

S. RES. 366

Whereas in November 2002, a number of government-controlled television stations in Egypt began broadcasting a multi-part series, "Horseman Without a Horse", based on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and conspiracy myths about Jewish global domination;

Whereas the Protocols of the Elders of Zion are a notorious forgery, written by Russian anti-Semites in the early 20th century, which purport to reveal a plot for Jewish domination of the world;

Whereas the Protocols of the Elders of Zion have been a staple of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda for decades and have long since been discredited by all reputable scholars;

Whereas the broadcast of this series takes place in the context of a sustained pattern of vitriolic anti-Semitic commentary and depictions in the Egyptian government-sponsored press, which has gone unanswered by the Government of Egypt; and

Whereas the Department of State has urged Egypt and other Arab states not to broadcast this program, saying "We don't think government TV stations should be broadcasting programs that we consider racist and untrue": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns any publication or program that lends legitimacy to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion;

(2) believes the use of such heinous propaganda, especially in the Arab world, serves to incite popular sentiment against Jewish people and the State of Israel rather than promoting religious tolerance and preparing Arab populations for the prospect of peace with Israel;

(3) commends the Department of State for its denunciation of the "Horseman Without a Horse" television series and its efforts to discourage Arab states from broadcasting it; and

(4) urges the Government of Egypt and other Arab governments—

(A) not to allow their government-controlled television stations to broadcast this program or any other racist and untrue material; and

(B) to speak out against such incitement by vigorously and publicly condemning anti-Semitism as a form of bigotry.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a resolution dealing with a problem we are facing in the Middle East—that of resurgent anti-Semitism. I am joined by my friend and colleague from Oregon, Sen. SMITH, in offering this resolution.

Right now, throughout this month, a multi-part series is being broadcast on Egyptian state television entitled, "Horseman Without a Horse." This program is based on a notorious anti-Semitic document known as "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

"The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," written in the early 20th century by Russian anti-Semites, purports to be a record of secret meetings at which Jewish leaders hatched a plan for global Jewish domination. All reputable scholars have discredited the document, but it has proven tougher to stamp out than the most resilient weed.

Time and again, various anti-Semitic leaders have used the Protocols of the Elders of Zion to justify outrageous acts of persecution against the Jewish people. The perpetrators of pogroms in

Russia cited it. Hitler used it. So did Stalin. It has become a staple of anti-Semitic propaganda.

The places these myths are most likely to surface nowadays are in the Arab world. With depressing regularity, we see Jews portrayed in the Arab media as bloodthirsty, conniving, and manipulative. The editorial cartoons of Jews that appear in Egyptian newspapers alone would be shocking to nearly any American who saw them.

Now comes a television program about Jewish plots to control the world, broadcast nationwide on Egyptian government-sponsored television stations. It is likely the series will air in other Arab countries as well.

Some would argue that this demonization is an unavoidable byproduct of the Arab-Israeli conflict. But perpetrating anti-Semitic myths is never acceptable. Arab governments can be expected to have their differences with Israel, and to seek to resolve those differences through negotiations. They can even be expected to criticize Israeli policies. But the gratuitous demonization of Jews serves on to incite popular sentiment against Jewish people, and by extension, the State of Israel. Instead, these governments should be seeking to promote religious tolerance, and to prepare their populations for peace with Israel.

Egypt is a friend and ally of the United States. It is a significant recipient of U.S. foreign assistance because successive administrations of both parties have found the alliance to serve our national interests. But we have a right to expect better from our friends. We have a right to expect that they will not intentionally promote false and racist views that incite religious intolerance. As the State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said recently, "We don't think government TV stations should be broadcasting programs that we consider racist and untrue."

Anti-Semitism is a form of racism, and we need to condemn it whenever it occurs. The resolution I am offering today with Sen. SMITH condemns any effort that lends legitimacy to the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, supports the State Department's criticism of the Egyptian television series "Horseman Without a Horse", and urges the Government of Egypt and other Arab governments to refrain from broadcasting racist and untrue material, and to speak out against such incitement.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important resolution.

ARCHIE EDWARDS BLUES HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 367 introduced earlier today by Senators HATCH and BARKLEY.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 367) recognizing the community services of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation, designating the fortnight beginning November 29, 2002, as the "Blues Heritage Appreciation Fortnight", and designating Friday, November 29, 2002, as "Blues Friday."

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 367) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 367), with its preamble, reads as follows:

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Whereas Mr. Archie Edwards was a talented musician who devoted his life to playing the blues and inspiring others to learn and appreciate music;

Whereas Mr. Archie Edwards was a self-taught musician whose music was acclaimed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe;

Whereas Mr. Archie Edwards, for 40 years, provided a haven in the District of Columbia for all those who loved the blues to play, listen, and socialize;

Whereas the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Mr. Edwards' memory and extending the positive influence of his music in the Washington, D.C. community;

Whereas the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation is committed to carrying on Mr. Edwards' legacy by maintaining an open forum for people in the community to meet, learn, and share the music he loved;

Whereas the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation supports and expands community outreach programs that provide entertainment and promote the blues to citizens in nursing homes, schools, hospitals, and other venues; and

Whereas the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation recognizes the importance that the blues has played in our country's heritage and has preserved and promoted the blues as a unique American art form: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the community services of the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation;

(2) recognizes the importance of blues in the history of American culture;

(3) designates the fortnight beginning November 29, 2002, as the "Blues Heritage Appreciation Fortnight"; and

(4) designates Friday, November 29, 2002, as "Blues Friday".

CALLING FOR EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF REFUGEES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 349.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 349) calling for effective measures to end sexual exploitation of refugees.

