

are not placed in a permanent, safe home before they are graduated from the child welfare system. These youth are expected to be self-sufficient, in many States at the age of eighteen. Foster care independent living programs, also known as ILPs, were initiated in 1985 in an attempt to provide this segment of the foster care population with the skills necessary for self-sufficiency. States have flexibility in the type of services they provide to their older foster youth; some options include assistance in locating employment, help in completing high school, or training in budgeting and other living skills.

The results of ILPs have been, at best, mixed. Two weeks ago, the Government Accounting Office released a report entitled "Effectiveness of Independent Living Services Unknown." GAO conducted a study of ILPs at the request of House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources Chairman Nancy Johnson. This report reveals that only one national study has been completed to date, and the study determined that ILPs have the "potential to improve outcomes for youths." The study went on to say that "while HHS is tasked with overseeing implementation of ILP, it has done little to determine program effectiveness and has no established method to review the states' progress in helping youths in the transition from foster care." The GAO report recommends that the Secretary of HHS develop "a uniform set of data elements and a report format for state reporting . . . and concrete measures of effectiveness of assessing state ILPs."

I have, for a number of years, been concerned about the issue of accountability within the child welfare system. And, the GAO report supports my belief that more explicit information is needed from the States and HHS in order to ensure that Federal money is being spend in a manner that truly benefits the lives of our nation's troubled youth.

Today, the Senate passed legislation that will double the amount of money provided to States to conduct independent living programs. And, I am highly disappointed in the lack of specificity and accountability measures within the bill. Yes, the Secretary of HHS will be required to develop outcome measures and identify data elements in an attempt to collect uniform data from the States. However, there is great leeway provided the Secretary in developing such measures and States are not required to improve upon their own past performance. The Foster Care Independence Act, as passed by the Senate, does require the Secretary to report within 12 months her plans and timetable for collecting data and information from States. I am committed to following the progress of the Secretary in collecting data and developing standards for the States. Rest assured, I will be watching. And, I will do whatever is required of me to ensure that

our nation's foster youth are provided with the most effective and worthwhile services their State agencies can provide.

Accountability is critical in any human undertaking. It provides an environment for those doing well to be commended and recognized. And, it sheds light on those acting irresponsibly. We in Congress have the responsibility to see that taxpayer money is spend wisely. I see a no more critical responsibility than in ensuring States are responsibly spending money on vulnerable youth in foster care.

November is National Adoption Month. Earlier this month, I joined my colleagues with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption in celebrating those who have made a difference through adoption. I was able to honor three worthy individuals from the great State of Iowa: Ruth Ann Gaines and Jeff and Earletta Morris. Ruth Ann adopted an autistic boy more than 14 years ago, and the Morrises adopted a teenager just over a year ago. I am grateful for their efforts and heart-felt belief in the value of family, and I am glad to announce them "Angels in Adoption."

In closing, I want to reaffirm my commitment to finding permanent, loving families for each boy and girl currently without a loving and safe home. I am disappointed the Foster Care Independence Act did not contain more provisions supporting permanency. However, I will continue my efforts in support of permanency for children in foster care. Among others, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON has given me her word that she will work with me to improve accountability in the child welfare system. I look forward to working with all my colleagues in the next session to that end.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1802), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the sine die adjournment of the present session of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate be, and they are hereby authorized, to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, and inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. With objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the chairman of the Finance Committee, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) as a member of the Joint Committee on Taxation, in lieu of the late Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Chafee).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE REPORTED LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, committees have from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, and on Friday, January 7, in order to file reported legislative and executive matters.

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

CONVENING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the resolution convening the second session of the 106th Congress, House Joint Resolution 85, that the resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without any intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. 85) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

H.J. RES. 85

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DAY FOR CONVENING OF SECOND SESSION OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS.

The second regular session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress shall begin at noon on Monday, January 24, 2000.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SESSION PRIOR TO CONVENING.

If the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the Senate, determine that it is in the public interest for the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to reassemble prior to the convening of the second regular session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress as provided in section 1—

- (1) the Speaker and Majority Leader shall so notify their respective Members; and
- (2) Congress shall reassemble at noon on the second day after the Members are so notified.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1982

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1982 be placed on the Calendar.

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

COMMENDING STEPHEN G. BALE,
KEEPER OF THE STATIONERY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 240, submitted earlier today by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislation clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 240) commending Stephen G. Bale, Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on December 31, 1999, Steve Bale will retire as Keeper of the Stationery for the United States Senate.

Steve began his Senate career in November 1969 as a clerk in the Stationery Room. In July 1980, he was appointed Assistant Keeper of the Stationery, and in September 1987, assumed the responsibilities as the 16th Keeper of the Stationery.

