

(c) Within 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Utrok Atoll local government, in consultation with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, shall submit a plan for the use of the vessel to be conveyed under subsection (a) to the House of Representatives Committee on Resources, the House of Representatives Committee on Science, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

On page 4, after line 6, add the following:

TITLE IV—PACIFIC ALBACORE TUNA
TREATY

SEC. 401. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in section 201, 204, or 307(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1821, 1824, and 1857(2)), foreign fishing may be conducted pursuant to the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Coast Albacore Tuna Vessels and Port Privileges, signed at Washington May 28, 1981, including its Annexes and any amendments thereto.

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, may—

(1) promulgate regulations necessary to discharge the obligations of the United States under the Treaty and its Annexes; and

(2) provide for the application of any such regulation to any person or vessel subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, wherever that person or vessel may be located.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) shall be enforced as if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act. Any reference in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) to “this Act” or to any provision of that Act, shall be considered to be a reference to that Act as it would be in effect if subsection (a) were a provision of that Act.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The regulations promulgated under subsection (b), shall be enforced as if—

(A) subsection (a) were a provision of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.); and

(B) the regulations were promulgated under that Act.

SEC. 402. SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT
AMENDMENT.

Section 6 of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973d(a)) is amended by striking “outside of the 200 nautical mile fisheries zones of the Pacific Island Parties.” and inserting “or to fishing by vessels using the longline method in the high seas areas of the Treaty area.”.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of an amendment included in the package of amendments offered by the managers of H.R. 2584, a bill to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, and for other purposes.

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by virtue of its jurisdiction for the U.S. territories, has a long history in dealing with the islands of the former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Utrok Atoll is one such group of islands located in the northern Marshall Islands, about 2500 miles southwest of Hawaii. One distinction of

these islands is that they were affected by fallout from our Nation's first thermonuclear bomb test—the “Bravo” test held at Bikini Atoll in 1954. Since that time, the U.S. Government has been monitoring the health of the individuals affected, providing healthcare, and monitoring the radiation levels on the islands. All Americans should recognize the impact that the development of our nation's nuclear deterrent had on Utrok and the other affected communities at Enewetak, Bikini, and Rongelap. We have a continuing interest in their welfare.

This legislation, H.R. 2584, serves that continuing interest by authorizing the transfer of a decommissioned NOAA vessel to the Utrok local government to assist the community by improving transportation to the capital at Majuro. One reason to visit Majuro is to use the U.S. Department of Energy's whole-body counting facility located there. Members of the affected communities can get whole-body counts and reassure themselves about the efficacy of their radiation clean-up and remediation efforts.

One concern regarding the transfer of this vessel, however, is whether the community has properly planned for its use and operation. Over the years, the Energy Committee has been involved in several vessel transfers. Two common problems with these projects are that the vessels are found to be ill-suited to the needs of the community or the community lacks the resources to operate and maintain them.

I commend the managers of this bill for including an amendment that would require the Utrok government to submit a plan for the use of the vessel, including the identification of sources of funding for operations and maintenance. I understand that NOAA had an annual operating budget for this vessel of \$2.9 million. While there would be economies available to reduce these costs, such as hiring a non-U.S. citizen crew, operation and maintenance costs will certainly be beyond the capacity of the Utrok local government. It is my hope that the Utrok local government will work with the Marshall Islands government and with other communities in the area to find the resources needed to make this project a success. If, in the end, the resources are not found, it may be necessary, as it has been in other cases, to sell the vessel in order to purchase a more suitable one, or to use the proceeds to meet the community's needs in other ways.

I thank the managers of this bill for including this amendment, and I look forward to reviewing with them, and with the Utrok community, the plan for this vessel's use.

The bill (H.R. 2584), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH
25, 2004

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

ate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 25. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings 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 of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1997, the Unborn Victims of Violence bill, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, following morning business as just outlined, the Senate will begin consideration of the Unborn Victims of Violence bill. We had previously worked out a unanimous consent agreement and under that agreement there will only be two amendments in order, one by Senator FEINSTEIN and one by Senator MURRAY. In addition, there will be a total of 6½ hours of debate on the amendments and underlying bill. Senators should expect several rollcall votes during tomorrow's session as the Senate completes action on the Unborn Victims of Violence bill.

