

good citizens," he made Rhode Island's history of religious liberty a model for the nation. "To bigotry no sanction." It is for good reason that these words continue to resonate today, as we confront the challenges of an ever more closely linked, yet endlessly diverse community of nations. We all know too well the destruction that bigotry causes, and this plague is still with us. The fight for tolerance is as necessary now as in the days of President Washington or Roger Williams.

This fight for tolerance is the reason the original letter sent by George Washington remains on permanent display at the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum in Washington, D.C. This fight for tolerance is also the reason Americans of all religious faiths gather at the Klutznick Museum each February and at Touro Synagogue each August to hear readings of the letter. It is my hope these commemorations inspire us to follow the examples set by Roger Williams and President Washington and continue to fight for religious and personal liberty for all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 25—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 18, 2001 AS "NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK"

Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. CLELAND) submitting the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 25

Whereas today's youth are vital to the preservation of our country and will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youth need a safe haven from various negative influences such as child abuse, substance abuse and crime, and they need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the Nation's youth;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting our Nation's most valuable asset, our youth, by offering short term "safe places" at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise youth seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas Safe Place combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations uniting to reach youth in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas Safe Place provides a direct means to assist programs in meeting performance standards relative to outreach/community relations, as set forth in the Federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act guidelines;

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youth;

Whereas over 500 communities in 32 states and more than 9,000 locations have established Safe Place programs;

Whereas over 47,000 young people have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations;

Whereas through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the country each year more than one-half million students learn

that Safe Place is a resource if abusive or neglectful situations exist;

Whereas increased awareness of the program's existence will encourage communities to establish Safe Places for the Nation's youth throughout the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) proclaims the week of March 18 through March 24, 2001 as "National Safe Place Week" and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to promote awareness of and volunteer involvement in the Safe Place programs, and to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 26—STATING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

S. RES. 26

Whereas home energy assistance for working, low-income, and middle-income families with children, the elderly on fixed incomes, individuals with disabilities, and others who need such assistance is a critical part of the social safety net in cold weather areas during the winter, and a source of necessary cooling assistance during the summer;

Whereas the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (referred to in this resolution as "LIHEAP") provides a highly targeted, cost-effective way to help millions of low-income residents of the United States pay their home energy bills;

Whereas more than 3/4 of the households that are eligible for assistance through LIHEAP have annual incomes of less than \$8,000, and approximately 1/2 of those households have annual incomes of less than \$6,000;

Whereas regular and emergency funding for LIHEAP for fiscal year 2001 has been exhausted in some States and nearly exhausted in several other States;

Whereas as a result, more than 30,000,000 households around the Nation may be left without energy assistance in areas that may face several more weeks of cold winter weather; and

Whereas without additional funding, members of those households may be forced to make an unacceptable choice between heating their homes or purchasing food, medicine, or other basic necessities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President and Congress should immediately prepare and enact a supplemental appropriations bill to provide \$1,000,000,000 in regular funding for LIHEAP, \$152,000,000 for weatherization assistance grants under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.), and \$37,000,000 for State energy conservation plan grants under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 27—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE 1944 DEPORTATION OF THE CHECHEN PEOPLE TO CENTRAL ASIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. RES. 27

Whereas for more than 200 years, the Chechen people have resisted the efforts of the Russian government to drive them from their land and to deny them their own culture;

Whereas beginning on February 23, 1944, nearly 500,000 Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus were arrested en masse and forced onto trains for deportation to central Asia;

Whereas tens of thousands of Chechens, mainly women, children, and the elderly, died en route to central Asia;

Whereas mass killings and the use of poisons against the Chechen people accompanied the deportation;

Whereas the Chechen deportees were not given food, housing, or medical attention upon their arrival in central Asia;

Whereas the Soviet Union actively attempted to suppress all expressions of Chechen culture, including language, architecture, literature, music, and familial relations during the exile of the Chechen people;

Whereas it is generally accepted that more than one-third of the Chechen population died in transit during the deportation or while living in exile in central Asia;

Whereas the deportation order was not repealed until 1957;

Whereas the Chechens who returned to Chechnya found their homes and land taken over by new residents who violently opposed the Chechen return; and

Whereas neither the Soviet Union, nor its successor, the Russian Federation, has ever accepted full responsibility for the brutalities inflicted upon the Chechen people: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should commemorate the 57th anniversary of the brutal deportation of the Chechen people from their native land;

(2) the current war in Chechnya should be viewed within the historical context of repeated abuses suffered by the Chechen people at the hands of the Russian state;

(3) the United States Government should make every effort to alleviate the suffering of the Chechen people; and

(4) it is in the interests of the United States, the Russian Federation, Chechnya, and the international community to find an immediate, peaceful, and political solution to the war in Chechnya.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, next week will mark the tragic anniversary of Stalin's mass deportation of Chechen civilians from the northern Caucasus to the barren steps of Central Asia. In the early morning hours of February 23, 1944, thousands of Chechen families were ordered out of their homes, arrested, and loaded on to rail cars. Some five hundred thousand Chechens were deported to Central Asia. Tens of thousands, mainly women, children, and the elderly, died en route to Central Asia.

These deportations were part of Stalin's systematic effort to suppress the

Chechen people and to strip them of their culture and history, including their language, architecture, music and even familial ties.

It was only in 1957 that Stalin's deportation order was repealed. However, many of those Chechens that were able to make the arduous journey back to their homes in the Caucasus found them occupied by new residents, many of whom violently opposed the Chechen return.

