

Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking Protocol;

Whereas ratification by the United States of the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking Protocol would enhance the ability of the United States Government to render and receive assistance on a global basis in the common struggle to prevent, investigate, and prosecute trafficking in persons; and

Whereas, like the United States, most countries affected by the tsunami disaster have signed, but not yet ratified, the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking Protocol: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) combating trafficking in persons should continue to be a priority of United States foreign policy;

(2) the United States should ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(3) the President should commend the efforts of the governments of those countries affected by the December 26, 2004, tsunami to protect their children from the dangers of trafficking; and

(4) the President should urge all countries to ratify the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, particularly those countries that have been most affected by the tsunami and in which children face the resulting increased risk of being abducted and trafficked.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution expressing the Sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking in children following the Asian tsunami.

The recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean region was a natural disaster unlike anything in recent human history. It is estimated that the tsunami claimed the lives of more than 160,000 people throughout the region and displaced more than 1 million.

This disaster has taken an incredible toll on children. The United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF, estimates that children comprise more than one-third of all deaths. Tens of thousands of children have lost family members and friends and are coping with unspeakable trauma. Nearly 35,000 children have been orphaned, and many more have been separated from their families. These children are in need of food, water, and shelter. They face the imminent threats of hunger, disease, and diarrhea.

In addition to these dangers, these children are also vulnerable to being trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labor, or to be child soldiers. According to the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Department of State, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked every year, some 50 percent of whom are children. In South East Asia alone, nearly 250,000 people are trafficked in, out, and through the region. Without their families, the children orphaned by the tsunami lack protection from predators who would profit from their tragedy.

My resolution acknowledges this uniquely vulnerable group and urges the United States and other countries to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the underlying U.N. Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. The Protocol requires countries to enact laws to criminalize trafficking in persons, punish traffickers and assist victims. In addition, the Protocol would enhance our ability to give and receive assistance on a global basis in the common struggle to prevent, investigate and prosecute trafficking.

On December 13, 2000, the United States signed these international agreements. Last June, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing on these very important law enforcement treaties. At the earliest opportunity, I intend to schedule a vote on the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons at a business meeting of the Committee. By ratifying the Trafficking Protocol, and urging other countries to do the same, we would send a strong message to the world that this modern-day form of slavery must be stopped and that the United States is committed to ensuring that perpetrators are punished and that victims are helped.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006 and the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2005, at 10:00 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "The Role of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises in the Mortgage Market."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 10, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on the Tsunami.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 10:15 a.m. on "Bankruptcy Reform." The hearing will take place in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Mr. Kenneth Beine, President & CEO, Shoreline Credit Union, Two Rivers, WI; Mr. Malcom Bennett, President, International Realty & Investments, Inc., Los Angeles, CA; Mr. Dave McCall, Director, District 1, United Steel Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Columbus, OH; Mr. R. Michael Stewart Menzies, Sr., President & CEO, East Bank and Trust Company, Easton, MD; Mr. Philip Strauss, Retired Attorney, Family Support Bureau in the Office, District Attorney Office in San Francisco, on behalf of the National Child Support Enforcement Association, San Francisco, CA; Ms. Maria Vullo, Partner, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, New York, NY; Prof. Elizabeth Warren, Leo Gottlieb Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA; and Prof. Todd J. Zywicki, Visiting Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet on Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing entitled, "Unlocking the Potential within Homeland Security; the New Human Resources System."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 10, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed meeting.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privilege of the floor be granted to Joe Helble and Lydia Olander, both science fellows in my office, during consideration of the Climate Stewardship Act of 2005.

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

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 37, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate 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. 37) designating the week of February 7 through February 11, 2005, as "National School Counseling Week".

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

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, that any statement relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 37) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 37

Whereas the American School Counselor Association has declared the week of February 7 through February 11, 2005, as "National School Counseling Week";

Whereas the Senate has recognized the importance of school counseling through the inclusion of elementary and secondary school counseling programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

Whereas school counselors have long advocated that the education system of the United States must leave no child behind and must provide opportunities for every student;

Whereas personal and social growth results in increased academic achievement;

Whereas school counselors help develop well-rounded students by guiding them through their academic, personal, social, and career development;

Whereas school counselors were instrumental in helping students, teachers, and parents deal with the trauma of terrorism inflicted on the United States on September 11, 2001, and the aftermath of that trauma;

Whereas students face myriad challenges every day, including peer pressure, depression, and school violence;

Whereas school counselors are usually the only professionals in a school building that are trained in both education and mental health;

Whereas the roles and responsibilities of school counselors are often misunderstood, and the school counselor position is often among the first to be eliminated in order to meet budgetary constraints;

Whereas the national average ratio of students to school counselors of 485-to-1 is more than double the 250-to-1 ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and other organizations; and

Whereas the celebration of "National School Counseling Week" would increase awareness of the important and necessary role school counselors play in the lives of students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week of February 7 through February 11, 2005, as "National School Counseling Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week of February 7 through February 11, 2005, as "National School Counseling Week"; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role school counselors perform in the school and the community at large to prepare students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and Public Law 106-292, appoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 109th Congress: The Senator from Utah, Mr. HATCH; the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS; the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. COLEMAN.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, in accordance with the qualifications specified under section 1238(b)(3)(E) of Public Law 106-398, and upon the recommendation of the majority leader, in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, appoints the following individual to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Mr. Thomas Donnelly of Maryland for a term expiring December 31, 2006.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on the calendar: Calendar No. 9, Allen Weinstein, to be Archivist of the United States. I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Allen Weinstein, of Maryland, to be Archivist of the United States.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, February 14, at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the nomination of Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security; that the nomination be debated for up to 6 hours equally divided on Monday; that the Senate resume debate on the nomination on Tuesday, February 15, at 2:15 p.m., with the time prior to 4 p.m. to be equally divided and that the Senate vote on the nomination at 4 p.m. on Tuesday; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then return to legislative session; further, that all time be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on our side, on Monday I designate Senator LEVIN to control 2 hours, Senator DODD to control 20 minutes.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2005

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon on Monday, February 14. 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, and the Senate then proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security, as provided under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. On Monday at noon the Senate will begin consideration of the Chertoff nomination for Secretary of Homeland Security. Under the agreement, we will debate the nomination throughout the afternoon on Monday, with the vote on confirmation at 4 p.m. during Tuesday's session. Therefore, as I announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday.

For the remainder of next week we will consider any legislative or executive business available for action.

Mr. President, I do thank our colleagues, once again, for the participation and the efficiency with which we had the Senate consider the Class Action Fairness Act which was finally voted upon now several hours ago. People worked together very well, and I think it does bode well for bills that come to the floor in this manner in the future.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2005

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 previous order.