

They needed access to immediate capital to pay employees, restore inventory, and make quick repairs, but SBA said it was not in the business of short-term recovery. That is why the upcoming SBJ reauthorization is going to be so important. This will be an opportunity to not only reauthorize funding for the SBA capital and technical assistance programs but also to make the SBA more responsive and efficient for future disasters.

I intend to introduce legislation that I would like to see included in the reauthorization bill to give the SBA more tools for handling future disasters. We need to give SBA expedited disaster loan authority for businesses in good standing with the SBA. We need to authorize short-term bridge loan and grant authority, so that in a major disaster, businesses can get help earlier, rather than later. SBA needs a full-time planning staff, and we must encourage the agency to better utilize its district offices. In the aftermath of Katrina, we need a strong SBA more than ever. In taking the helm, Mr. Preston will be a pivotal figure in the recovery of the gulf coast as well as to the economic growth of small businesses nationwide.

As Administrator, he will be inheriting an agency that by many accounts has an unfortunate legacy of mismanagement, inefficiency, poor employee morale, and soured relations with Congress. The management challenges are huge, but the need to do it right is greater. I believe that in Steven Preston, we have a nominee who can use his corporate management and finance experience to fix SBA. I invite him to not be afraid to take on the old ways of doing things at SBA. If he runs into roadblocks, come talk to us on the Senate Small Business Committee. If he needs a legislative change to move this agency forward, come to us. We want this agency to work. Our small businesses need this agency to work and to work well.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Drue Pearce to be the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects be discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 440, the adjournment resolution; provided that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 440) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 440

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 29, 2006, or Friday, June 30, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, June 29, 2006, Friday, June 30, 2006, or Saturday, July 1, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 10, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority whip and both Senators from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3590

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3590) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the effective date of the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING AND BINDING OF SUPPLEMENT TO AND REVISED EDITION OF SENATE PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 40 that was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. J. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF SUPPLEMENT TO, AND REVISED EDITION OF, SENATE PROCEDURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the following documents shall be prepared under the supervision of Alan Frumin, Parliamentarian and Parliamentarian Emeritus of the Senate, and shall be printed and bound as a Senate document:

(1) A supplement to "Riddick's Senate Procedure", to be styled "Frumin's Supplement to Riddick's Senate Procedure".

(2) A revised edition of "Riddick's Senate Procedure", to be styled "Frumin's Senate Procedure".

(b) COPIES.—One thousand five hundred copies of each document described in subsection (a) shall be printed for distribution to Senators and for the use of the Senate.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LOUIS BRAILLE BICENTENNIAL—BRAILLE LITERACY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the

immediate consideration of Calendar No. 475, S. 2321.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2321) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 2321) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2321

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Louis Braille Bicentennial—Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Louis Braille, who invented the Braille method for reading and writing by the blind that has allowed millions of blind people to be literate participants in their societies, was born in Coupvray, a small village near Paris, on January 4, 1809.

(2) Braille lost his sight at the age of 3, after injuring himself with an awl in the shop of his father Rene, a maker of harnesses and other objects of leather.

(3) A youth who was both intelligent and creative, Braille was blessed with dedicated parents, a thoughtful local priest, and an energetic local schoolteacher.

(4) Braille adapted to his situation and attended local school with other children of his age, an unheard-of practice for a blind child of the period.

(5) At the age of 10, when his schooling otherwise would have stopped, Braille, with the aid of his priest and schoolteacher, was given a scholarship by a local nobleman and went to Paris to attend the Royal Institute for Blind Children, where he became the youngest pupil.

(6) At the Institute, most instruction was oral but Braille found there were books for the blind, large, expensive-to-produce books, in which the text was of large letters embossed upon the page.

(7) Soon, Braille had read all 14 books in the school, but thirsted for more.

(8) Charles Barbier de la Serre, a captain in Napoleon’s army, had invented “night writing”, a method for communicating on the battlefield amidst the thick smoke of combat, or at night without lighting a match (which would aid enemy gunners), that used dots and dashes that were felt and interpreted with the fingers. He later adapted the method for use by the blind, calling it “Sonography”, because it represented words by sounds, rather than spelling.

(9) Braille adopted the Sonography method instantly, but soon recognized that the basis in sound and the large number of dots, as many as 12, used to represent words was too cumbersome.

(10) By the age of 15, and using a blunt awl, the same sort of tool that had blinded him, Braille had developed what is essentially modern Braille, a code that uses no more than 6 dots in a “cell” of 2 columns of 3 dots

each to represent each letter, and contains a system of punctuation and of “contractions” to speed writing and reading.

(11) In contrast to the bulky books consisting of large embossed letters, Braille books can contain as many as 1,000 characters or contractions on a standard 11-by-12-inch page of heavy paper, and to this day, Braille can be punched with an awl-like “stylus” into paper held in a metal “slate” that is very similar to the ones that Louis Braille adapted from Barbier’s original “night writing” devices.

(12) Also a talented organist who supported himself by giving concerts, Braille went on to develop the Braille representation of music, and in 1829, published the first-ever Braille book, a manual about how to read and write music.

(13) 8 years later, in 1837, Braille followed that publication with another book detailing a system of representation of mathematics.

(14) Braille’s talents were quickly recognized, and at age 17, he was made the first blind apprentice teacher at the school, where he taught algebra, grammar, music, and geography.

(15) He and 2 blind classmates, his friends who probably were the first people to learn to read and write Braille, later became the first 3 blind full professors at the school.

