

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 251), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

EXPRESSING THE CONDEMNATIONS OF THE CONTINUED EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 594, House concurrent resolution 304.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) expressing the condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, the lack of progress toward the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus, calling on President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's regime to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the opposition and to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people, and calling on the Russian Federation to respect the sovereignty of Belarus.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for not to exceed 15 minutes.

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

THE PROPER DECORUM OF THE SENATE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I think it would be appropriate at this moment for me to say that this Presiding Officer, Senator PAT ROBERTS, is one of the best among the Presiding Officers in the Senate today. He pays attention to what is going on on the floor. Even though there may not be much going on, he is alert to what is happening on the floor.

This is the premier upper Chamber in the world today. There are 61 nations in the world that have bicameral legislative bodies today. All the others have unicameral legislative bodies. But the U.S. Senate and the Italian Senate are the only bicameral legislative bodies in the world today in which the upper Chamber is not dominated by the lower Chamber.

It is so important that this Senate be seen as a model, as a Senate in which there is decorum and order, a Senate which reveres the Chair and respects the Chair. This is one reason why I have been, of late, urging the Chair to maintain order in the well of the Senate. Now, 59 Senators out of 100 Senators today came to this body after I was majority leader of the Senate. Almost 60 percent of the Senators here today were not Members of this body when I was last majority leader of the body.

Now, what I look upon as some disorder in the Senate is when Senators get into the well and mill around. It really looks like the floor of the stock exchange, and it does not bring credit upon the Senate. I am sure that many senates throughout the States of this Nation look at this Senate as the model, look at this Senate as the body from which all senates should learn. But I fear that they see just the opposite.

I have been in the State legislature in my own State, and I have been in both houses. I have to say, frankly, that the decorum, the order within the House of Delegates in West Virginia and in the West Virginia Senate is far more to be desired than we find in that U.S. Senate. This is a situation that has really developed only during the last 10 or 12 years. I am sure that as the 59 out of the 100 Senators who came here following my last turn at the wheel as majority leader see this disorder in the Senate, where so many Senators gather in the well and they talk and they laugh and make a great deal of noise, these newest Senators probably believe that is the way it has always been. They may believe that is just normal for the Senate. But it is not.

I cannot imagine Senator Wallace Bennett, Senator George Aiken, Senator Norris Cotton, Senator Everett Dirksen, Senator Richard Russell, Senator Stuart Symington, Senator John Pastore, or Senator Joseph O'Mahoney going into the well. These were the Senators who were in this body when I came here. Senators didn't go down into the well and mill around in those days. Oh, they walked through the well, or they might walk up to the table and ask something about the vote, or they might walk up to the Parliamentarian and make some inquiry; but they didn't gather in the well and carry on long conversations. They sat in their seats. Most of them knew how they were going to vote before they came to the floor. They had already been advised by their staffs or they studied the legislation. So they didn't go into the well. I think that looks bad upon the Senate.

I don't think the Senate sets a good example when we are so oblivious to how the Senate appears to the people who are watching their televisions sets or to the people in the galleries. Hundreds of thousands of people come to Washington every year, and many of

them sit in the Senate galleries and watch the Senate. I wonder what is going through their minds when they see these Senators come in here and gather in the well and carry on loud conversations. How different it is when Senators, upon occasion, sit in their seats. How very impressive it is when the U.S. Senate acts in accordance with the standing orders and rules of the Senate.

It is the duty of the Chair to maintain order in the Senate and, of course, when there is confusion that arises in the galleries, it is the duty of the Chair—without being asked from the floor, without a point of order being made from the floor—to maintain order and decorum in the Senate.

I am trying to get the Senate to think about this and go back to the old ways, wherein Senators voted and then went to their chairs, or they voted from their desks. There is a standing order of the Senate that requires Senators to vote from their desks. I don't intend to be set-jawed about it, and if Senators want to walk through the well to see what it is we are voting on, or if they want to vote from someplace other than their own desks, I have no quarrel with that. But I think they ought to sit down. There are plenty of places where Senators can converse. We can go to the respective Cloakrooms, or we can walk outside the Chamber. So it isn't that Senators are required to avoid speaking to one another in the Chamber. We ought to be conscious that this Senate is the model—or it should be.

I hope Senators will read what I have said. They see me insist on the well's being cleared and they may think I am trying to run the Senate. Of course, I am not. I want people to revere the Senate and respect the Senate. If they respect this body, they will have more respect for the laws that we enact.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time I have taken not be charged against my request thus far.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, again, I thank the Senator from Kansas who is a model Presiding Officer, and there are a few others in this body.

HONORING SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE AS RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, the strength of this Nation lies in its people. Throughout our Nation's history, American men and women have been called upon time and time again to serve the Nation in times of peril. These men and women, at great risk to themselves and without regard to their personal safety, have given their all for their Country. These are the true heroes of America.

We have some of such heroes in this body who have given so very much for their country—Senator MAX CLELAND,

Senator BOB KERREY; there are others. But today I speak of one such American hero, our esteemed colleague, DANIEL INOUE.

Like many others in this body, I have always thought of Senator INOUE as a national hero. I know of his wartime heroics in France and Italy during World War II. I know of how he fought to protect the troops with whom he served, without regard for his own life. Even though gravely wounded, Lieutenant DANIEL INOUE continued to fight, advancing alone against a machine-gun nest that had his men pinned down. I know that, upon returning home, DAN INOUE spent twenty months in Army hospitals after losing his right arm. He came home as a Captain, with a Distinguished Service Cross, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart with cluster, and twelve other medals and citations.

