

S. RES. 156

Whereas, the United States Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, and William H. Pickle, Senate Sergeant at Arms, have been named as defendants in the case of *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States Senate, et al.*, No. 1:03CV01066, now pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend the Senate and officers of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the United States Senate, Emily J. Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate, and William H. Pickle, Senate Sergeant at Arms, in the case of *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States Senate, et al.*,

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES TO PROVIDE DECENT HOMES TO PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 43, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) expressing the sense of the Congress that Congress should participate in and support activities to provide decent homes for the people of the United States.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, 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, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 43) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities;

Whereas the United States promotes and encourages the creation and revitalization of sustainable and strong neighborhoods in partnership with States, cities, and local communities and in conjunction with the independent and collective actions of private citizens and organizations;

Whereas establishing a housing infrastructure strengthens neighborhoods and local economies and nurtures the families who reside in them;

Whereas an integral element of a strong community is a sufficient supply of affordable housing;

Whereas affordable housing may be provided in traditional and nontraditional forms, including apartment buildings, transitional and temporary homes, condominiums, cooperatives, and single family homes;

Whereas for many families a home is not merely shelter, but also provides an opportunity for growth, prosperity, and security;

Whereas homeownership is a cornerstone of the national economy because it spurs the production and sale of goods and services, generates new jobs, encourages savings and investment, promotes economic and civic responsibility, and enhances the financial security of all people in the United States;

Whereas although the United States is the first nation in the world to make owning a home a reality for a vast majority of its families, 1/3 of the families in the United States are not homeowners;

Whereas a disproportionate percentage of families in the United States that are not homeowners are low-income families;

Whereas 74.2 percent of Caucasian Americans own their own homes, only 47.1 percent of African Americans, 47.2 percent of Hispanic Americans, and 55.8 percent of Asian Americans and other races are homeowners;

Whereas the community building activities of neighborhood-based nonprofit organizations empower individuals to improve their lives and make communities safer and healthier for families;

Whereas one of the best known nonprofit housing organizations is Habitat for Humanity, which builds simple but adequate housing for less fortunate families and symbolizes the self-help approach to homeownership;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity is organized in all 50 States with 1,655 local affiliates and its own section 501(c)(3) Federal tax-exempt status and locally elected completely voluntary board of directors;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity has built nearly 150,000 houses worldwide and endeavors to complete another 50,000 homes by the year 2005;

Whereas Habitat for Humanity provides opportunities for people from every segment of society to volunteer to help make the American dream a reality for families who otherwise would not own a home; and

Whereas the month of June has been designated as "National Homeownership Month": Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) everyone in the United States should have a decent home in which to live;

(2) Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives should demonstrate the importance of volunteerism;

(3) during the years of the 108th and 109th sessions of Congress, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, Habitat for Humanity, and contributing organizations, should sponsor and construct 2 homes in the Washington, D.C., metro area each as part of the "Congress Building America" program;

(4) each Congress Building America house should be constructed primarily by Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, their families and staffs, and the staffs of sponsoring organizations working with local volunteers involving and symbolizing the partnership of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors of society;

(5) each Congress Building America house should be constructed with the participation of the family that will own the home;

(6) in the future, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, their families, and their staff should participate in similar house building activities in their own States as part of National Homeownership Month; and

(7) these occasions should be used to emphasize and focus on the importance of providing decent homes for all of the people in the United States.

ENDING UNWARRANTED EUROPEAN UNION MORATORIUM AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 154, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 154) expressing the support of the Senate of the United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. 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 that any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 154) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 154

Expressing the support of the Senate of the United States efforts in the World Trade Organization to end the unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products.

