

congratulate the partners and associates of Cragin & Pike on this accomplishment, and look forward to many more.●

MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to comment on my decision to support two resolutions concerning the Middle East peace process. Both of these resolutions express congressional opposition to any efforts by either party in the peace process to attempt, through unilateral actions, to pre-judge or pre-determine the outcome of the negotiations currently taking place between the Palestinians and the Israelis. I would like to take a moment to explain why I decided to cosponsor these resolutions.

I believe that one of the most important foreign policy issues facing America today is how to encourage peace in the Middle East. Reaching a peace agreement at this time is extremely critical, not only to our strategic interests in the region, but to the parties themselves. I remain optimistic that despite the various setbacks, it will still be possible for the parties to achieve a just and lasting peace.

However, in my view, the only way to achieve such a peace is for the parties to abide by the plan of negotiations as set out in the context of Madrid, Oslo, and most recently, in the Wye Plantation Agreement. This plan clearly sets forth a structure which dictates the timetable and order of discussing certain very critical issues.

I am particularly concerned that any unilateral actions by the parties or co-sponsors which might pre-judge the outcome or change this plan would have a great potential to undermine what limited chance we have for peace in the Middle East.

Within this context, the parties, with the full support of the co-sponsors, agreed to delay the discussion of many of the most critical and difficult issues until final status negotiations, and promised not to take any unilateral actions which might pre-judge or pre-determine the outcome of those issues. My opposition to unilateral actions by any party or co-sponsor, including the United States, is well known and on the record. It was, for example, the principal basis for my opposition in 1995 to S. 1322, which mandated the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Similarly, just as I was concerned about the potentially injurious impact on the peace process of prematurely addressing issues relating to Jerusalem, I am equally concerned about the impact of a unilateral and premature declaration by the Palestinians regarding statehood. I believe such a unilateral declaration by the Palestinian Authority would almost certainly undermine future progress toward a peace accord.

It is my understanding that the Administration's position is consistent with these congressional resolutions,

and in fact the United States has maintained ongoing discussions with the Palestinians to discourage them from unilaterally declaring a state outside the context of the negotiations.

My support for both of these resolutions are based on this principle alone: That any unilateral actions by either parties or co-sponsors are disruptive and damaging to the peace process as a whole. My support for these resolutions is not a comment regarding what the Palestinian authorities should do if the peace process fails and no final status agreement can be reached. Nor is it a comment on the merits of a Palestinian state. Nor, finally, is it a suggestion that a Palestinian state should not be created as part of the final status agreement should the parties decide upon that themselves. Indeed, for the process to be successful, the Palestinians must be permitted to exercise their independence.

My support for these resolutions is thus exclusively and solely a statement that in my opinion, a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state at this time would probably destroy any chance to reach a just and lasting peace between the parties. Peace is too important—and too much effort toward achieving such a peace has been expended by all parties and co-sponsors for it to be jeopardized in this way.●

COMMENDING HAZEL WOLF ON HER 101ST BIRTHDAY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is my great pleasure to recognize Ms. Hazel Wolf of Seattle, Washington, in honor of her 101st birthday on Wednesday, March 10, 1999. Ms. Wolf, a great, great grand-mother, is a tireless advocate for conservation, environmental protection and social justice throughout the Pacific Northwest. A dedicated volunteer, community activist and leader, Ms. Wolf serves as an outstanding example for all Americans.

Ms. Wolf became involved in the Audubon Society in the early-1960s and had a hand in starting 21 of the 26 Audubon Society chapters in Washington State, plus one in her birthplace of Victoria, British Columbia. In 1979, she worked to organize the first statewide conference to bring together environmentalists and Native American tribes. For three decades she has served as Secretary of the Seattle Audubon Society chapter, and for 17 years she has edited an environmental newsletter, "Outdoors West". In addition, she is among the founders of Seattle's Community Coalition for Environmental Justice. She is a frequent speaker at schools and environmental conferences throughout the Northwest.

