

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deductibility of business meal expenses for individuals subject to Federal hours of service.

S. 1109

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1109, a bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 1165

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1165, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on the amount of receipts attributable to military property which may be treated as exempt foreign trade income.

S. 1200

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1200, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 36, a concurrent resolution condemning Palestinian efforts to revive the original Palestine partition plan of November 29, 1947, and condemning the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for its April 27, 1999, resolution endorsing Palestinian self-determination on the basis of the original Palestine partition plan.

SENATE RESOLUTION 59

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 59, a bill designating both July 2, 1999, and July 2, 2000, as "National Literacy Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Cali-

fornia (Mrs. BOXER), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 96, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding a peaceful process of self-determination in East Timor, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 98, a resolution designating the week beginning October 17, 1999, and the week beginning October 15, 2000, as "National Character Counts Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 99

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 99, a resolution designating November 20, 1999, as "National Survivors for Prevention of Suicide Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 113

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 113, a resolution to amend the Standing Rules of the Senate to require that the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States be recited at the commencement of the daily session of the Senate.

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 113, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 113, *supra*.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 113, *supra*.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, AND PARTICULARLY THE RECENT ARRESTS OF MEMBERS OF THAT COUNTRY'S JEWISH COMMUNITY

Mr. SCHUMER submitted a concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 39

Whereas 10 percent of the citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran are members of religious minority groups;

Whereas, according to the State Department and internationally recognized human rights organizations, such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran—including Sunni Muslims, Baha'is, Christians, and Jews—have been the victims of human rights violations solely because of their status as religious minorities;

Whereas the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights passed Resolution 1999/13, which expresses the concern of the international community over "continued discrimination against religious minorities" in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and calls on that country to moderate its policy on religious minorities until they are "completely emancipated";

Whereas more than half the Jews in Iran have been forced to flee that country since

the Islamic Revolution of 1979 because of religious persecution, and many of them now reside in the United States;

Whereas the Iranian Jewish community, with a 2,500-year history and currently numbering some 30,000 people, is the oldest Jewish community living in the Diaspora;

Whereas five Jews have been executed by the Iranian government in the past five years without having been tried;

Whereas there has been a noticeable increase recently in anti-Semitic propaganda in the government-controlled Iranian press;

Whereas, on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover 1999, thirteen or more Jews, including community and religious leaders in the city of Shiraz, were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

Whereas, in keeping with its dismal record on providing accused prisoners with due process and fair treatment, the Islamic Republic of Iran failed to charge the detained Jews with any specific crime or allow visitation by relatives of the detained for more than two months: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the Clinton administration should—

(1) be commended for supporting Resolution 1999/13, and should continue to work through the United Nations to assure that the Islamic Republic of Iran implements that resolution's recommendations;

(2) condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent arrest of members of Iran's Jewish minority and urge their immediate release;

(3) urge all nations having relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to condemn the treatment of religious minorities in Iran and call for the release of all prisoners held on the basis of their religious beliefs; and

(4) maintain the current United States policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran unless and until that country moderates its treatment of religious minorities.

SENATE RESOLUTION—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 12, 1999, AS "NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY"

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BYRD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DODD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. HELMS, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. ABRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 118

Whereas approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families living throughout the United States die each year from myriad causes;

Whereas the death of an infant, child, teenager, or young adult of a family is considered to be 1 of the greatest tragedies that a parent or family will ever endure during a lifetime; and

Whereas a supportive environment and empathy and understanding are considered critical factors in the healing process of a family that is coping with and recovering from the loss of a loved one: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY.

The Senate—

(1) designates December 12, 1999, as "National Children's Memorial Day"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the

United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities in remembrance of the many infants, children, teenagers, and young adults of families in the United States who have died.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution that would set aside December 12, 1999, as the National Children's Memorial Day to remember all the children who die in the United States each year. While I realize the families of these children deal with the grief of their loss every day, I would like to commemorate the lives of these children with a special day as well.

This will be the second year we will have designated the second Sunday in December as National Children's Memorial Day. As I stated last year, I have had many constituents share their heart wrenching stories with me about the death of their son or daughter. I have heard heroic stories of kids battling cancer or diabetes, and tragic stories of car accidents and drownings. Each of these families has had their own experience, but they must all continue with their lives and deal with the incredible pain of losing a child.

The death of a child at any age is a shattering experience for a family. By establishing a day to remember children that have passed away, bereaved families from all over the country will be encouraged and supported in the positive resolution of their grief. It is important to families who have suffered such a loss to know that they are not alone. To commemorate the lives of these children with a special day would pay them an honor and would help to bring comfort to the hearts of their bereaved families.

