

that purpose and not through a fee-for-service arrangement with the Office of Management and Budget or the Office of Personnel Management.

(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall implement multiple demonstration projects that apply new and innovative approaches to improve the processing of requests for security clearances. Each such project shall utilize proven commercial technologies and methods to the maximum extent possible.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM EXECUTIVE ORDERS.—No executive order that delegates responsibility for the issuance of security clearances to the personnel of the Office of Management and Budget shall apply to a demonstration project carried out under paragraph (1).

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the status and progress of the demonstration projects carried out under paragraph (1).

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

(d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall carry out an evaluation of the process for issuing security clearances and develop a specific plan and schedule for replacing such process with an improved process.

(2) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a report on the evaluation carried out under paragraph (1) together with the plan developed under such paragraph.

**SA 3032.** Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2011 proposed by Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for Mr. LEVIN) to the bill H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 531 and insert the following:

**SEC. 531. SENSE OF SENATE ON FORGOING REVISIONS TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE RESERVE FORCES POLICY BOARD.**

It is the sense of the Senate that, in light of the wide range of views on the optimal structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board among the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, the Senate, the House of Representatives, the Department of Defense, and the Reserve community, and in light of the absence of full and complete hearings in Congress on that structure, the Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense should not include revisions to the structure of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. I would like to inform Members that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship will hold a hearing entitled “Improving Internet Access to Help Small Business Compete in a Global Economy,” on Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Monday, September 24, 2007, at 3 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to consider scientific assessments of the impacts of global climate change on wildfire activity in the United States.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF TED POE TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM DELAHUNT TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE 62ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session and the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following nominations: TED POE to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations and WILLIAM DELAHUNT to be a representative of the United States to the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

Ted Poe, of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

William Delahunt, of Massachusetts, to be a Representative of the United States of

America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ANTOINE GHANEM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 328.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 328) condemning the assassination on September 19, 2007, of Antoine Ghanem, a member of the Parliament of Lebanon who opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, in the coming days there will be more funerals in Lebanon for fresh victims of despicable terror attacks. On Wednesday, September 19, 2007, Lebanese member of Parliament Antoine Ghanem and at least six others were killed in a massive car bomb attack in the suburbs of Beirut.

Tragically, this is an all-too-frequent occurrence for the people of Lebanon. The wave began with the February 14, 2005, assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and 21 others. On the 1-month anniversary of Prime Minister Hariri's assassination, something remarkable happened—hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Martyr's Square in downtown Beirut—spontaneously giving birth to the March 14 movement and the Cedar Revolution. Just 6 weeks after the March 14 movement began, the thousands of Syrian military forces that had occupied Lebanon for nearly three decades were out of the country.

But although the military occupation of Lebanon ended in 2005, Lebanon has remained under siege, as Wednesday's events remind us. Six Lebanese parliamentarians have now been killed in 2½ years. These six, and other prominent Lebanese figures who were also killed during the same period, shared one important attribute—they were outspoken critics of the Syrian domination of Lebanon.

Senator LUGAR, Senator SUNUNU and I are introducing a sense of the Senate resolution condemning the despicable assassination of Antoine Ghanem and urging that the international community continue its support for the government and people of Lebanon.

To the families of victims of Wednesday's attack and to the people of Lebanon, the Senate offers its deepest condolences for your losses. Wednesday's attack seeks to undermine the international tribunal set up earlier this

year to try the killers of Prime Minister Hariri and other Lebanese victims of political violence. So we call on the Bush administration to redouble its support for the tribunal and to work to ensure that Wednesday's crime is included in its jurisdiction.

These attacks on Lebanon must stop. This resolution expresses bipartisan support for holding accountable any state sponsor or official implicated in the string of political assassinations beginning in February 2005. To many an observer it is no accident that this assassination occurred as we approach the critical period during which Lebanon will choose its next president. Many informed voices, both in and out of Lebanon, are pointing to Damascus. So to the regime of Bashar al-Assad, know that we in Washington are watching events in Lebanon very carefully. Lebanon must be free to choose its next president without intimidation or violence.