In this capacity, Steve has directed a busy operation, successfully serving a client base that now spans over 240 offices and five buildings. His leadership of the recent renovations to the Stationery Room has ensured that the office will function efficiently, well into the 21st century.

In his 30 years of public service, Steve has set a standard among his associates for commitment to excellence and dedication to personal service. According to his staff, one of Steve's favorite expressions is, "In this business, one 'oops' can wipe out fifteen 'attaboys!'" The standard of excellence he set will benefit the Senate for years to come, as the associates he leaves behind continue in the tradition of the principles he espoused.

Steve Bale should enter his retirement with tremendous satisfaction for all he has accomplished. I am pleased to join so many others in thanking him for his long and faithful service and in wishing him health and happiness in the years to come.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Steve Bale is one of those individuals who serve faithfully and diligently over many years to ensure that the United States Senate runs efficiently and effectively. All Senators know and appreciate the members of the Senate community who share their pride in public service and commitment to the Senate. We know we could not do our jobs without the dedication of people such as Steve Bale.

Steve began his career in the Senate in 1969 as an employee of the Stationery Room under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Senate and ultimately became Keeper of the Stationery. Not many ascend to that unusual title; there have been only four in the history of the Senate. The first person to hold that title was John Lewis Clubb who was given the title in 1854, after some twenty years of actually doing the job. Some may wonder

what the Keeper of the Stationery does for the Senate and how that job and title came into being.

The Stationery Room can be traced back to the First Congress and the first Secretary of the Senate, Samuel A. Otis, who provided various writing and other supplies for the Senate. Operated initially out of a corner of the Secretary's office, the Stationery Room has occupied nine different locations within the Senate. It has grown from this corner-office operation into a multi-million dollar one serving about 240 offices in the Senate and expanded from its initial offerings of "ink, quills, and parchment" to a complex merchandise facility which meets the high-tech and traditional needs of these offices.

The Stationery Room used to be a simple, service desk facility. Steve led the transition to a full self-service store. Under Steve's direction, the administrative and business functions of the Stationery Room were automated for the first time. He oversaw the installation and GAO certification of an inventory control system and has supervised the installation and testing of the new Y2K compliant computer system. With Steve at the helm, we can all be absolutely certain that the Senate's Stationery Room will NOT have Y2K problems!

Of particular note is the role Steve played in the development and procurement of the Senate's official flag. S. Res. 369, agreed to on September 7, 1984, directed "the Secretary of the Senate to design and make available to Members an official Senate flag." Working closely with the staff of the Committee on Rules and Administration, Steve provided the expertise to have a flag designed, find the appropriate manufacturer and ensure that the Senate has official flags for all of its official functions. Few Senators know about the relatively brief history of the Senate flag and fewer still know about Steve's important role in seeing that this resolution's direction was successfully carried out and that the Senate has a suitable and dignified flag.

We are fortunate to share a wonderful sense of community among the members and staff who serve here. Steve is among the most respected and well liked within this small community. Always helpful, always smiling, always encouraging to the numerous staff who come into his office on a daily basis, he has found no problem too trivial and no task too difficult to handle.

As Steve leaves his many friends and admirers in the Senate, we wish him a long retirement filled with many hours on the golf course.

Ms. COLLINS. 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 any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 240) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 240

Whereas the Senate has been advised that its Keeper of the Stationery, Stephen G. Bale, will retire on December 31, 1999;

Whereas Steve Bale became an employee of the Senate of the United States on November 13, 1969, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate for a period that included sixteen Congresses;

Whereas Steve Bale has served with distinction as Keeper of the Stationery, and at all times has discharged the important duties and responsibilities of his office with dedication and excellence; and

Whereas his exceptional service and his unflinching dedication have earned him our esteem and affection: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States Senate commends Stephen G. Bale for his exemplary service to the Senate and the Nation; wishes to express its deep appreciation for his long, faithful and outstanding service; and extends its very best wishes upon his retirement.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Stephen G. Bale.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3419.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3419) to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

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

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will consider H.R. 3419, the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999. H.R. 3419 reflects a negotiated compromise between the House and Senate on two bills (S. 1501 and H.R. 2679). I want to extend my appreciation to Senators HUTCHISON, HOLLINGS, and BREAUX, along with Congressmen SHUSTER and OBERSTAR, for their bipartisan effort in developing this comprehensive motor carrier safety legislation. I also want to acknowledge the recommendations by the Office of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Inspector General, Ken Mead and his staff, as well as the highway safety advocates, truck drivers, industry officials, and safety enforcement officials for their suggestions on improving truck and bus safety.

During the past year, significant attention has been directed toward truck safety issues in both chambers. Following a comprehensive analysis on the federal motor carrier safety program by the DOT Inspector General, the Commerce Committee held two hearings on truck safety concerns. The