In 1997, the National Audubon Society awarded her the prestigious Medal of Excellence. The Seattle Audubon chapter has created the Hazel Wolf "Kids for the Environment" endowment, which will help educate youth about conservation. Ms. Wolf is also the recipient of the 1997 Chevron Con-

servation Award, the \$2,000 prize from which she contributed to the Seattle Audubon Society. In Issaquah, Washington, there is a 116-acre wetland named after her and on the other side of the Cascade Mountains near Yakima, a bird sanctuary bears her name.

Hazel Wolf retired from her career as a legal secretary in 1965. She has proven repeatedly that significant and lasting contributions to society are a function neither of career nor of age, but of hard work, perseverance and vision. As her family and friends gather to celebrate her 101st birthday, I want to wish Ms. Wolf continued success and good health, and to thank her for being an inspiration to me and countless others. Happy Birthday, Hazel.●

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask that the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be printed in the RECORD.

The rules follow:

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

(As specified in Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the United States Senate)

RULE I—MEETINGS

1.1 Regular Meetings.—Regular meetings shall be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month when Congress is in session.

1.2 Additional Meetings.—The Chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, may call such additional meetings as he deems necessary.

1.3 Notification.—In the case of any meeting of the committee, other than a regularly scheduled meeting, the clerk of the committee shall notify every member of the committee of the time and place of the meeting and shall give reasonable notice which, except in extraordinary circumstances, shall be at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting held in Washington, DC, and at least 48 hours in the case of any meeting held outside Washington, DC.

1.4 Called Meeting.—If three members of the committee have made a request in writing to the Chairman to call a meeting of the committee, and the Chairman fails to call such a meeting within 7 calendar days thereafter, including the day on which the written notice is submitted, a majority of the members may call a meeting by filing a written notice with the clerk of the committee who shall promptly notify each member of the committee in writing of the date and time of the meeting.

1.5 Adjournment of Meetings.—The Chairman of the committee or a subcommittee shall be empowered to adjourn any meeting of the committee or a subcommittee if a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the time scheduled for such meeting.

RULE 2—MEETINGS AND HEARINGS IN GENERAL

2.1 Open SESSIONS.—Business meetings and hearings held by the committee or any subcommittee shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided for in Senate Rule XXVI, paragraph 5.

2.2 Transcripts.—A transcript shall be kept of each business meeting and hearing of the

committee or any subcommittee unless a majority of the committee or the subcommittee agrees that some other form of permanent record is preferable.

2.3 Reports.—An appropriate opportunity shall be given the Minority to examine the proposed text of committee reports prior to their filing or publication. In the event there are supplemental, minority, or additional views, an appropriate opportunity shall be given the Majority to examine the proposed text prior to filing or publication.

2.4 Attendance.—(a) Meetings. Official attendance of all markups and executive sessions of the committee shall be kept by the committee clerk. Official attendance of all subcommittee markups and executive sessions shall be kept by the subcommittee clerk.

(b) Hearings.—Official attendance of all hearings shall be kept, provided that, Senators are notified by the committee Chairman and ranking minority member, in the case of committee hearings, and by the subcommittee Chairman and ranking minority member, in the case of subcommittee hearings, 48 hours in advance of the hearing that attendance will be taken. Otherwise, no attendance will be taken. Attendance at all hearings is encouraged.

RULE 3—HEARING PROCEDURES

3.1 Notice.—Public notice shall be given of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be held by the committee or any subcommittee at least 1 week in advance of such hearing unless the Chairman of the full committee or the subcommittee determines that the hearing is noncontroversial or that special circumstances require expedited procedures and a majority of the committee or the subcommittee involved concurs. In no case shall a hearing be conducted with less than 24 hours notice.

3.2 Witness Statements.—Each witness who is to appear before the committee or any subcommittee shall file with the committee or subcommittee, at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing, a written statement of his or her testimony and as many copies as the Chairman of the committee or subcommittee prescribes.