Lebanon's enemies must understand that they face a united international front. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, France, and the broader European Union all have lead roles to play. So does the United States. So we call upon the international community to intensify the efforts to support the people and fragile democratic institutions of Lebanon.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 328) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 328

Whereas Antoine Ghanem and at least 6 others were killed in a car-bomb attack in the Sin el-Fil suburb of Beirut on September 19, 2007;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem was a member of the Parliament of Lebanon from the Lebanese Kataeb Party representing the Baabda and Aley districts of Mount Lebanon;

Whereas Mr. Ghanem is the 6th member of the Parliament of Lebanon who had opposed Syrian interference in Lebanon to be assassinated since February 2005, including former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri, former Economy and Trade Minister Bassel Fleihan, Gebran Tueni, Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, and Walid Eido;

Whereas other prominent figures in Lebanon who have opposed Syrian interference in that country have also been assassinated in the same time period, including politician George Hawi and journalist Samir Kassir, while others have escaped assassination attempts, including Defense Minister Elias Murr, Telecommunications Minister Marwan Hamadeh, and television presenter May Chidiac;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 1757 of May 30, 2007, created a special international tribunal to try suspects in the assassinations of former Prime Minister Hariri and others;

Whereas, by agreement between the United Nations and Lebanon, the special international tribunal can receive jurisdiction for other attacks in Lebanon that "are of a nature and gravity similar to the attack of 14 February 2005"; and

Whereas these continuing assassinations are intended to undermine the sovereignty of Lebanon and damage its fragile democratic institutions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to the families of Antoine Ghanem and other victims of the attack of September 19, 2007, as well as to all the people of Lebanon;

(2) condemns in the strongest terms this cowardly attack and urges that its perpetrators, including any state sponsor or official, be held accountable for their crimes;

(3) underscores its full support for the special international tribunal and urges the United Nations Security Council to extend its jurisdiction to include the Ghanem assassination;

(4) urges the President to increase coordination with key partners in Europe and the Middle East to more actively support the sovereignty of Lebanon and strengthen its governing institutions and security forces; and

(5) reasserts its strong belief that the people of Lebanon should be permitted to choose their next president, in a process scheduled to begin in September 2007, free from all foreign intimidation, interference, and violence.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY-EDWARDSVILLE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 329.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 329) congratulating Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, SIUE, as it marks its 50th year as a center of educational advancement in Southern Illinois. Southern Illinois University Edwardsville marks its 50th anniversary this year with a year-long celebration that begins on September 24, 2007.

SIUE is a public university built by the people of Illinois for the people of Illinois in response to the clear need for a campus of higher education in the Metro-East area of greater St. Louis. Fifty years ago, only three percent of the adult population had completed four years of college. Since there was no nearby higher education center and most families could not afford the cost of sending their kids far away for college, the community appealed to Southern Illinois University to establish a satellite campus at Edwardsville.

Today, SIUE continues to serve the community that initiated its founding and has helped improve the quality of life for all citizens of the area. The university has grown from 1,776 students

to nearly 13,500 students from 101 Illinois counties, 43 other States, and 46 nations. It offers a broad choice of degrees ranging from liberal arts to professional studies. The university gives back to the surrounding community through programs, including its East St. Louis Center, which provides social services to families in East St. Louis and surrounding urban communities. Each year, more than 8,000 individuals benefit from the programs and services housed at the East St. Louis Center. SIUE also contributes to the economic welfare of the entire region as both one of the largest employers in Madison County and a producer of many graduates who remain in the area after college. The number of college graduates in Madison and St. Clair counties has risen from three percent to 20 percent, largely made up of SIUE graduates. These graduates give back to the community every day, and the highly educated, skilled workforce they form is one of the greatest resources in Southern Illinois.

If you visit the campus at SIUE, you will see some of the truly exceptional and innovative educational programs taking place there today. The University's Senior Assignment Program, an integrative learning experience required of all seniors, was ranked as a national model for learning assessment by the Association of American Colleges and Universities in 2007. The SIU School of Dental Medicine, the only Illinois dental school outside Cook County, is rated among the top dental schools in the Nation on national board dental exams and serves as a primary oral healthcare provider for Southern Illinois. SIUE's University Park, an applied research and technology park, is the home to the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center which explores the viability of alternative fuels. In athletics, SIUE is currently transitioning to NCAA Division I status and proudly brought home the NCAA Division II championship in softball in 2007.

Over the last half century, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville has grown to become a tremendous asset to the students and citizens of Illinois. It's my honor to congratulate the University on its 50th anniversary, and I look forward to many more years of excellence in education in the future.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 329) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 329

Whereas Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) will celebrate its 50th