

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY OF SUDAN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED ON JANUARY 9, 2005

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the people of Sudan have been devastated by war for all but 10 years since Sudan gained its independence in 1956;

Whereas the second civil war in Sudan between the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in the south lasted for more than 20 years;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 people died and more than 4,000,000 people were internally displaced or became refugees as a direct or indirect result of the civil war in Sudan;

Whereas, on January 9, 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which ended Sudan's 21-year civil war;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for a new constitution, new arrangements for power sharing and wealth sharing, and a 6-year interim period to be followed by a referendum in Southern Sudan so that the people of Southern Sudan can decide their political future;

Whereas the parties have implemented parts of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, such as the ratification of the new constitution and the formation of the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan;

Whereas the overall pace of implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has been slow and insufficient;

Whereas the recommendations of many of the commissions established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement have yet to be implemented;

Whereas 1 of the keys to a lasting and durable peace in Sudan is the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by all sides, wholly consistent with the letter, spirit, and intent of the agreement;

Whereas, despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and an end to the civil war, there has been little progress made in ending the genocide in Sudan's western region of Darfur;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians have died in Darfur as a result of violence, disease, and malnutrition, and millions more have been internally displaced or sought refuge in refugee camps in neighboring Chad;

Whereas millions of the people across Sudan continue to suffer from the effects of war, including displacement and war-related disease, hunger, and malnutrition;

Whereas the United States and the international community must not neglect the humanitarian and reconstruction needs of the people of Southern Sudan;

Whereas, according to the World Food Program, more than 2,900,000 people in Southern Sudan have been severely affected by the civil war;

Whereas the people of Southern Sudan are in desperate need of reconstruction assistance to build and improve vital infrastructure components, such as an education system, a health care system, and a transpor-

tation system, that are nearly nonexistent in Southern Sudan;

Whereas the current humanitarian crisis in Southern Sudan is considered 1 of the worst in decades; and

Whereas the reconstruction process in Southern Sudan is vital to delivering the benefits of peace to the people of Southern Sudan and stability to the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly urges the new Government of National Unity of Sudan to implement fully the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in a timely manner consistent with the letter, spirit, and intent of the agreement;

(2) calls on the Government of National Unity to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to achieve an equitable distribution of wealth and resources between the North and the South and to provide a full and transparent accounting of Sudan's oil revenues;

(3) urges the United States Government—

(A) to maintain appropriate pressure on the Government of National Unity to implement fully the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

(B) to maintain sanctions and pressure on the Government of National Unity until the Comprehensive Peace Agreement has been fully implemented and the crisis in Darfur has been resolved; and

(C) to address, as appropriate, any legal barriers which prevent humanitarian and reconstruction operations in Southern Sudan;

(4) supports the continued provision of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance from the United States to the people of Southern Sudan, in addition to the assistance allocated for the people of Darfur, so that the people of Sudan may experience and appreciate the benefits of peace;

(5) strongly urges the Government of National Unity to use the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as the basis for negotiation of a peaceful resolution of the conflicts in Darfur and other areas of Sudan; and

(6) strongly urges all countries in the region and the international community to support actively the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2899. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

SA 2900. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2320, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2899. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

1. FUNDS FOR LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 9001 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “for a 1-time only obligation and expenditure—” and all that follows through “2007” the first place it appears and inserting “\$1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2006”;

(B) by striking “; and”;

(C) by striking paragraph (2);

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) LIMITATION.—None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the planning and administering described in section 2605(b)(9) of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8624(b)(9)).”; and

(4) in subsection (c) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)), by striking “September 30, 2007” and inserting “September 30, 2006”.

SA 2900. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROTECTION FOR MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO ENROLL IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING 2006.

(a) EXTENDED PERIOD OF OPEN ENROLLMENT DURING ALL OF 2006 WITHOUT LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY.—Section 1851(e)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking “May 15, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2006”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new sentence:

“An individual making an election during the period beginning on November 15, 2006, and ending on December 15, 2006, shall specify whether the election is to be effective with respect to 2006 or with respect to 2007 (or both).”

(b) ONE-TIME CHANGE OF PLAN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING ALL OF 2006.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1851(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-21(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS”;

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “the first 6 months of 2006,” and all that follows through “is a Medicare+Choice eligible individual,” and inserting “2006”; and

(iii) in clause (ii), by inserting “(other than during 2006)” after “paragraph (3)”;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “2006” and inserting “2007” each place it appears.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1860D-1(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-101(b)(1)(B)(iii)) is amended by striking “subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(C)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-173).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. Domenici. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of

the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of:

Raymond L. Orbach, of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

Alexander A. Karsner, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, vice David Garman.

Dennis R. Spurgeon, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy, Nuclear Energy.

David Longly Bernhardt, of Colorado, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, vice Sue Ellen Wooldridge.

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the committee staff at (202) 224-1327.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years Defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. KYL. 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 March 2, 2006, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on “Continued Examination of Implementation of the Exxon-Florio Amendment: Focus on Dubai Ports World’s Acquisition of P&O.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 10 a.m., on USF Distributions.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 2, at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to review the proposed fiscal year 2007 Department of Interior budget.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 9 a.m., to hold a closed briefing on A Nuclear Iran: Challenges and Responses.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 10:30 a.m., to hold a hearing on A Nuclear Iran: Challenges and Responses.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 10 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a business meeting to consider pending committee business.

Agenda

Legislation

1. S. 2128, Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2005.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Office Building room 226.

I. Nominations

Jack Zouhary, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; Stephen G. Larson, to be U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California; Steven G. Bradbury, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; John F. Clark, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service; and Terrance P. Flynn, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York.

II. Bills

S. 1768—A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Grassley, Schumer, Feingold, Durbin; S. 829—Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2005, Grassley, Schumer, Cornyn, Leahy,

Feingold, Durbin, Graham, DeWine, Specter; S. 489—Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Chairman’s Mark; S. 2178—Consumer Telephone Records Protection Act of 2006, Schumer, Specter, Cornyn, DeWine, Feinstein, Feingold, Kyl, Kohl, Durbin; S. 2039—Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2005, Durbin; Specter, DeWine, Leahy, Kennedy, Feinstein, Feingold; and S. 2292—A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Feinstein.

III. Matters

S.J. Res. 1—Marriage Protection Amendment, Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 2, 2006, to hear the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, the Gold Star Wives of America, and the Military Officers Association of America. The hearing will take place in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 2, 2006, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on military installations, military construction, environmental programs, and base realignment and closure programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 6, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Calendar Nos. 517, 518, and 519. I further ask consent the following Senators be allocated 5 minutes each for debate in relation to the nominations: the two Senators from Georgia, two Senators