

SENATE RESOLUTION 470—PRO-
MOTING A COMPREHENSIVE PO-
LITICAL AGREEMENT IN IRAQ

Mr. KERRY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 470

Whereas Iraq is destabilized by an ongoing insurgency and increasing sectarian violence;

Whereas General John P. Abizaid, the head of the United States Central Command, said in March 2006 that "sectarian violence is a greater concern for us security-wise right now than the insurgency";

Whereas General George Casey, the senior United States military commander in Iraq, and Zalmay Khalilzad, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, have stated that "the principal threat to stability is shifting from an insurgency grounded in rejection of the new political order to sectarian violence grounded in mutual fears and recriminations";

Whereas a national unity government and a comprehensive political agreement among Shias, Sunnis, and Kurds are essential to end sectarian violence, undermine the insurgency, and bring stability to Iraq;

Whereas, on April 22, 2006, the Iraqi National Assembly approved senior leaders of a national unity government, including Jawad al-Mailiki as Prime Minister;

Whereas, under the constitution of Iraq, the Prime Minister has 30 days to form a government;

Whereas a comprehensive political agreement that will resolve fundamental issues dividing Iraqis and undermining stability, including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, and border security;

Whereas reaching a comprehensive agreement that will help bring stability to Iraq is in the best interests of Iraq's neighbors, the region, and the international community;

Whereas Iraq's neighbors, representatives of the Arab League, and the international community as represented by NATO, the European Union, and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council can assist in the process of bringing about such a comprehensive agreement; and

Whereas the President should expedite this process by bringing together these parties and the leaders of the new Government of Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President, not later than 30 days after the date of the formation of a new national unity government in Iraq, should convene a summit that includes the leaders of that government, leaders of the governments of each country bordering Iraq, representatives of the Arab League, the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, representatives of the European Union, and leaders of the governments of each permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, for the purpose of reaching a comprehensive political agreement for Iraq that addresses fundamental issues including federalism, oil revenues, the militias, security guarantees, reconstruction, economic assistance, and border security.

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 be held on May 15, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony relating to implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005's electricity reliability provisions.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Kellie Donnelly at (202) 224-9360 or Shannon Ewan at (202) 224-7555.

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 rescheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing originally scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2006 at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building will now be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 10 a.m. in the same room.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding the status of the Yucca Mountain Repository Project within the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management at the Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Clint Williamson at (202) 224-7556 or Steve Waskiewicz at (202) 228-6195.

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. ENZI. 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 Monday, May 8, at 3 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding issues associated with the implementation of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 addressing licensing of hydroelectric facilities.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Mon-

day, May 8, 2006, at 3:30 p.m. to consider the nomination of David L. Norquist to be Chief Financial Officer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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

AFFIRMING THAT STATEMENTS
OF NATIONAL UNITY SHOULD BE
IN ENGLISH

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 458.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 458) affirming that statements of national unity, including the National Anthem, should be recited or sung in English.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to oppose a resolution stating that it is the Sense of the Senate that statements of national unity, including the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Oath of Allegiance sworn by new U.S. citizens should be recited or sung in English.

I agree with my colleagues that English is the common language of the United States and I join with them in urging all people who come to the U.S. and those who want to become U.S. citizens to learn the English language and understand our culture. Conversely, I believe the U.S. would benefit if its citizens knew the languages and cultures of other nations. We must develop long-term relationships with people throughout the world and learn to speak other languages, whether or not the languages spoken are considered critical for a particular situation or emergency. As 9/11 showed us, the failures of communication can do swift damage.

S. Res. 458 acknowledges that the vast majority of Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants, and that millions of Americans speak or study other languages. It further states that despite the linguistic and historic cultural diversity of the nation we are all Americans and our common language is English. However, even though English is our common language, the State Department offers translations of the National Anthem, the U.S. Constitution, the Pledge of Allegiance, and other U.S. documents in French, Arabic, and other foreign languages on its Web site to help people better understand America. Nor did President Bush refrain from singing the National Anthem in Spanish when he was running for office in 2000 or prevent pop star Jon Secada from singing our anthem in both English and Spanish when entertaining the President in 2001.