Whereas agricultural biotechnology is subject to the strictest Federal review in the United States, based on sound science, by the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Food and Drug Administration prior to planting and human consumption;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology has made considerable contributions to the protection of the environment by creating an environment more hospitable to wildlife and reducing the application of pesticides by 46,000,000 pounds in 2001 alone;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology holds tremendous promise for greatly increasing the world's supply of nutritious and wholesome foods which will improve the quality of life and health in the developing world;

Whereas there is objective and experience-based consensus in the international scientific community, including the National Academy of Sciences, the American Medical Association, the Royal Society of London, the French Academy of Medicine, the French Academy of Sciences, the Brazilian Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Indian National Science Academy, and the Mexican Academy of Science, that agricultural biotechnology is safe;

Whereas policy decisions regarding agricultural biotechnology in the European Union are being driven by politics and not by sound science;

Whereas since the late 1990s, the European Union has pursued policies that shelter its markets from competition by opposing the use of agricultural biotechnology;

Whereas agricultural biotechnology policies of the European Union have frustrated the development of modern scientific tools and plant technology that could expand the production of indigenous food products by

addressing problems related to local pests, weather conditions, and vitamin deficiencies;

Whereas since its implementation in October 1998, the moratorium has blocked more than \$300,000,000 annually in United States corn exports to countries in the European Union;

Whereas the European Union's unjustified moratorium on agricultural biotechnology approvals has ramifications far beyond the United States and Europe, forcing a slow-down in the adoption and acceptance of beneficial biotechnology to the detriment of farmers and consumers around the world, and especially to starving people in the developing world;

Whereas in the fall of 2002, famine-stricken African countries rejected healthy, wholesome, United States humanitarian offers of food aid because of ill-informed health and environmental concerns and fears that future exports to Europe would be jeopardized; and

Whereas the 5-year moratorium on the approval of new agricultural biotechnology products entering the European market is not science based, effectively prohibits most United States corn exports to Europe, violates European Union law, and clearly breaches the rules of the World Trade Organization: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports and applauds the efforts of the Administration on behalf of the Nation's farmers challenging the long-standing, unwarranted moratorium imposed by the European Union on the approval of agricultural biotechnology products and encourages the President to continue to press this issue at the G-8 Summit in Evian, France, on June 1 through 3, 2003.

AMENDING THE SELF-RELIANCE ACT OF 2000 AND THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 106, H.R. 192.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 192) to amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 192) was read the third time and passed.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, and as further amended by Public Law 107-228, appoints the following individuals to the United States

Commission on International Religious Freedom: Preeti D. Bansal of Nebraska vice Charles Richard Stith, for a term of one year, May 15, 2003-May 14, 2004; Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, C.S.B. of New Mexico vice Dr. Firuz Kazemzadeh, for a term of two years, May 15, 2003-May 14, 2005.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1104

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1104 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1104) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for parental involvement in abortions of dependent children of members of the Armed Forces.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the measure, and I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO REPORT LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Thursday, May 29, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORITY TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader or the assistant majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President pro tempore of the Senate, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 12 noon, Monday, June 2. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of procedures be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period for morning business until 1 p.m. with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; provided that at 1 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 79, S. 14, the energy bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. For the information of all Senators, when the Senate reconvenes on Monday, June 2, there will be a period for morning business until 1 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 14, the energy bill. Pending to the bill is an amendment relating to ethanol. Members who wish to speak to the amendment or the bill itself are encouraged to do so during Monday's session. There will be no votes on Monday. The next vote will be on Tuesday, June 3, and Members will be notified when that vote is scheduled.

As I mentioned earlier, we had a very productive 4 weeks. Again, I thank my colleagues for their hard work. I wish everyone a safe and restful recess.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2003

Mr. FRIST. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of H. Con. Res. 191.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:57 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2003, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 23, 2003:

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

MICHAEL SCHWARTZ, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 28, 2007.

NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD

JOHN E. BUCHANAN, JR., OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM SERVICES BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 6, 2006.

THE ABOVE NOMINATIONS WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEES' COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

STEVEN C. BEERING, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2004.

RAY M. BOWEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2008.

ELIZABETH HOFFMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 10, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KAREN JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LEGISLATION AND CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.