

and Entrepreneurship Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 434 and the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 434) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through December 31, 2007, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there is an amendment at the desk. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read three times, passed; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; the title amendment be agreed to; and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the authorization of these small business programs expires tomorrow. The bill before us, H.R. 434, was received in the Senate on January 18. I don't understand why the committee has waited until the day before the program expires to act. If we amend this bill and send it back to the House, they will not be able to act before these programs expire.

It is my understanding that if we allow this authorization to lapse, it will result in the dissolution of the SBA's Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs. This committee serves veteran entrepreneurs by formulating, executing, and promoting policies that assist veterans seeking to start and develop small businesses. I cannot imagine why we would want to dissolve the committee designed to assist veterans who want to start their own small businesses.

Accordingly, I ask the Senator to modify the unanimous consent request to omit the Senate amendment and instead pass a bill clean so that it may go directly to the President for his signature.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in responding to my friend, Senators KERRY and SNOWE, who are the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Small Business, have indicated there are a lot of matters relating to small business jurisdiction that need to be completed forthwith. They are going to work on this next week and hope to have something done very quickly, but this gives them an opportunity to deal with the House, which, I am told, basically did not confer with them at all during the work they did over there, and they should have done that.

I say again, Senators KERRY and SNOWE understand the importance of this issue. They also know there are many other things depending on their raising this as an issue at this time.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if I may, I have been informed by Senator SNOWE, with all due respect to the majority leader, that is not her view. It may well be the view of Senator KERRY, but it is not the view of Senator SNOWE.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are checking at this time with Senator KERRY to see if we can work something out on this small business matter. In the meantime, we will move to another important issue that is before the Senate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 11 through 13; the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, 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 nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Irving A. Williamson, of New York, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2014.

Dean A. Pinkert, of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring December 16, 2015.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Michael J. Astrue, of Massachusetts, to be Commissioner of Social Security for a term expiring January 19, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are glad we are able to clear three important nominations of the President.

HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENT AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF THE REVEREND ROBERT J. DRINAN, S.J.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 66.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 66) honoring the life, achievement and distinguished career of the Reverend Robert J. Drinan, S.J.

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

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today we pay our respects to a great son of Massachusetts who passed away on Sunday, an inspiration to me and a leader beloved by many, Father Robert Drinan.

In all his life's endeavors, from the church pulpit to the halls of Congress to the classroom, Father Drinan was guided by a firm and unwavering moral compass. He lived out in public life the whole cloth of Catholic teachings.

In religion and politics alike, he followed his sense that we are all put on this Earth for something greater than ourselves. Wherever he went, he was led there by a concern for the weak, the helpless, the downtrodden. In religion and politics alike, that was his calling.

And as he walked between these worlds, on a path unique in our Nation's history, he was always unmistakably and wonderfully true to himself.

Father Drinan was a forever gentle, resilient, tenacious advocate for social justice and fundamental decency. In the most divisive days of Vietnam, when things were coming apart, this incredible man, this most unlikely of candidates, showed America how a man of faith could be a man of peace.

As a politician, Father Drinan is best remembered for his spirited opposition to the Vietnam war. That's what brought him to Congress in the first place and it is how our paths first crossed. In 1970, after we first met as opponents in the Peoples' Caucus, I was honored to support, campaign, and to work with and learn from committed Democrats like Jerome Grossman, John Marttila, Tom Kiley, John Hurley, and Tom Vallyley. Together, many of these committed activists would spend the next decades championing the great progressive causes that marked the Drinan campaign.

Father Drinan's slogan was "Father Knows Best." I began studying law at Boston College—where Father Drinan had been the youngest law school Dean in the country—while he was down here, in Congress, making law, and making history.

Father Drinan's testimony against the war was remarkably powerful. He toured jails in Saigon and met a South Vietnamese politician there who had been jailed after placing second in an

election. In the religious language of just war doctrine and the plain language of common decency, he helped us to see the flaws of our policy in Vietnam and urged the Church to speak out with great moral authority.

And even before his own words found their way into FBI files, even before his own name made its way onto Nixon's enemies list, Father Drinan was a champion for dissent and he had a special understanding of the obligations of patriotism. He helped eliminate the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the scene of one of the Cold War's ugliest chapters. He met with famous Soviet dissidents like Sharansky and Sakharov and founded the National Interreligious Task Force for Soviet Jewry. Angered by the treatment of Soviet dissidents, he was the first Congressman to call for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

And he sought to hold the President of the United States accountable for his behavior. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, he questioned witnesses in the Watergate hearings. But even before then he became the first Congressman to urge the impeachment of President Nixon, not for the Watergate coverup but for the illegal bombing of Cambodia. That, he thought, was the far greater crime. "Can we be silent about this flagrant violation of the Constitution?" he asked. "Can we impeach a president for concealing a burglary but not for concealing a massive bombing?"

