

Organization, the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; and

Whereas the Republic of Slovenia has made significant progress in its work to join the NATO Alliance and the European Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby—

(1) congratulates the Republic of Slovenia as the country celebrates ten years of independence on June 25, 2001;

(2) commends the people of Slovenia on the significant progress made during the past decade to advance respect for human rights, the rule of law, free market economies, and democracy;

(3) recognizes the important role played by the Slovenian community in diaspora to promote independence in the Republic of Slovenia; and

(4) encourages the Republic of Slovenia to continue its important work toward membership in the NATO Alliance and the European Union, as well as efforts to further peace, stability, and prosperity in Central and Eastern Europe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 811. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 812. Mr. EDWARDS (for Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 811. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 153, strike lines 1 through 14.

On page 159, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

“(D) ACTIONS IN FEDERAL COURT.—A cause of action described in subparagraph (A) shall be brought and maintained only in the Federal district court for the district in which the plaintiff resides or in which the alleged injury or death that is the subject of such action occurred. In any such action, the court shall apply the laws of the State involved in determining the liability of the defendants.”

SA 812. Mr. EDWARDS (for Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. EDWARDS)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING FAIR REVIEW PROCESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) A fair, timely, impartial independent external appeals process is essential to any meaningful program of patient protection.

(2) The independence and objectivity of the review organization and review process must be ensured.

(3) It is incompatible with a fair and independent appeals process to allow a health maintenance organization to select the review organization that is entrusted with providing a neutral and unbiased medical review.

(4) The American Arbitration Association and arbitration standards adopted under chapter 44 of title 28, United States Code (28 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) both prohibit, as inherently unfair, the right of one party to a dispute to choose the judge in that dispute.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) every patient who is denied care by a health maintenance organization or other health insurance company should be entitled to a fair, speedy, impartial appeal to a review organization that has not been selected by the health plan;

(2) the States should be empowered to maintain and develop the appropriate process for selection of the independent external review entity;

(3) a child battling a rare cancer whose health maintenance organization has denied a covered treatment recommended by its physician should be entitled to a fair and impartial external appeal to a review organization that has not been chosen by the organization or plan that has denied the care; and

(4) patient protection legislation should not preempt existing State laws in States where there already are strong laws in place regarding the selection of independent review organizations.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a nominee has been added to the full committee nomination hearing scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, immediately following a 9:30 a.m. business meeting in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The nomination of John Walton Keys III, to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, will be considered, along with the nominations of Vicky A. Bailey to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy) and Frances P. Mainella to be Director of the National Park Service.

Those wishing to submit written testimony on these nominations should address them to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Sam Fowler on 202/224-7571.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF PERU ON THEIR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS ON JUNE 3, 2001

Mr. REID, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the consideration of S. Res. 107, and the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER, Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 107) congratulating the people of Peru on the occasion of their democratic elections on June 3, 2001.

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

Mr. REID, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 107) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 107

Whereas the people of Peru have courageously struggled to restore democracy and the rule of law following fraudulent elections on May 28, 2000, and after more than a decade of the systematic undermining of democratic institutions by the Government of Alberto Fujimori;

Whereas, in elections on April 8 and June 3, 2001, the people of Peru held democratic multiparty elections to choose their government;

Whereas these elections were determined by domestic and international observers to be free and fair and a legitimate expression of the will of the people of Peru; and

Whereas the 2001 elections form the foundation for a genuinely democratic government that represents the will and sovereignty of the people of Peru and that can be a constructive partner with the United States in advancing common interests in the Americas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN PERU ON JUNE 3, 2001.

(a) CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF PERU.—The Senate, on behalf of the people of the United States, hereby—

(1) congratulates the people of Peru for the successful completion of free and fair elections held on April 8 and June 3, 2001, as well as for their courageous struggle to restore democracy and the rule of law;

(2) congratulates Alejandro Toledo for his election as President of Peru and his continued strong commitment to democracy;

(3) congratulates Valentin Paniagua, current President of Peru, for his commitment to ensuring a stable and peaceful transition to democracy and the rule of law; and

(4) congratulates the Organization of American States (OAS) Electoral Observer Mission, led by Eduardo Stein, for its service in promoting representative democracy in the Americas by working to ensure free and fair elections in Peru.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should expand its cooperation with the Government of Peru to promote—

(A) the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law in Peru; and

(B) economic development and an improved quality of life for citizens of both countries;

(2) the governments of the United States and Peru should act in solidarity to promote democracy and respect for human rights in the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world;

(3) the governments of the United States and Peru should enhance cooperation to confront common threats such as corruption and trafficking in illicit narcotics and arms; and

(4) the United States Government should cooperate fully with the Peruvian Government to bring to justice former Peruvian officials involved in narcotics and arms trafficking or other illicit activities.

