists and Communists often obtained possession of properties confiscated from the victims of the systems they actively supported;

Whereas Jewish individuals and communities were often twice victimized, first by the Nazis and their collaborators and then by the subsequent Communist regimes;

Whereas churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious properties were also de-

stroyed or confiscated as a means of breaking the spiritual devotion and allegiance of religious adherents;

Whereas Fascists, Nazis, and Communists have used foreign financial institutions to launder and hold wrongfully and illegally confiscated property and convert it to their own personal use;

Whereas some foreign financial institutions violated their fiduciary duty to their customers by converting to their own use financial assets belonging to Holocaust victims while denying heirs access to these assets;

Whereas refugees from communism, in addition to being wrongly stripped of their private property, were often forced to relinquish their citizenship in order to protect themselves and their families from reprisals by the Communists who ruled their countries;

Whereas the participating states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe have agreed to give full recognition and protection to all types of property, including private property, as well as the right to prompt, just, and effective compensation in the event private property is taken for public use;

Whereas the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as the Caucasus and Central Asia, have entered a post-Communist period of transition and democratic development, and many countries have begun the difficult and wrenching process of trying to right the past wrongs of previous totalitarian regimes;

Whereas restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongly plundered by Nazi or Communist regimes to reside in or have the citizenship of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation are arbitrary and discriminatory in violation of international law; and

Whereas the rule of law and democratic norms require that the activity of governments and their administrative agencies be exercised in accordance with the laws passed by their parliaments or legislatures and such laws themselves must be consistent with international human rights standards: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) welcomes the efforts of many post-Communist countries to address the complex and difficult question of the status of plundered properties;

(2) urges countries which have not already done so to return plundered properties to their rightful owners or, as an alternative, pay compensation, in accordance with principles of justice and in a manner that is just, transparent, and fair;

(3) calls for the urgent return of property formerly belonging to Jewish communities as a means of redressing the particularly compelling problems of aging and destitute survivors of the Holocaust;

(4) calls on the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and any other country with restrictions which require those whose properties have been wrongly plundered by Nazi or Communist regimes to reside in or have the citizenship of the country from which they now seek restitution or compensation to remove such restrictions from their restitution or compensation laws;

(5) calls upon foreign financial institutions, and the states having legal authority over their operation, that possess wrongfully and illegally property confiscated from Holocaust victims, from residents of former Warsaw Pact states who were forbidden by Communist law from obtaining restitution of such property, and from states that were occupied by Nazi, Fascist, or Communist forces, to assist and to cooperate fully with

efforts to restore this property to its rightful owners; and

(6) urges post-Communist countries to pass and effectively implement laws that provide for restitution of, or compensation for, plundered property.

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, at the close of last Congress, I submitted a concurrent resolution addressing property claims issues in Central and Eastern Europe. Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, the cochairman of the Commission, submitted an identical resolution in the House. Today, we are resubmitting this measure, and are joined by all the members of the Helsinki Commission as original cosponsors.

Mr. President, I wish I could report to you that there has been improvement in this area since our concurrent resolution was submitted last September. Regrettably, there has not. Let me give you just two examples of the kinds of cases that moved me to submit this concurrent resolution.

In 1991, Latvia passed a restitution law after regaining its independence from the Soviet empire. This law raised the hope that those forced from their homes by the 1940 Soviet invasion, and kept out by a 50-year occupation, would finally be able to return. And this is what Eso Anton Benjamins thought, too, when in 1995 a Latvian municipal court ordered that the current occupants of the Benjamins' family home vacate the property.

Unfortunately, the current occupant is none other than the Russian Ambassador to Latvia. The Russian Government has refused to move its representative from the private property of Mr. Benjamins, notwithstanding the Latvian court's legal order to do so, and the Latvian authorities have not evicted them.

In the Czech Republic, things are not much better. Under laws adopted after the Velvet Revolution, Susan Benda is theoretically eligible for the restitution of her family property, which had been confiscated by the Nazis but which her family had been unable to reclaim at the end of World War II. Notwithstanding this eligibility under the law and the Czech Government's purported intention to restore Jewish properties that had been seized by the Nazis, the Czech Ministry of Finance has arbitrarily imposed onerous and burdensome conditions for restitution which appear to be designed to defeat the intent of the law.

So while Czech officials may tell us they have properly addressed this issue, those seeking the return of wrongfully confiscated property in Prague find that an entirely different reality awaits them.

I am also deeply troubled by recent reports that some \$50 million may have been embezzled from the funds received by Ukraine from Germany for the victims of Nazi prosecution. It is imperative that the Ukrainian Government make an investigation into this matter an urgent priority. Not only must this

money be found and returned to the rightful recipients, but immediate measures should be taken to ensure that this cannot happen again.

Americans who came to this country to escape persecution are discovering that, in many Central and East European countries, they are once again being penalized, this time by discriminatory laws that restrict restitution or compensation to those who currently hold the citizenship of or residency in the country in question. This is the case in the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovakia.

Mr. President, this status quo cannot continue. I know it is not possible to turn back the clock completely or erase the wrongs that have been done. I commend the many emerging democracies attempting to address this complex issue, acting on both a moral obligation to redress past wrongs and a desire to underscore the differences between their new and old systems of government. But more can and should be done—and this resolution calls for concrete steps. It deserves our support, and the victims of past wrongs in this region deserve our help.