SENATE RESOLUTION—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 119

Whereas in an Emergency Special Session, the United Nations General Assembly voted on February 9, 1999, to pass Resolution ES-10/6, "Illegal Israeli Actions In Occupied East Jerusalem And The Rest Of The Occupied Palestinian Territory," to convene for the first time in 50 years the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War;

Whereas such resolution unfairly places full blame for the deterioration of the Middle East Peace Process on Israel and dangerously politicizes the Geneva Convention, which was established to deal with critical humanitarian crises; and

Whereas such vote is intended to prejudge direct negotiations, put additional and undue pressure on Israel to influence the results of those negotiations, and single out Israel for unprecedented enforcement proceedings which have never been invoked against governments with records of massive violations of the Geneva Convention; Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate, that the Senate—

(1) commends the Department of State for the vote of the United States against United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/6 affirming that the text of such resolution politicizes the Fourth Geneva Convention which was primarily humanitarian in nature;

(2) urges the Department of State to continue its efforts against convening the conference; and

(3) urges the Swiss government, as the depository of the Geneva Convention, not to convene a meeting of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution regarding a deplorable vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations in February 1999. At that time a resolution was passed recommending a convening of the Fourth Geneva Convention. This Convention protects civilians living in territory occupied by a hostile force.

In February, the Palestine Liberation Organization supported by the Arab Group and the nonaligned Movement successfully and wrongly argued that the Convention should meet to adopt measures that would stop Israel from building in what they termed the "Occupied Palestinian Territory including Jerusalem."

Only Israel and, I am proud to say, the United States voted against this United Nations Resolution, which carried by a vote of 115 to 2 with five abstentions. Unfortunately, with such a lopsided vote, we now face a situation in which the Swiss Government, as depository of the Geneva Convention, has been asked to convene this conference on July 15, 1999.

This resolution, sponsored by Senators SCHUMER, BROWNBACK and I, commends our Department of State for its strong opposition to the United Nations action and, in addition, asks the Swiss Government to refrain from holding this politicized convention. We intend to send a clear signal to the United Nations General Assembly about the inappropriateness of this resolution and urge our government to continue to work for the cancellation of the scheduled conference.●

SENATE RESOLUTION—REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT RAISE THE ISSUE OF AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AT THE JUNE G-8 SUMMIT MEETING

Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, and Mr. FITZGERALD) submitted the following; which was considered and agreed to.

S. RES. 120

Whereas biotechnology is an increasingly important tool in helping to meet multiple agricultural challenges of the 21st century;

Whereas genetically modified crops are helping to control weeds, insects, and plant diseases to increase crop yields and farm productivity, and to enhance the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food, fiber, and other uses;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology promises environmental benefits by reducing, or

perhaps eliminating, the need for chemical pesticides, by improving the efficient utilization of fertilizer, thereby protecting water quality, and by conserving topsoil by reducing the need for tillage;

Whereas in recent years farmers have rapidly adopted agricultural biotechnology, with worldwide acreage of genetically modified crops growing from 4,300,000 acres in 1996, to 69,500,000 acres in 1998, which is more than a 16-fold increase;

Whereas American farmers planted biotech crops on about 38 percent of the soybean acreage, 25 percent of the corn acreage, and 45 percent of the cotton acreage, and within a few years over half of the agricultural crops grown in this country may be genetically modified;

Whereas increased agricultural productivity attained through greater use of biotechnology, in both developed and developing countries, holds a great deal of potential for meeting the nutritional needs of the world's population, of which at least 800,000,000 currently suffer from hunger or malnutrition;

Whereas despite the widespread adoption and extensive global benefits of biotechnology, marked differences among countries in their regulatory approaches are limiting substantially the use of, and trade in, agricultural biotechnology products;

Whereas an open international trading system for products derived from plant and animal agricultural biotechnology would make a broad array of improved products more affordable, including agricultural and food products, pharmaceuticals, and consumer products such as apparel, paper, cosmetics, soaps, and detergents;

Whereas because of the importance of international trade to the strength of the farm economy and the entire food and agriculture sector, any unwarranted restrictions on trade in biotechnology products could seriously disrupt the farm economy and unjustifiably force farmers to choose between using agricultural biotechnology and exporting their production; and

Whereas the threat to agricultural production and trade from restrictions on products derived from modern biotechnology has become serious enough to warrant the attention of world leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) as the world trading system moves toward a reduction of tariff and nontariff barriers, all countries should work to ensure that scientifically unfounded new barriers are not erected;

(2) the President should raise at the June 1999, G-8 Summit the important issues surrounding the use of, and trade in, agricultural biotechnology; and

(3) as world leaders prepare for a new round of negotiations on agriculture in the World Trade Organization, the G-8 Summit is an appropriate forum to seek a consensus with the major trading partners of the United States regarding—

(A) recognition of the global benefits of agricultural biotechnology, especially in meeting the nutritional needs of millions of people in developing countries;

(B) increasing consumer knowledge and understanding of agricultural biotechnology and its benefits; and

(C) the adoption of rational, scientifically-based systems for the regulation of biotechnology products and for eliminating unjustified barriers to the use of biotechnology products in international trade.