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

Mr. REID. 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 that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 349) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

DECLINING WORLD COFFEE PRICES

Mr. REID. I ask consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 368, introduced earlier today by Senators LEAHY, DODD, SPECTER, and FEINSTEIN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S.R. 368) expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the decline of world coffee prices and its impact on developing nations.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 368) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

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Whereas since 1997 the price of coffee has declined nearly 70 percent on the world market and has recently reached its lowest level in a century;

Whereas the collapse of coffee prices has resulted in a widespread humanitarian crisis for 25,000,000 coffee growers and for more than 50 developing countries where coffee is a critical source of rural employment and foreign exchange earnings;

Whereas, according to a recent World Bank report, 600,000 permanent and temporary coffee workers in Central America have been left unemployed in the last two years;

Whereas the World Bank has referred to the coffee crisis as 'the silent Mitch', equating the impact of record-low coffee prices upon Central American countries with the damage done to such countries by Hurricane Mitch in 1998;

Whereas 6 of 14 immigrants who died in the Arizona desert in May 2001 were small coffee farmers from Veracruz, Mexico;

Whereas The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal report that cultivation of illicit crops such as coca and opium poppy is increasing in traditional coffee-growing countries, such as Colombia and Peru, which have been adversely affected by low international coffee prices;

Whereas the economies of some of the poorest countries in the world, particularly those in Africa, are highly dependent on trade in coffee;

Whereas coffee accounts for approximately 80 percent of export revenues for Burundi, 54 percent of export revenues for Ethiopia, 34 percent of export revenues for Uganda, and 31 percent of export revenues for Rwanda;

Whereas, according to the Oxfam International Report 'Mugged: Poverty in your Coffee Cup', in the Dak Lak province of Vietnam, one of the lowest-cost coffee producers in the world, the price farmers receive for their product covers as little as 60 percent of their costs of production;

Whereas on February 1, 2002, the International Coffee Organization (ICO) passed Resolution 407, which calls on exporting member countries to observe minimum standards for exportable coffee and to provide for the issuance of ICO certificates of origin according to those standards and also calls on importing member countries to 'make their best endeavors to support the objectives of the programme';

Whereas both the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) and the National Coffee Association (NCA) support ICO Resolution 407 and have publicly advocated for the United States to rejoin the International Coffee Organization;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has already established coffee sector assistance programs for Colombia, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, East Timor, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda; and

Whereas House Report 107-663, highlights the coffee price crisis as a global issue and 'urges USAID to focus its rural development and relief programs on regions severely affected by the coffee crisis, especially in Colombia': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States should adopt a global strategy to respond to the coffee crisis with coordinated activities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to address the short-term humanitarian needs and long-term rural development needs of countries adversely affected by the collapse of coffee prices; and

(B) the President should explore measures to support and complement multilateral efforts to respond to the global coffee crisis; and

(2) the Senate urges private sector coffee buyers and roasters to work with the United States Government to find a solution to the crisis which is economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable for all interested parties, and that will address the fundamental problem of oversupply in the world coffee market.

PROTECTION OF FAMILY FARMERS ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 628, H.R. 5472.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5472) to extend for 6 months the period for which chapter 12 title 11 of the United States Code is enacted.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is passing H.R. 5472, to extend family farmer bankruptcy protection until July 1, 2003.

Unfortunately, too many family farmers have been left in legal limbo in bankruptcy courts across the country because Chapter 12 of the Bankruptcy Code is still a temporary measure. This is the fifth time that this Congress must act to restore or extend basic bankruptcy safeguards for family farmers because Chapter 12 is still a temporary provision despite its first passage into law in 1986. Our family farmers do not deserve these lapses in bankruptcy law that could mean the difference between foreclosure and farming.

In 2000 and 2001, for example, the Senate, then controlled by the other party, failed to take up a House-passed bill to retroactively renew Chapter 12 and, as a result, family farmers lost Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection for 8 months. Another lapse of Chapter 12 lasted more than 6 months in this Congress. Enough is enough. It is time for Congress to make Chapter 12 a permanent part of the Bankruptcy Code to provide a stable safety net for our nation's family farmers.

I strongly supported Senator CARNAHAN's bipartisan amendment to make Chapter 12 a permanent part of the Bankruptcy Code as part of the Senate-passed farm bill. The Senate unanimously approved the Carnahan amendment by a 93-0 vote. Unfortunately, the House majority objected to including the Carnahan amendment in the farm bill conference report and agreed to an extension of Chapter 12 only through the end of this year.

In the bipartisan bankruptcy reform conference, we again tried to make Chapter 12 permanent and update and expand its coverage. During our conference negotiations, we adopted most of the Senate-passed provisions, including those authored by Senator GRASSLEY to make Chapter 12 permanent and those authored by Senator FEINGOLD to strengthen Chapter 12 to help our family farmers with the difficulties they face. Just last week, however, the House majority again scuttled our bipartisan efforts by failing to pass the rule to consider the bipartisan conference report on the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act.

This week, Senator GRASSLEY and I introduced the family farmer provisions in the bipartisan bankruptcy conference report in S. 3174, the "Protection of Family Farmers and Family Fisherman Act of 2002." Our bipartisan bill makes Chapter 12 a permanent part of the Bankruptcy Code so family farmer bankruptcy protection will no longer lapse and force farmers into a legal limbo. Family farmers deserve these enhanced and permanent protections to help them prevent foreclosures and forced auctions. I know Senator GRASSLEY, Senator CARNAHAN, Senator FEINGOLD and others on both sides of the aisle strongly support permanent and expanded bankruptcy protection for family farmers. I hope the Senate and the House will quickly pass