Today, the Chechen people are enduring yet another brutal assault directed by Moscow's authorities. Over the last year and half Russian President Vladimir Putin has conducted an indiscriminate war against the Chechen people. Russian forces subjected Chechnya's capital, Grozny, to a destruction unseen in Europe since World War II, and they have leveled numerous other Chechen towns and villages. Russian forces have herded the Chechen population into refugee or internment camps. This war against the Chechen people has left literally hundreds of thousands homeless and countless thousands of innocents dead. Let us not forget that more than 100,000 Chechens were killed in the Russo-Chechen war of 1994-1996—100,000 out of a population of fewer than a million.

Mr. President, it is with these facts in mind that I introduce a resolution marking next week's anniversary of Stalin's mass deportation of the Chechen people in 1944. My hope is that this resolution will communicate to the Chechen people the Senate's awareness of the suffering that they have endured and are enduring today. It is my hope that this resolution will prompt others to view the ongoing war in Chechnya within the historic context of the repeated abuses suffered by the Chechen people. By promoting a broader awareness of the history of Chechen people, I am confident that this resolution will contribute positively to the efforts of those who are trying to prompt a peaceful, political, and just end to war in Chechnya.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

SMITH AMENDMENT NO. 12

Mr. SMITH of Oregon submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 287, to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to impose cost-of-service based rates on sales by public utilities of electric energy at wholesale in the western energy market; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

On page 3, strike subsection (d) and insert the following:

(d) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A cost-of-service based rate shall not apply to a sale of electric energy at wholesale for delivery in a State that—

(A) prohibits public utilities from passing through to retail consumers wholesale rates approved by the Commission; or

(B) imposes a price limit on the sale of electric energy at retail that—

(i) precludes a public utility from recovering costs on a cost-of-service based rate; or

(ii) has precluded a public utility from making a payment when due to any entity within the western energy market from which the public utility purchased electric energy, and the default has not been cured.

(2) NO ORDERS TO SELL WITHOUT GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, neither the Secretary of Energy, the Commission, any other officer or agency in the Executive branch, nor any court may issue an order that requires a seller of electric energy or natural gas to sell electric energy or natural gas to a purchaser in a State described in paragraph (1) unless there is a guarantee that, as determined by the Commission, is sufficient to ensure that the seller will be paid the full purchase price when due.

(3) REQUIREMENT TO MEET IN-STATE DEMAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State public utility commission in the western energy market may prohibit a public utility in the State from making any sale of electric energy to a purchaser in a State described in paragraph (1) at any time at which the public utility is not meeting the demand for electric energy in the service area of the public utility.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) conduct an investigation to determine whether any public utility in a State described in subsection (d)(1) has been rendered uncreditworthy or has defaulted on any payment for electric energy as a result of a transfer of funds by the public utility to a parent company or to a subsidiary of the public utility (except a payment made in accordance with a State deregulation statute); and

(2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce and Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing the results of the investigation.

(f) DURATION.—A cost-of-service based electric energy rate imposed under this Act shall remain in effect until such time as the market for electric energy in the western energy market reflects just and reasonable rates, as determined by the Commission.

(g) REPEAL.—This Act is repealed, and any cost-of-service based electric energy rate imposed under this Act that is then in effect shall no longer be effective, on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, today I am filing an amendment to S. 287, bill to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to impose cost-of-service based rates on sales by public utilities of electric energy at wholesale in the western energy market.

My amendment would clarify the circumstances under which the Commission may impose interim limitations on the cost of electric energy, and provide a sunset date. While I applaud my colleague's efforts to help restore stability to the wholesale electricity market on the west coast, I believe S. 287 continues to insulate retail customers in California from the energy crisis in a way that is hampering conservation and investment in new generation.

By contrast, my constituents and energy-sensitive businesses in Oregon are already feeling the effects of the price volatility in the west. Utilities in the northwest are facing current rate in-

creases of eleven to fifty percent. The customers of the Bonneville Power Administration are facing the prospect of 95 percent rate increases beginning in October, when current contracts expire.

I know that there is significant support for short-term wholesale price caps for the entire western market. However, that doesn't address what is still going on in California, where retail prices are capped at a level that is insulating consumers from the price shocks being felt by the rest of the West. So long as these retail rates remain capped at the current levels, there is no incentive to conserve, and no incentive for additional generation. Both conservation and additional generation are the keys to the long-term solution.

Much of the media attention in recent weeks has focused on efforts to keep the lights on in California and to keep that state's two largest utilities from going bankrupt. But the West Coast energy market extends to eleven other western states, including Oregon, that are all interconnected by the high-voltage transmission system.

I believe there is more that California can and must do immediately to address this situation. I know the California legislature is grappling with this situation, and I hope it will take the steps to restore the creditworthiness of California's utilities.

First and foremost, it must approve further electric rate increases. This is necessary to send the right price signals to Californians to conserve energy. Further, price increases are necessary to help California's investor-owned utilities—which have recently been reduced to “junk bond” status—from going bankrupt.

Avoiding bankruptcy for these utilities is important for Oregon and other western states. Since the middle of December, Northwest utilities have been forced to sell their surplus power into California, with no guarantee of being paid. If the California utilities subsequently seek bankruptcy protection, it will be Oregonians who are stuck with the bill for California's failed restructuring effort.

In fact, certain Oregon utilities are already receiving bills from California's power exchange for funds owed to the exchange by California utilities. In addition, the Bonneville Power Administration is owed over 100 million dollars for power sales it made into California in November 2000.

My amendment to the legislation offered by my colleague from California would do the following: It limits the authorities provided to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) to impose west-wide wholesale price caps by stipulating that the wholesale price cap cannot be imposed on sales into any state that has refused to allow utilities to pass on Commission-approved rates, has capped retail rates at levels that do not allow utilities to recover costs on a cost-of-service based rate, or has capped rates at a level that results in a default of payments for electricity.