3.3 Minority Witnesses.—In any hearing conducted by the committee, or any subcommittee thereof, the minority members of the committee or subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by the ranking minority member of the committee or subcommittee to call witnesses of their selection during at least 1 day of such hearing pertaining to the matter or matters heard by the committee or subcommittee.

3.4 Swearing in of Witnesses.—Witnesses in committee or subcommittee hearings may be required to give testimony under oath whenever the Chairman or ranking minority member of the committee or subcommittee deems such to be necessary.

3.5 Limitation.—Each member shall be limited to 5 minutes in the questioning of any witness until such time as all members who so desire have had an opportunity to question a witness. Questions from members shall rotate from majority to minority members in order of seniority or in order of arrival at the hearing.

RULE 4—NOMINATIONS

4.1 Assignment.—All nominations shall be considered by the full committee.

4.2 Standards.—In considering a nomination, the committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which he or she has been nominated.

4.3 Information.—Each nominee shall submit in response to questions prepared by the committee the following information:

(1) A detailed biographical resume which contains information relating to education, employment, and achievements;

(2) Financial information, including a financial statement which lists assets and liabilities of the nominee; and

(3) Copies of other relevant documents requested by the committee. Information received pursuant to this subsection shall be available for public inspection except as specifically designated confidential by the committee.

4.4 Hearings.—The committee shall conduct a public hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to his or her suitability for office. No hearing shall be held until at least 48 hours after the nominee has responded to a prehearing questionnaire submitted by the committee.

4.5 Action on Confirmation.—A business meeting to consider a nomination shall not occur on the same day that the hearing on the nominee is held. The Chairman, with the agreement of the ranking minority member, may waive this requirement.

RULE 5—QUORUMS

5.1 Testimony.—For the purpose of receiving evidence, the swearing of witnesses, and the taking of sworn or unsworn testimony at any duly scheduled hearing, a quorum of the committee and each subcommittee thereof shall consist of one member.

5.2 Business.—A quorum for the transaction of committee or subcommittee business, other than for reporting a measure or recommendation to the Senate or the taking of testimony, shall consist of one-third of the members of the committee or subcommittee, including at least one member from each party.

5.3 Reporting.—A majority of the membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting bills, nominations, matters, or recommendations to the Senate. No measure or recommendation shall be ordered reported from the committee unless a majority of the committee members are physically present. The vote of the committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of those members who are physically present at the time the vote is taken.

RULE 6—VOTING

6.1 Rollcalls.—A roll call vote of the members shall be taken upon the request of any member.

6.2 Proxies.—Voting by proxy as authorized by the Senate rules for specific bills or subjects shall be allowed whenever a quorum of the committee is actually present.

6.3 Polling.—The committee may poll any matters of committee business, other than a vote on reporting to the Senate any measures, matters or recommendations or a vote on closing a meeting or hearing to the public, provided that every member is polled and every poll consists of the following two questions:

(1) Do you agree or disagree to poll the proposal; and

(2) Do you favor or oppose the proposal.

If any member requests, any matter to be polled shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The chief clerk of the committee shall keep a record of all polls.

RULE 7—SUBCOMMITTEES

7.1 Assignments.—To assure the equitable assignment of members to subcommittees, no member of the committee will receive assignment to a second subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members of the committee have chosen assignments to one subcommittee, and no member shall receive assignment to a third subcommittee until, in order of seniority, all members have chosen assignments to two subcommittees.

7.2 Attendance.—Any member of the committee may sit with any subcommittee dur-

ing a hearing or meeting but shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the subcommittee unless he or she is a member of such subcommittee.

7.3 Ex Officio Members.—The Chairman and ranking minority member shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the subcommittees on which they do not serve as voting members. The Chairman and ranking minority member may not be counted toward a quorum.

7.4 Scheduling.—No subcommittee may schedule a meeting or hearing at a time designated for a hearing or meeting of the full committee. No more than one subcommittee business meeting may be held at the same time.

7.5 Discharge.—Should a subcommittee fail to report back to the full committee on any measure within a reasonable time, the Chairman may withdraw the measure from such subcommittee and report that fact to the full committee for further disposition. The full committee may at any time, by majority vote of those members present, discharge a subcommittee from further consideration of a specific piece of legislation.