CONGRATULATING SLOVENIA ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 116, submitted earlier by Senators VOINOVICH and BIDEN.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 116) congratulating the Republic of Slovenia on its tenth anniversary of independence.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the people and Republic of Slovenia on their tenth anniversary of independence. It is a privilege to join my Republican colleague, Senator GEORGE VOINOVICH, as an original cosponsor of the legislation he introduced today to pay tribute to the remarkable transformation of Slovenia into a free, democratic state during the past decade.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union and the break-up of the former Yugoslavia, no country in either Southern or Eastern Europe has made greater and faster progress in embracing human rights, the rule of law, open markets, and democratic governance.

At the same time, Slovenia has demonstrated both the readiness and the capacity to become a regional leader in pursuit of peace and stability that has long suffered from ethnic divisiveness, turmoil, and bloodshed. Let me cite just one example. Slovenia took the initiative a few years ago to establish the International Trust Fund for Demining, ITF, which has become the leading organization to rid the Balkans of landmines and to rehabilitate the victims of these deadly weapons. In so doing, it is the Slovenians who deserve the credit for securing contributions from the U.S. and eighteen other Nations as well as many private donors to meet this urgent humanitarian challenge. I am hopeful that this Congress will authorize and appropriate a second U.S. contribution to help sustain the outstanding work of the ITF this year and beyond.

Slovenia has also become an active member of various international organizations, including the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the Council of Europe, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Therefore, it is not surprising that President Bush and Russian Presi-

dent Putin held their first summit meeting earlier this month in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

I salute the remarkable courage of the Slovenian people in achieving their quest for free and democratic government as well as their entrepreneurial drive in building a vibrant, growing national economy in such a short span of time. Accordingly, the U.S. and our NATO allies should move forthwith to extend a formal invitation for Slovenia to become a full-fledged NATO member within the next 12-18 months.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Madam President, today, I am joined by Senators BIDEN, DEWINE, and HARKIN in congratulating the Republic of Slovenia on its tenth anniversary of independence.

Ten years ago today, on June 25, 1991, the Republic of Slovenia declared itself an independent and sovereign Nation. Since that time, Slovenia has remained a model of reform and progress in Central and Eastern Europe, working to promote democratic ideals, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the merits of free market economic systems.

Slovenia has made great strides in its work to join the NATO Alliance and the European Union. In addition to its outstanding human rights record and commitment to the democratic process, the people of Slovenia enjoy the highest per capita gross domestic product in the region, and the country's economy continues to grow. Slovenia has also demonstrated its ability to contribute to international peace-keeping operations, including NATO's Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as NATO's force in Kosovo, among others. Given its record in these regards, I believe the Republic of Slovenia stands as a strong candidate for NATO membership when the Alliance considers enlargement in Prague in November 2002.

Slovenia's progress extends beyond domestic reform and foreign policy goals. In Southeast Europe, a part of the world that continues to feel the burden of decades of war and ethnic strife, Slovenia continues to serve as a leader in efforts to remove destructive land mines in the region. The International Trust Fund for Demining, ITF, established by the Slovenian government in 1998, has undertaken more than 200 projects in the Balkans since its creation. As a result, more than 12 million square meters of land have been cleared throughout Albania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. In addition, the ITF Mine Victims' Assistance program has helped more than 500 people in Bosnia and Herzegovina who have been injured by land mines. Congress provided matching funds to assist the International Trust Fund for Demining in 1998, and this year the United States will again consider funding for this important initiative.

As the Republic of Slovenia has made considerable and important progress during its 10 years of independence,

working to promote peace, stability and prosperity in Central and Eastern Europe, I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit this resolution on the occasion of Slovenia's 10th anniversary of independence. I congratulate the people of Slovenia on their accomplishments thus far, and I urge them to continue their significant work to advance the ideals of democracy, human rights, the rule of law and free market economies throughout the Balkans region.

Mr. REID. Madam 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 finally, that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 116) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
(The text of S. Res. 116 is located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions".)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2001

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 26. I further ask that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of the proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the Patients' Bill of Rights; further, following the 11:30 a.m. votes, there be up to 30 minutes for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator FEINGOLD, the first 15 minutes; Senator THOMAS, or his designee, the second 15 minutes; further, that upon conclusion of the period for morning business, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

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

STATUS ON SENATOR RICHARD BRYAN

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to announce to the Senate—and I have made this statement previously—that my friend Richard Bryan is expected to be released from the hospital tomorrow or the next day. He has been very ill, with some malady that no one can figure out. He had an infection in his neck. He went into surgery and was in intensive care for 5 of 6 days. He is up and walking around, and he is going to go home. In a few weeks, he will be as good as ever.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, on Tuesday the Senate will convene at 9:30