

RICHARD B. RUSSELL NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2241, which was introduced earlier today by Senators COCHRAN and HARKIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2241) to reauthorize certain school lunch and child nutrition programs through June 30, 2004.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 2241) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2241

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MILITARY HOUSING ALLOWANCES.

Section 9(b)(7) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(7)) is amended by striking "March 31, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2004".

SEC. 2. CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM.

Section 17(a)(2)(B)(i) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking "March 31, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2004".

SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT TO STATES UNDER COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS.

Section 15(e) of the Commodity Distribution Reform Act and WIC Amendments of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 612c note; Public Law 100-237) is amended by striking "April 1, 2004" and inserting "July 1, 2004".

SEC. 4. FUNDING MAINTENANCE OF COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS.

Section 14(a) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1762a(a)) is amended by striking "March 31, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2004".

SEC. 5. SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13(q) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(q)) is amended by striking "March 31, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2004".

(b) PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 18(f)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(f)(2)) is amended by striking "March 31, 2004" and inserting "June 30, 2004".

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we had a very busy week. The Senate continued consideration of S. 1637, the FSC/ETI bill earlier in the week. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle insisted on offering nongermane amendments to this very important

manufacturing bill, this JOBS bill. In an effort to move the bill forward, we did file cloture with respect to the bill earlier in the week. Despite the importance and critical nature of this legislation to our economy, addressing those sanctions imposed by the European Union on us that are in effect now, we were unable to invoke cloture to finish this bill.

We turned yesterday to the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004. In an overwhelming vote of 61 to 38, the Senate passed S. 1637, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004. I thank all my colleagues for their handling of the bill. Senator DEWINE did a superb job managing the bill, supported by Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. Again, they did a tremendous job ushering this bill through.

This legislation does so much to help protect women and their unborn children by establishing, for the first time at the Federal level, a separate crime for the injury or death of a fetus resulting from an attack on the mother. The concept is very simple. If someone attacks a woman who is pregnant, there are two victims and not one. Senator DEWINE was able to hold off any amendments which would have changed the underlying legislation. That was important to do. We accomplished that and the bill will be sent shortly to the President for his signature.

This week we also passed welfare reform extension. It was S. 2231. It is a 3-month extension of welfare reform programs.

We will begin consideration of H.R. 4, the welfare reform reauthorization bill, on Monday. I hope we can consider important and relevant amendments to this bill. I know Members on both sides of the aisle do have amendments to improve the bill. We look forward to addressing those that are germane, that are important to the bill. However, once again, I urge Members to allow us to stay focused on the measure before us and not to slow down the process with political posturing or, what now we have begun to see a lot of, so-called message amendments on the floor of the Senate unrelated to the bill itself.

I do respect all Members' rights to amend the bills, but with that we also have a responsibility, and the responsibility is to legislate.

Last night I had the privilege of obtaining unanimous consent by which we passed the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act, H.R. 3926. The bill promotes organ donation, promotes organ procurement, recovery, preservation, and transportation, all of which is critically vital if we are to address the fact we have 83,000 people right now as I speak waiting for an organ transplant, yet we have too few organs. The supply is too small, it is too few, because we are not capturing all the potential organs. This addresses that disconnect and that disparity.

We also passed the Oceans and Human Health Act this week, S. 1218,

reported by Chairman MCCAIN and the Commerce Committee. This particular bill provides for the coordination and support of Federal interagency ocean science programs, including research on the role of oceans in human health.

We passed H.R. 2584, the international fisheries reauthorization under Chairman MCCAIN.

We also addressed treaties. We ratified two treaties this week, the protocol amending the tax convention with Sri Lanka under Chairman LUGAR, the income tax convention with Sri Lanka with Chairman LUGAR, and moments ago we passed the Child Nutrition Act extension, introduced today by Chairman COCHRAN and the ranking member.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2236, H.R. 3717, H.R. 339

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due a second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the clerk read the titles of the bills for a second time en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will read the titles of the bills en bloc.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 339) to prevent legislative and regulatory functions from being usurped by civil liability actions brought or continued against food manufacturers, marketers, distributors, advertisers, sellers, and trade associations for claims of injury relating to a person's weight gain, obesity, or any health condition associated with weight gain or obesity.

A bill (H.R. 3717) to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmissions of obscene, indecent, and profane material, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2236) to enhance the liability of the electric system.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceeding, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 1 p.m. on Monday, March 29. I further ask, 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 consideration of H.R. 4, the welfare reform reauthorization bill as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. On Monday, the Senate will begin consideration of the welfare reauthorization bill. It is my expectation that amendments will be offered

and debated on Monday, and the chairman and ranking member will be here to begin working through any of those amendments.

As I mentioned yesterday, we will not be having rollcall votes on Monday. Thus, any votes that are ordered on Monday will be stacked for Tuesday.

With that said, I inform my colleagues we have a lot of work to do over the next 2 weeks prior to the Easter recess, and I encourage Senators who want to speak on the bill or

to offer an amendment to come to the floor during Monday's session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
MARCH 29, 2004, AT 1 P.M.

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 12:07 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 29, 2004, at 1 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 26, 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHELE J. SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

THOMAS CHARLES KRAJESKI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.