(16) However, despite the fact that many blind people enthusiastically adopted the system of writing and reading, there was great skepticism among sighted people about the real usefulness of Braille’s code, and even at the Royal Institute, it was not taught until after his death on January 6, 1852.

(17) Braille did not start to spread widely until 1868 when a group of British men, later to become known as the Royal National Institute for the Blind, began publicizing and teaching the system.

(18) Braille did not become the official and sole method of reading and writing for blind United States citizens until the 20th Century.

(19) Helen Keller, a Braille reader of another generation, said: “Braille has been a most precious aid to me in many ways. It made my going to college possible—it was the only method by which I could take notes on lectures. All my examination papers were copied for me in this system. I use Braille as a spider uses its web—to catch thoughts that flit across my mind for speeches, messages, and manuscripts.”

(20) While rapid technological advances in the 20th Century have greatly aided the blind in many ways by speeding access to information, each advance has seen a commensurate drop in the teaching of Braille, to the point that only about 10 percent of blind students today are taught the system.

(21) However, for the blind not to know Braille is in itself a handicap, because literacy is the ability to read and the ability to write and the ability to do the 2 interactively.

(22) The National Federation of the Blind, the Nation’s oldest membership organization consisting of blind members, has been a champion of the Braille code, of Braille literacy for all blind people, and of the memory of Louis Braille, and continues its Braille literacy efforts today through its divisions emphasizing Braille literacy, education of blind children, and employment of the blind.

(23) Braille literacy aids the blind in taking responsible and self-sufficient roles in society, such as employment. While 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of the employed blind are Braille-literate.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue not

more than 400,000 \$1 coins bearing the designs specified in section 4(a), each of which shall—

- (1) weigh 26.73 grams;
- (2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
- (3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of Louis Braille.

(2) OVERSE.—The design on the obverse shall bear a representation of the image of Louis Braille.

(3) REVERSE.—The design on the reverse shall emphasize Braille literacy, and shall specifically include the word for Braille in Braille code (the Braille capital sign and the letters Brl) represented in a way that complies with section 3 of specification 800 of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress specifications for Braille, and is tactilely indiscernible from printed or written Braille.

(4) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

- (A) a designation of the value of the coin;
- (B) an inscription of the year “2009”; and

(C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Federation of the Blind; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2009.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

- (1) the face value of the coins;
- (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) SURCHARGE REQUIRED.—All sales of coins under this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges which are received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the National Federation of the Blind, to further its programs to promote Braille literacy.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Federation of the Blind shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received by the National Federation of the Blind under subsection (b).

ABRAHAM LINCOLN COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 500, S. 811.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 811) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 811) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 811

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President, was one of the Nation’s greatest leaders, demonstrating true courage during the Civil War, one of the greatest crises in the Nation’s history.

(2) Born of humble roots in present-day LaRue County, Kentucky, on February 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln rose to the Presidency through a combination of honesty, integrity, intelligence, and commitment to the United States.

(3) With the belief that all men were created equal, Abraham Lincoln led the effort to free all slaves in the United States.

(4) Abraham Lincoln had a generous heart, with malice toward none and with charity for all.

(5) Abraham Lincoln gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, dying from an assassin’s bullet on April 15, 1865.

(6) The year 2009 will be the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

(7) The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission has been charged by Congress with planning the celebration of President Lincoln’s bicentennial.

(8) The proceeds from a commemorative coin will help fund the celebration and the continued study of the life of President Lincoln.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) \$1 SILVER COINS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-

retary”) shall mint and issue not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(1) weigh 26.73 grams;

(2) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(3) contain 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the life and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year “2009”; and

(C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts and the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee established under section 5135 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2009.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins minted under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins minted under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under this Act shall include a surcharge of \$10 per coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins minted under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to further the work of the Commission.

(c) AUDITS.—The Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO RELIEF, SECURITY, AND DEMOCRACY PROMOTION ACT OF 2005

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 442, S. 2125.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2125) to promote relief, security, and democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that Senator OBAMA has an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that it be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action or debate.

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

The amendment (No. 4545) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 1, line 6, strike “2005” and insert “2006”.

On page 3, beginning on line 7, strike “promoting security, peace, and prosperity in the” and insert “a secure, peaceful, and prosperous”.

Beginning on page 4, strike line 19 and all that follows through page 5, line 18, and insert the following:

(9) According to the 2005 Department of State report on human rights practices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, “In all areas of the country, the human rights record remained poor, and numerous serious abuses were committed; however, there were some improvements during the year.”

On page 6, beginning on line 4, strike “fair and democratic elections within the timeframe provided by the Sun City Peace Accords” and insert “that the elections scheduled to be held on July 30, 2006, and future elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are carried out in a fair and democratic manner”.

On page 6, line 23, insert “through the provision of necessary equipment and training” after “establish”.

On page 7, line 15, insert “and other illegally armed groups” before the semicolon at the end.

On page 12, beginning on line 7, strike “2005 (division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005; Public Law 108-447; 118 Stat. 3015)” and insert “2006 (Public Law 109-102; 119 Stat. 2218)”.

On page 14, line 20, strike “60” and insert “180”.

On page 15, after section (b) insert:

(c) ELIGIBILITY OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE EMPLOYEES.—The individual designated to serve as the Special Envoy may be an employee of the Department of State with the rank of Deputy Assistant Secretary or higher.

On page 16, line 9, strike “IN GENERAL.—”.

On page 19, strike lines 3 through 11.

On page 20, strike lines 3 through 15 and insert the following:

(b) SUPPORT CONTINGENT ON PROGRESS.—If the Secretary of State determines that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is not making sufficient progress