7.6 Application of Committee Rules to Subcommittees.—The proceedings of each subcommittee shall be governed by the rules of the full committee, subject to such authorizations or limitations as the committee may from time to time prescribe.

RULE 8—INVESTIGATIONS, SUBPOENAS AND DEPOSITIONS

8.1 Investigations.—Any investigation undertaken by the committee or a subcommittee in which depositions are taken or subpoenas issued, must be authorized by a majority of the members of the committee voting for approval to conduct such investigation at a business meeting of the committee convened in accordance with Rule 1.

8.2 Subpoenas.—The Chairman, with the approval of the ranking minority member of the committee, is delegated the authority to subpoena the attendance of witnesses or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials at a hearing of the committee or a subcommittee or in connection with the conduct of an investigation authorized in accordance with paragraph 8.1. The Chairman may subpoena attendance or production without the approval of the ranking minority member when the Chairman has not received notification from the ranking minority member of disapproval of the subpoena within 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, of being notified of the subpoena. If a subpoena is disapproved by the ranking minority member as provided in this paragraph the subpoena may be authorized by vote of the members of the committee. When the committee or Chairman authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chairman or any other member of the committee designated by the Chairman.

8.3 Notice for Taking Depositions.—Notices for the taking of depositions, in an investigation authorized by the committee, shall be authorized and be issued by the Chairman or by a staff officer designated by him. Such notices shall specify a time and place for examination, and the name of the Senator, staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private. The committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness.

failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a committee subpoena.

8.4 Procedure for Taking Depositions.—Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. The Chairman will rule, by telephone or otherwise, on any objection by a witness. The transcript of a deposition shall be filed with the committee clerk.

RULE 9—AMENDING THE RULES

These rules shall become effective upon publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the committee, provided that all members are present or provide proxies or if a notice in writing of the proposed changes has been given to each member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken. The changes shall become effective immediately upon publication of the changed rule or rules in the Congressional RECORD, or immediately upon approval of the changes if so resolved by the committee as long as any witnesses who may be affected by the change in rules are provided with them.●

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. CON. RES. 5

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, to discharge from the Foreign Relations Committee S. Con. Res. 5; and, further, the Senate would then proceed to its consideration under the following limitations: 45 minutes of debate equally divided between Senator BROWNBACK and the ranking member or designee; no amendments in order to the resolution or preamble. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the debate, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate. I finally ask unanimous consent that if

the resolution is agreed to, the preamble then be adopted.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Thursday, March 11. I further ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin consideration of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution regarding congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestine state, as under the previous order, for not to exceed 45 minutes, and the vote occur on adoption of the concurrent resolution first in the voting sequence on Thursday, beginning at 2 p.m.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. I further ask unanimous consent that following the debate on S. Con. Res. 5, the Senate resume consideration of the Ed-Flex bill, with the time until 2 p.m. equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member or their designees. I further ask consent that the votes ordered to occur at the conclusion of debate time in relation to S. 280 occur in the order of the original unanimous consent agreement.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene on Thursday at noon and debate a resolution on Palestine for not more than 45 minutes, to be followed by debate on the Ed-Flex bill for 1 hour, as outlined in the earlier consent agreement. At the conclusion of that debate time, the Senate will proceed to a stacked series of votes, with the first vote relative to S. Con. Res. 5, and the other votes on or in relation to the amendments on the Ed-Flex bill, including passage. Therefore, Members should expect up to a dozen votes beginning at 2 p.m.

Following passage of the Ed-Flex bill, it may be the leader's intention to begin consideration of the missile defense bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment until 12 noon on Thursday, March 11, 1999.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 12 noon.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 10, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MERVYN M. MOSBACKER, JR., OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS VICE GAYNELLE GRIFFIN JONES, RESIGNED.

GREGORY A. VEGA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ALAN B. BERSIN.