

(2) commends the Islamic Medical Association of North America for swift, clear, and public denunciation of the attacks;

(3) encourages Muslim voices in the United States and abroad to continue speaking out against terrorism; and

(4) condemns bigotry and acts of violence against any American, including Arab-Americans and Muslim-Americans.

INTERSTATE FOREST FIRE PROTECTION COMPACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 975, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 975) granting the consent and approval of Congress to an interstate forest fire protection compact.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion 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 bill (S. 975) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 975

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

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The consent and approval of Congress is given to an interstate forest fire protection compact, as set out in subsection (b).

(b) COMPACT.—The compact reads substantially as follows:

THE GREAT PLAINS WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

“THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the State, Provincial and Territorial wildland fire protection agencies signatory hereto, hereinafter referred to as ‘Members’.

“FOR, AND IN CONSIDERATION OF the following terms and conditions, the Members agree:

“ARTICLE I

“The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the Great Plains region of the United States by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member states, and by providing for reciprocal aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region, including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, and any adjoining state of a current member state.

“ARTICLE II

“This compact is operative immediately as to those states ratifying it if any two or more of the member states have ratified it.

“ARTICLE III

“In each state, the state forester or officer holding the equivalent position who is responsible for forest fire control may act as compact administrator for that state and

may consult with like officials of the other member states and may implement cooperation between the states in forest fire prevention and control. The compact administrators of the member states may organize to coordinate the services of the member states and provide administrative integration in carrying out the purposes of this compact. Each member state may formulate and put in effect a forest fire plan for that state.

“ARTICLE IV

“If the state forest fire control agency of a member state requests aid from the state forest fire control agency of any other member state in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires, the state forest fire control agency of that state may render all possible aid to the requesting agency, consonant with the maintenance of protection at home.

“ARTICLE V

“If the forces of any member state are rendering outside aid pursuant to the request of another member state under this compact, the employees of the state shall, under the direction of the officers of the state to which they are rendering aid, have the same powers (except the power of arrest), duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as comparable employees of the state to which they are rendering aid.

“No member state or its officers or employees rendering outside aid pursuant to this compact is liable on account of any act or omission on the part of such forces while so engaged, or on account of the maintenance or use of any equipment or supplies in connection with rendering the outside aid.

“All liability, except as otherwise provided in this compact, that may arise either under the laws of the requesting state or under the laws of the aiding state or under the laws of a third state on account of or in connection with a request for aid, shall be assumed and borne by the requesting state.

“Any member state rendering outside and pursuant to this compact shall be reimbursed by the member state receiving the aid for any loss or damage to, or expense incurred in the operation of any equipment answering a request for aid, and for the cost of all materials, transportation, wages, salaries, and maintenance of employees and equipment incurred in connection with such request. However, nothing in this compact prevents any assisting member state from assuming such loss, damage, expense, or other cost or from loaning such equipment or from donating such services to the receiving member state without charge or cost.

“Each member state shall assure that workers compensation benefits in conformity with the minimum legal requirements of the state are available to all employees and contract firefighters sent to a requesting state pursuant to this compact.

“For the purposes of this compact the term, employee, includes any volunteer or auxiliary legally included within the forest fire fighting forces of the aiding state under the laws of the aiding state.

“The compact administrators may formulate procedures for claims and reimbursement under the provisions of this article, in accordance with the laws of the member states.

“ARTICLE VI

“Ratification of this compact does not affect any existing statute so as to authorize or permit curtailment or diminution of the forest fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities of any member state.

“Nothing in this compact authorizes or permits any member state to curtail or diminish its forest fire fighting forces, equipment, services, or facilities. Each member state shall maintain adequate forest fighting

forces and equipment to meet demands for forest fire protection within its borders in the same manner and to the same extent as if this compact were not operative.

“Nothing in this compact limits or restricts the powers of any state ratifying the compact to provide for the prevention, control, and extinguishment of forest fires, or to prohibit the enactment or enforcement of state laws, rules, or regulations intended to aid in the prevention, control, and extinguishment in the state.

“Nothing in this compact affects any existing or future cooperative relationship or arrangement between the United States Forest Service and a member state or states.

“ARTICLE VII

“Representatives of the United States Forest Service may attend meetings of the compact administrators.

“ARTICLE VIII

“The provisions of Articles IV and V of this compact that relate to reciprocal aid in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires are operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to this compact and any other state that is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region if the Legislature of the other state has given its assent to the mutual aid provisions of this compact.

“ARTICLE IX

“This compact shall continue in force and remain binding on each state ratifying it until the Legislature or the Governor of the state takes action to withdraw from the compact. Such action is not effective until six months after notice of the withdrawal has been sent by the chief executive of the state desiring to withdraw to the chief executives of all states then parties to the compact.”

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD remain open today until 1 p.m. for the introduction of legislation, submission of statements, and cosponsorships.

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

ORDER FOR PRINTING OF TRIBUTES AND STATEMENTS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a collection of statements made in tribute to the late First Lady of the United States, Lady Bird Johnson, together with appropriate illustrations and other materials relating to her death, be printed.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m., Monday, July 16; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the

morning hour be deemed expired and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; that at 3 p.m., the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 1585.

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

PROGRAM

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, as previously announced, there are no rollcall votes Monday. However, Members should be prepared for votes throughout the week.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PRESTON M. GEREN TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I am very privileged to advise the Senate, working with the leadership on both sides, particularly Chairman LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN and myself, that I am now able to ask the Senate to proceed to executive session to consider the Executive Calendar, No. 163; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Preston M. Geren, of Texas, to be Secretary of the Army.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, this nomination is for the Secretary of the U.S. Army, and it is essential that he be in position now. I am very pleased the Senate has taken this action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. WARNER. There being no further business, Madam President, I suggest we return to the regular order of business.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 16, 2007, at 2 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, July 16, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:11 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 16, 2007, at 2 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Friday, July 13, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PRESTON M. GEREN, OF TEXAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.