Mr. President, I will turn to the assistant leader if he has any comments to make.

Before we close, I do want to say I was disappointed in the earlier cloture vote today. As has been outlined, the sanctions have begun. They began on March 1 and will continue with each passing day, just underscoring the urgency that we must address this JOBS bill, the FSC/ETI bill, the bill we know now will jumpstart jobs.

I did enter a motion to reconsider that vote. I hope Members will all rethink their desire to offer unrelated amendments and bring unrelated issues to the floor which have stalled the measure. If we are unable to come to some resolution, we will do what we are doing now and proceed to other Senate business with the Unborn Victims of Violence Act. If we are able to refocus—and I pledge to work with the Democratic leadership over the ensuing hours and days—our attention on the underlying measure, then we will return to that bill and finish it as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if the distinguished majority leader will yield for a brief comment, we recognize, as has been stated by this Senator and other Senators on this side of the aisle, this is a bill which we have been on for 3 days. As the distinguished majority leader has stated, he wants Members to reconsider having cast their vote against cloture. We would also ask that

the majority through the distinguished majority leader reconsider allowing us to have a vote on the overtime matter. As I have stated, we can dispose of that with 10 minutes of debate on our side. There are some other amendments. We had 75. But we have told managers of the bill if we can work that down significantly, we would do that with each amendment; we could have a short time agreement. And we think we can dispose of this bill very quickly, which I hope through the intercession of the distinguished majority leader we can do.

I would simply refer to the chairman of the committee, Senator GRASSLEY. This is a quote from him where he said:

I prefer to vote on things up or down and move on. My feeling is sometime we have to face this issue. So we might as well face it now.

Added GRASSLEY:

If Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist had his druthers, it might be to give Democrats a straight vote on the amendment to allow the corporate tax bill to proceed.

I think Senator GRASSLEY, who is the sage farmer of the Senate, speaks as always with a lot of wisdom. I think those two sentences speak volumes. We need to vote on overtime and move on to this most important tax bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me very briefly respond.

The implication is one amendment is holding this bill up. It is not. Reference

has been made to overtime over the course of the day. As I said in yesterday's opening statement and closing statement, we are willing to consider other amendments on the bill that are really germane to the bill. It is not just one amendment. These are message amendments, and we have voted on overtime in the past. There are other amendments which the other side of the aisle wants to bring to make messages and to score political points. I notice it did start at 75, and maybe it is down to 15 or 12 or 10. It is not down to just one amendment.

I pledge to keep working both sides of the aisle to get it down to a manageable number. Nobody is locked down on what we will do or what we will not do. I want to be able to complete this bill by staying on the bill itself. There is going to be a lot of legislation coming through.

I believe we have a good agreement for tomorrow to proceed and finish that bill. I think next week we may be going to the welfare bill, if we can't come back to the JOBS bill.

There is going to be plenty of opportunity to offer these messages, politically driven amendments. This FSC/ETI Jumpstart JOBS bill is not the bill to do it on. It is an important bill. We need to finish it expeditiously. We have Members on record today who want to finish this bill as written. It came out of committee 19 to 2 under the excel-

lent leadership of Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS, who wants to continue to offer a whole number of message amendments—not just one, and not just two, and not just overtime.

I say all of that so there is no misunderstanding. I will continue to fight to get this bill through. I am disappointed by the vote today and by actions which have held that up. As majority leader, I need to keep the body moving along.

We are going to address, beginning tomorrow morning, a fresh issue on the floor of the Senate. I think we will have a very good debate, and we will complete action on that bill. If we can work through this, hopefully we can come back and address the JOBS bill in an orderly way. Then we can really have the end in sight and try to get it down to a manageable number of amendments that relate to the bill.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 25, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.