After 10 years in Congress, Father Drinan was forced to choose between the two passions of his life: politics and the Catholic Church. He chose to remain in the priesthood and spent the rest of his life outside government as a passionate advocate for human rights and a much-loved law professor. "As a person of faith," he said, "I must believe that there is work for me to do which somehow will be more important than the work I am required to leave."

As president of the Americans for Democratic Action, he traveled and spoke widely on hunger, civil liberties and the dangers of the nuclear arms race. He cofounded the Lawyers' Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control, and served as vice chair of the ACLU's National Advisory Council and a member of the Helsinki Watch Committee.

Father Drinan's life of political activism was in the best tradition of what it means to be a Jesuit—love of learning and a commitment to justice. Jesuits were among the first to speak out against the Vietnam war and later against illegal interventions in Central America. As a professor and an activist, Father Drinan lived the ideals of his faith.

Asked about his activism, Father Drinan once said "it goes back to the fact that you're a Christian and a Jesuit. . . . It means you have to love each other and that you can't persecute people. You have to be compassionate to everyone in the world." It was as simple as that for him. When asked if he

was planning to slow down in old age, Drinan recently told a reporter, "Jesuits don't ordinarily retire. You just do what you do."

His leadership helped give a new moral authority to the antiwar movement, and he was a mentor to a generation of Massachusetts politicians. People like BARNEY FRANK, who stepped into Father Drinan's congressional seat with big shoes to fill—and has spent the last 25 years there honoring Father Drinan's legacy with his own dogged fight for social justice.

Father Drinan leaves behind a sister-in-law, three nieces, over 6,000 adoring students, legions of supporters in the fourth district of Massachusetts, and those across the State and the Nation whose lives he touched.

Father Drinan once said, "If people are really Christians, they are involved in life, and politics is part of life. I feel if a person is really a Christian, he will be in anguish over global hunger, injustice, over the denial of educational opportunity." It was the defining mission of his truly remarkable life.

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 on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 66) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 66

Whereas the Reverend Robert F. Drinan, S.J. was a talented scholar, who received a bachelor's degree in 1942 and a master's degree in 1947 from Boston College, a bachelor's degree in law in 1949 and a master of law degree in 1951 from Georgetown University, and a doctorate in theology in 1954 from Gregorian University in Rome, Italy;

Whereas Father Drinan entered the Society of Jesus in 1942, completed his seminary work at Weston College in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 1953;

Whereas Father Drinan was an influential educator who served as the Dean of the Boston College Law School from 1956 to 1970 and transformed it into one of the leading educational institutions in the United States;

Whereas Father Drinan was elected in 1970 to represent Massachusetts in the House of Representatives;

Whereas Father Drinan represented Massachusetts in the House of Representatives from 1971 to 1981, the first Roman Catholic priest ever to serve in Congress as a voting Member;

Whereas Father Drinan, during his service in the House of Representatives, was an advocate for social justice, a fighter for civil rights, and a champion in the cause of international human rights;

Whereas Father Drinan drew on his legal expertise to make significant contributions in the areas of copyright law reform, consumer protection, and criminal justice;

Whereas Father Drinan renewed his commitment to education, after his service in Congress, as a professor at Georgetown University Law Center, where he specialized in constitutional law and human rights and taught more than 6,000 students;

Whereas Father Drinan was the founder and faculty adviser to the Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics and was the author of 12 books on major public policy issues;

Whereas Father Drinan was the recipient of 22 honorary degrees and was a visiting professor at 4 universities;

Whereas Father Drinan's service led the American Bar Association (ABA) to award him the ABA Medal in 2004, the organization's highest honor, given to individuals who make exceptionally distinguished contributions to the jurisprudence of the United States; and

Whereas Father Drinan's lifelong leadership in promoting greater awareness of the importance of international human rights resulted in 2006 in the establishment by the Georgetown University Law Center of an endowed chair in his honor, known as the Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Chair in Human Rights Law: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished career of the Reverend Robert F. Drinan, S.J.;

(2) offers its appreciation for Father Drinan's devoted work on behalf of the thousands of Massachusetts residents he represented in the House of Representatives and the millions of people worldwide who benefited from his human rights initiatives; and

(3) expresses its condolences to Father Drinan's family and friends.

DESIGNATING MARCH 2007 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH"

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 67.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 67) designating March 2007 as "Go Direct Month."

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 67) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.
The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 67

Whereas the Department of the Treasury issued 57,000 checks worth approximately \$54,000,000 that were endorsed illegally in 2006;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 1,500,000 inquiries each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas the use of direct deposit has resulted in more than \$6,000,000,000 in savings for the Federal Government since 1986;

Whereas more than 12,000,000 social security and other Federal benefit recipients have yet to sign up for direct deposit;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$120,000,000 in annual savings if all Federal beneficiaries used direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost effective method of payment than paper checks because the use of direct deposit—