The resolution offered by my colleagues states that the original national motto of the United States, *E Pluribus Unum*—from many, one—is incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States, is printed on U.S. currency, and inscribed on the wall of the Senate Chamber. The sponsors of this resolution use these examples to argue that from many languages and backgrounds we have one language—English. However, our Nation's motto is written in Latin—not English.

The translation of key statements of national unity, such as the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, affords immigrants who have not fully learned the English language and individuals from all across the world the opportunity to better understand these symbols of America and the ideals of freedom that they represent. Such translations help those outside the U.S. to better understand our culture and our beliefs.

Last June, the Pew Global Attitudes Project released a report on America's image. Survey results from the citizens of 16 nations found that only six nations, one of which is the U.S., have a 50 percent or more favorable view of the United States. We cannot win the hearts and minds of people of other nations and promote American ideals if we close the door on people expressing their support for our country and the freedoms on which it was founded.

Our Constitution grants us the freedom of speech. This resolution, by limiting the language in which we can recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the National Anthem, violates the spirit of the Constitution and is antithetical to the very freedoms and beliefs that these statements of national unity represent.

To limit the ability of non-English speakers to know about the United States and, in turn, show their support for the U.S., would be a disservice to the country. Since this resolution is non-binding I will not object to it being acted upon by the Senate. However, I do not support the resolution.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 458) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 458

Whereas Francis Scott Key wrote the words of the Star-Spangled Banner in

English in 1814, inspired by the sight of the American flag still waving at Fort McHenry after 25 hours of continual bombardment by British forces;

Whereas Congress declared the Star-Spangled Banner the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 (section 301 of title 3, United States Code);

Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, written in English, was first specified in law by Congress in 1942 (section 4 of title 4, United States Code);

Whereas the Oath of Allegiance, to which lawful permanent residents swear upon becoming citizens of the United States (as required under section 337 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (8 U.S.C. 1448)), is based, in part, on language originally written in English by General George Washington and sworn by him and his general officers at Valley Forge in 1778;

Whereas the vast majority of Americans are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants, proud of their ancestral country, but prouder still to be American;

Whereas millions of Americans speak or study additional languages, but English is their common language;

Whereas the original national motto of the United States, "*E Pluribus Unum*", meaning "from many, one", signifies the coming together of people from many foreign countries to form one Nation, was incorporated into the Great Seal of the United States in 1776, is printed on currency of the United States, and inscribed on the wall of the Senate chamber;

Whereas the people of the United States are united not by race, ancestry, or origin, but by a common language, English, and by common belief in the principles prescribed in the founding documents of the Nation, especially the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; and

Whereas, to become citizens of the United States, under sections 312 and 337 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423 and 1448), lawful permanent residents of the United States who have immigrated from foreign countries must, among other requirements, renounce allegiance to the government of their country of origin, swear allegiance to the laws and Constitution of the United States, and demonstrate an understanding of the English language: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms that statements or songs that symbolize the unity of the Nation, including the National Anthem, the Oath of Allegiance sworn by new United States citizens, and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States, should be recited or sung in English, the common language of the United States.

AUTHORIZING CORRECTION OF THE ENGRASSMENT OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4939

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to correct the engrassment of the Senate amendment to H.R. 4939, to reconcile the text of amendments 3728 and 3789.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9. I further ask that following the prayer and the 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 resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1955, the small business health plans bill, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1955 to occur at 10 a.m.; further, that the time before the vote be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the HELP Committee or their designees.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock, we will have a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1955, the small business health plans bill. I do expect we will be able to proceed to this bill, and I hope we can expedite the 30 hours of debate postcloture and get on with the bill tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ENZI. 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 6:40 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate May 8, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

W. STUART SYMINGTON IV. OF MISSOURI, 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 DJIBOUTI.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TROY R. JUSTESEN, OF UTAH, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE SUSAN K. SCLAFANI.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

GENERAL MICHAEL V. HAYDEN, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE PORTER J. GOSS, RESIGNED.