

Framework Convention on Climate Change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 102—RELATIVE TO INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

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

S. RES. 102

Whereas India is the world's largest democracy and shares with the United States the system in which the supreme power to govern is invested in the people;

Whereas the people of India drew upon the values of the rule of law in creating a representative democracy;

Whereas India and the United States share a common bond of being former British colonies;

Whereas India's independence was achieved pledged to the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas August 15, 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the struggle which freed the Indian people from British colonial rule; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles on which our two great nations were born: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That August 15, 1997 is designated as Indian Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Indian and American Democracy. The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am submitting this resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of India's independence. This resolution will designate August 15, 1997, as "Independence Day for the Nation of India," a day of celebration of Indian and American democracy.

On August 15, 1947, India came into existence and has been dedicated to democracy and the rule of law for the past 50 years. It is a multiethnic country of 950 million people, who speak more than 18 major languages and hundreds of dialects.

I have had the pleasure to visit India on a number of occasions, most recently with the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Senator BROWN, in August 1995, when we met with Prime Minister Rao. That was a fascinating meeting when the Prime Minister immediately undertook a discussion of the necessity to have the subcontinent nuclear free. Regrettably, there has been much controversy, much tension between Pakistan and India. On that occasion, Prime Minister Rao emphasized his desire to see the subcontinent nuclear free.

The next day, Senator BROWN and I had occasion to visit with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad and talk to her about establishing a nuclear free subcontinent.

Later, Senator BROWN and I wrote jointly to President Clinton urging that the President invite the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to the

White House to see if a nuclear free subcontinent might be accomplished with the assistance of the good offices of the United States.

I am delighted to see my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, assuming the Chair, the lofty position of presiding over the U.S. Senate. I am glad to see my colleague here.

Back to my resolution. India's democracy has thrived over the past 50 years, testimony to the fact that principles of freedom are not limited to the most prosperous countries of the West, but a country which has become independent and democratic, notwithstanding its problems with its economy.

There are strong links between the two nations, India and the United States. We are both former British colonies and, in our own civil rights struggles of the last generation, great Americans, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, borrowed the concepts of peaceful dissent from India from the teaching of India's independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

The number of Indian, Americans living in the United States continues to increase steadily. The rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Indian people contribute to the great diversity of the United States of America.

Relations between our countries have seen some difficulties, and there are still areas for improvement, but our mutual values of democracy and the rule of law bridge these differences.

I submit this resolution because it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people and to reaffirm the democratic principles which our two great nations cherish. I ask the American people to join with me in celebrating 50 years of India's independence.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

CHAFEE AMENDMENT NO. 412

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CHAFEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 797) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes; as follows:

Page 3, line 7, strike "or".

Page 3, line 12, strike the first period and all that follows and insert "; or".

Page 3, after line 12, insert the following:

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater or to produce an interpretive film that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

Page 4, strike lines 9 through 14.

Page 4, line 15, strike "5" and insert "4".

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today the Committee on Environment and

Public Works is reporting a bill, S. 797, the John F. Kennedy Center Parking Lot Improvement Act, as ordered reported on June 5, 1997. I am also filing a technical amendment to the bill which corrects a potential problem with respect to the funding of any large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater for the Kennedy Center. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center are prohibited from using appropriated funds for acquisition of such equipment.

THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT NO. 413

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 924) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike out section 3138.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS DENIAL ACT OF 1997

SPECTER (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 414

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 923) to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses; as follows:

On page 1 lines 4 and 5, strike "or state".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LOTT. 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 Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding U.S. agricultural exports.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. 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 Wednesday, June 18, 1997, to conduct a markup of the committee's legislative submission for the budget reconciliation package.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 10 a.m. on Asia trade II.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Wednesday, June 18, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH-216, to conduct a markup on budget reconciliation.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9 a.m. for a hearing on S. 314, the Freedom From Government Competition Act, and opportunities for competitive contracting.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Building to conduct a joint hearing with the House Committee on Resources on S. 569/H.R. 1082, to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. 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 Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Immigration, of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on human rights abuses in China: U.S. visa policy changes and other possible responses.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND
SPACE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 2 p.m. on NASA International Space Station.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, in order to report out S. 858, the intelligence authorization bill, and other matters at 4:45 p.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

STATE DEPARTMENT
AUTHORIZATION BILL

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have lent my support to H.R. 1757, the 1998-99 State Department authorization bill, which passed last night. There is much that I support in this bill, and I wanted to take a few minutes today to discuss this bill and my vote.

With its provisions to reorganize America's foreign policy institutions and to press for reform at the United Nations I think it is fair to say that this bill is one of the most far-reaching and important bills that we will consider this Congress.

For well over a decade the United States has been steadily reducing the amount of money it devotes to international affairs agencies and programs. When current figures are adjusted for inflation, the cuts in recent years have been significant—50 percent since 1984.

I was pleased when the administration requested a much-needed increase in funds for international affairs in the 1998 budget request. And I am pleased that this bill has, on the whole, preserved those funds.

The international affairs budget authorized in this bill will go a long way toward righting the inequities of American international affairs spending of the past decade, and toward creating an efficient framework to support America's global leadership in the millennium to come.

Just as important as authorizing funds for the conduct of American foreign policy, this bill also takes an historic step in working with President Clinton and Secretary Albright to create a new foreign affairs structure for the 21st century.

Many of our current foreign policy institutions were created during the cold war, with specific missions and goals in mind.

The reorganization plan put forward by the administration and supported

by this bill reflects the need to preserve the unique skills and capabilities of each of the current agencies with the requirement that our institutional arrangements reflect the new demands guiding the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

By the end of 1999 the result of this bill will be a new streamlined foreign policy structure, drawing on the best people and practices of the old agencies, and fully capable of meeting the new challenges of the 21st century.

Most importantly, from my perspective, this bill preserves some flexibility for the administration in its implementation of the President's plan.

I opposed the reorganization plan we considered in the last Congress, because it denied the President the flexibility he needs to carry out our foreign affairs. This reorganization plan suffers from no such flaw.

I would also like to take a little time to express my support for the plan to repay the United Nations the arrears our Nation owes it and for reform of the United Nations that is contained in the bill before us, S. 903.

I support this package of repayment of arrears and reform benchmarks for one simple reason: because I believe a strong and effective United Nations is fundamentally important to the national interest of the United States.

I am an unabashed supporter of the United Nations. Now that our colleague, Senator Claiborne Pell, has retired, I believe I am the only Member of this body to be in attendance at the founding of the United Nations in my hometown of San Francisco 52 years ago. I was not a delegate, as was Senator Pell—I was a bit younger then—but I am proud that I was able to help the host city celebrate that important occasion.

As mayor of San Francisco, I had the honor and privilege of presiding over the 40th anniversary celebrations in 1985, and 2 years ago, I traveled with many of my colleagues to San Francisco for the 50th anniversary celebrations.

These milestones mean a great deal to me, not because of their historical interest so much as because of their significance in the life of the United States. My own belief is that if the United Nations did not exist, we would have to invent it.

I am not among the United Nations' major detractors. I do not believe for 1 minute that the United Nations is somehow out to impose its will on the United States, or to intrude on our sovereignty. I reject outright the paranoid fantasies of those who warn of the specter of U.N. taxation or a U.N. army, or the U.N. leading inexorably toward world government.

The United Nations serves American interests each and every day. Through the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, it feeds and clothes homeless refugees in time of war. Through U.N. development programs, it helps the poorer nations of the world develop their