I urge my colleagues to join with me and the other cosponsors of this concurrent resolution in pressing for a fair, just, and timely property restitution and compensation process so that the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent Communist oppression are not denied what is rightfully theirs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 69— RELATIVE TO CAMBODIA

Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROTH, and Mr. THOMAS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 69

Whereas Cambodia continues to recover from more than three decades of recent warfare, including the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979;

Whereas Cambodia was the beneficiary of a massive international effort to ensure peace, democracy, and prosperity after the October 1991 Paris Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict;

Whereas more than 93 percent of the Cambodians eligible to vote in the 1993 elections in Cambodia did so, thereby demonstrating the commitment of the Cambodian people to democracy;

Whereas since those elections, Cambodia has made significant economic progress which has contributed to economic stability in Cambodia;

Whereas since those elections, the Cambodia Armed Forces have significantly diminished the threat posed by the Khmer Rouge to safety and stability in Cambodia;

Whereas other circumstances in Cambodia, including the recent unsolved murders of journalists and political party activists, the recent unsolved attack on party officials of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party in 1995, and the quality of the judicial system—described in a 1996 United Nations report as “thoroughly corrupt”—raise international concern for the state of democracy in Cambodia;

Whereas Sam Rainsy, the leader of the Khmer Nation Party, was the target of a terrorist grenade attack on March 30, 1997, during a demonstration outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

Whereas the attack killed 19 Cambodians and wounded more than 100 men, women, and children; and

Whereas among those injured was Ron Abney, a United States citizen and employee of the International Republican Institute who was assisting in the advancement of democracy in Cambodia and observing the demonstration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its sincerest sympathies to the families of the persons killed, and the persons wounded, in the March 30, 1997, terrorist grenade attack outside the Cambodia National Assembly;

(2) condemns the attack as an act of terrorism detrimental to peace and the development of democracy in Cambodia;

(3) calls upon the United States Government to offer to the Cambodia Government all appropriate assistance in identifying and prosecuting those responsible for the attack; and

(4) calls upon the Cambodia Government to accept such assistance and to expeditiously identify and prosecute those responsible for the attack.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, on March 30, 1997, there was a political rally outside the Cambodian National Assembly in the capital city of Phnom Penh. One of the participants in this rally was Sam Rainsy, a prominent opposition figure and leader of the Khmer Nation Party.

In the course of the demonstration, someone lobbed grenades into the crowd. Nineteen people were killed, including one of Sam Rainsy's bodyguards. More than a 100 others were injured, one of which was an American citizen, Mr. Ron Abney. Ron works for the International Republican Institute, of which I am proud to be chairman. For years, Ron has worked with all political parties to promote free and democratic institutions in Cambodia. We all hope for his prompt and complete recovery from his injuries.

Mr. President, this was a particularly cowardly and brutal act of political terrorism. Among the killed and injured were many women and children. In addition, the real target of this attack was Cambodia's efforts to build a peaceful and democratic future on the ruins of the devastation wrought by decades of war and tyranny.

Immediately after the attack, I wrote to Cambodia's two Co-Prime Ministers, Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, expressing my outrage and demanding that the perpetrators of this attack be brought to justice. I have received a response from Prince Ranariddh, in which he calls the March 30 atrocity a “most heinous and savage criminal act committed on innocent and peace-loving people.” He also said that he had ordered “immediate measures to be taken to arrest, try and sentence the criminal(s) and all those involved.”

I believe, however, that it is also important for the Senate to make clear its outrage at this attack. The resolu-

tion that I have just introduced extends the Senate's sympathy to the victims of the grenade attack, condemns the bombing itself as an act of terrorism, and calls upon the governments of Cambodia and the United States to cooperate in identifying and prosecuting those individuals responsible for the attack.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT OF 1997

MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 26

Mr. MURKOWSKI proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 104) to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; as follows:

Beginning on page 1, strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

“(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1997’.

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

“Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

“Sec. 2. Definitions.

“TITLE I—OBLIGATIONS

“Sec. 101. Obligations of the Secretary of Energy.

“TITLE II—INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

“Sec. 201. Intermodal transfer.

“Sec. 202. Transportation planning.

“Sec. 203. Transportation requirements.

“Sec. 204. Viability assessment and Presidential determination.

“Sec. 205. Interim storage facility.

“Sec. 206. Permanent repository.

“Sec. 207. Compliance with the National Environment Policy Act.

“Sec. 208. Land withdrawal.

“TITLE III—LOCAL RELATIONS

“Sec. 301. Financial assistance.

“Sec. 302. On-site representative.

“Sec. 303. Acceptance of benefits.

“Sec. 304. Restrictions on use of funds.

“Sec. 305. Land conveyances.

“TITLE IV—FUNDING AND ORGANIZATION

“Sec. 401. Program funding.

“Sec. 402. Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

“Sec. 403. Federal contribution.

“TITLE V—GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

“Sec. 501. Compliance with other laws.

“Sec. 502. Judicial review of agency actions.

“Sec. 503. Licensing of facility expansions and transshipments.

“Sec. 504. Siting a second repository.

“Sec. 505. Financial arrangements for low-level radioactive waste site closure.

“Sec. 506. Nuclear Regulatory Commission training authority.

“Sec. 507. Emplacement schedule.

“Sec. 508. Transfer of title.

“Sec. 509. Decommissioning pilot program.

“Sec. 510. Water rights.

“TITLE VI—NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

“Sec. 601. Definitions.