After receiving his law degree at George Washington University Law School, DANNY broke into politics in 1954 with his election to the Territorial House of Representatives. After Hawaii became a State on August 21, 1959, DANNY INOUE won election to the United States House of Representatives as Hawaii's first Congressman, and was re-elected to a full term in 1960. In 1962, he was elected to represent Hawaii in the United States Senate.

I am proud to say that I am one who voted for statehood on behalf of both Alaska and Hawaii. I believe that I am the only Senator still serving here today who voted for statehood for both of these states. I am very proud of having done that. I believe that I am also one of only three members of today's Senate who were here when DAN INOUE joined this body in 1963.

I have had the pleasure of working with DANNY INOUE on many, many occasions over the years. He is a man of utmost integrity, who works tirelessly on behalf of his constituents and on behalf of the Nation. He is one Senator who was extremely supportive of me during my service as Majority Leader, as Minority Leader, as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and now as the Committee's Ranking Member. He is a Senator on whom I have relied for truth, for integrity, for steadfastness, for forthrightness, and as one who is highly dedicated to his work here in the Senate.

DANNY INOUE is a man who is modest about his many accomplishments here in the Senate, as well as his wartime heroics. He is not one to talk much about those things. He is a quiet, self-effacing Senator. But we are all aware of his great service to this Country throughout his adult life.

I am immensely proud of this outstanding American in our midst, and we are deeply moved that, this week, DANNY INOUE was awarded the highest military honor that can be bestowed upon any American citizen—the Congressional Medal of Honor. He has joined the ranks of the six other United States Senators who have received the

Congressional Medal of Honor, namely, Senator Adelbert Ames of Mississippi, Senator Matthew S. Quay of Pennsylvania, Senator William J. Sewell of New Jersey, Senator Francis E. Warren of Wyoming, Senator Henry A. du Pont of Delaware, and Senator J. ROBERT KERREY of Nebraska. Senator INOUE is the only United States Senator in history to receive the Medal of Honor for service in World War II.

A bit of verse comes to mind.

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream:
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain;
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged
A furious battle, and men yelled, and
swords

Shocked upon swords and shields.

A prince's banner
Wavered, then staggered backward,
hemmed by foes.

A craven hung along the battle's edge
And thought, 'Had I a sword of keener
steel—

That blue blade that the king's son bears—
but this

Blunt thing!" He snapt and flung it from
his hand,

And lowering, crept away and left the field.

Then came the king's son, wounded, sore
bestead,

And weaponless, and saw the broken sword,
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,
And ran and snatched it; and with battle
shout

Lifted afresh, he hewed his enemy down,

And saved a great cause that heroic day.

DANNY INOUE has this same bravery as described of the king's son in Edward Rowland Sill's poem. DANNY INOUE is the kind of man who sees beyond the hilt-buried sword in the dry and trodden sand. He is a man who sees opportunity in the worst of situations, rather than despair. And, seizing every opportunity to advance a good cause, he acts swiftly and courageously to meet adversity head-on.

I thank the Chair again, and express to DANNY INOUE and his lovely wife, on behalf of my wife Erma and me, our congratulations, our best wishes, and our thankfulness to the Almighty for giving us two such wonderful friends—Senator and Mrs. DANIEL INOUE.

I thank the people of Hawaii for repeatedly sending DANNY INOUE to the Senate.

I express this hope, and I am sure DANIEL INOUE would say the same if he were here:

May God, the Almighty Creator, always watch over and keep the Senate of the United States, and may God always bless the United States of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be dispensed with, and, without objection it is so ordered.

URGING COMPLIANCE WITH THE HAGUE CONVENTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I

request unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 293.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 293) urging compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent 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, and, without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 293) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

H. CON. RES. 293

Whereas the Department of State reports that at any given time there are 1,000 open cases of American children either abducted from the United States or wrongfully retained in a foreign country;

Whereas many cases of international child abductions are not reported to the Department of State;

Whereas the situation has worsened since 1993, when Congress estimated the number of American children abducted from the United States and wrongfully retained in foreign countries to be more than 10,000;

Whereas Congress has recognized the gravity of international child abduction in enacting the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act of 1993 (18 U.S.C. 1204), the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act (28 U.S.C. 1738a), and substantial reform and reporting requirements for the Department of State in the fiscal years 1998-1999 and 2000-2001 Foreign Relations Authorization Acts;

Whereas the United States became a contracting party in 1988 to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (in this concurrent resolution referred to as the "Hague Convention") and adopted effective implementing legislation in the International Child Abduction Remedies Act (42 U.S.C. 11601 et seq.);

Whereas the Hague Convention establishes mutual rights and duties between and among its contracting states to expedite the return of children to the state of their habitual residence, as well as to ensure that rights of custody and of access under the laws of one contracting state are effectively respected in other contracting states, without consideration of the merits of any underlying child custody dispute;

Whereas article 13 of the Hague Convention provides a narrow exception to the requirement for prompt return of children, which exception releases the requested state from its obligation to return a child to the country of the child's habitual residence if it is established that there is a "grave risk" that the return would expose the child to "physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation" or "if the child objects to being returned and has attained an age and degree of maturity at which it is appropriate to take account of the child's views";

Whereas some contracting states, for example Germany, routinely invoke article 13