

SENATE RESOLUTION 20—TO MAKE MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS TO SENATE COMMITTEES

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 20

*Resolved*, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following standing committees for the 104th Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Mr. Lugar, Mr. Dole, Mr. Helms, Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Craig, Mr. Coverdell, Mr. Santorum, and Mr. Warner.

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. Hatfield, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Specter, Mr. Domenici, Mr. Gramm, Mr. Bond, Mr. Gorton, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Mack, Mr. Burns, Mr. Shelby, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Gregg, and Mr. Bennett.

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—TO AMEND SENATE RESOLUTION 338 RELATING TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Mr. HELMS submitted the following resolution; which was ordered to be placed on the Calendar:

S. RES. 21

*Resolved*, That (a) subsection (a) of the first section of Senate Resolution 338, agreed to July 23, 1964 (88th Congress, 2d session), is amended to read as follows: "(a)(1) there is hereby established a permanent select committee of the Senate to be known as the Select Committee on Ethics (referred to in this resolution as the 'Select Committee') consisting of 6 members all of whom shall be private citizens. Three members of the Select Committee shall be selected by the Majority Leader and 3 shall be selected by the Minority Leader. Each member of the Select Committee shall serve 6 years except that the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader when making their initial appointments shall each designate 1 member to serve only 2 years and 1 member to serve only 4 years. At least 2 members of the Select Committee shall be retired Federal judges, and at least 2 members of the Select Committee shall be former members of the Senate. Members of the Select Committee may be reappointed.

"(2) The Select Committee shall select a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members.

"(3) Members of the Select Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to travel and per diem expenses in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Senate."

(b) Subsection (e) of the first section of Senate Resolution 338 (as referred to in subsection (a)) is repealed.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, during the last Congress neither the Senate nor the news media gave serious consideration toward making overdue changes in the Senate Ethics Committee.

However, it's a safe assumption that when the next heated allegation comes before the Ethics Committee, a great deal will be heard about how the committee's structure renders it incapable of conducting its business with the public's full confidence. That criticism will be justified—unless the Senate takes steps now to correct the situation.

Therefore, Mr. President, the purpose of the Senate resolution I am offering today is to avoid such criticism in the future by beginning now earnest consideration of plans to restructure the Ethics Committee.

Mr. President, there must never again be a repeat of the Keating Five scenario which dragged on for months on end and ultimately cost the Senate a great deal in terms of public confidence. Having been a member of the Ethics Committee during the ordeal, I certainly imply no criticism of anyone who participated in the Keating Five proceedings; the fault was in the system—not in those who were trying to make the system work.

The bottom line is that it took the Senate Ethics Committee almost 2 years to consider the Keating matter—it voted to commence its preliminary inquiry on December 21, 1989, and transmitted its report to the Senate on November 19, 1991. At that time, there was a chorus—from all across the political spectrum—demanding a reform of the Ethics Committee and its procedures.

The Senate resolution which I am offering today, is certainly no end-all be-all—it is merely a starting point for discussion. The resolution proposes that the work of the current Ethics Committee be done by a committee of six private citizens—not Senators. At least two members should be retired Federal judges; and another two should be former members of the Senate.

Three of the six members will be selected by the majority leader and three by the minority leader. Each member will serve 6 years—except when initial appointments are made, at which time the terms will be staggered. Members of the committee will serve without compensation—but will be entitled to reimbursement for travel and per diem expenses in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Senate.

I should emphasize again for the purpose of emphasis that this proposal is only a starting point. It is important, however, that we get started in reforming the Ethics Committee before the Senate is faced with another ethical dilemma on the front pages of the Nation's newspapers.

Mr. President, some discussion was given to reforming the Senate Ethics Committee in the last Congress by the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. A proposal similar to the one outlined in my resolution was discussed at hearings held by the Joint Committee—but was not included in committee's final proposal—even though it was endorsed by Senator BRYAN, the then-chairman of the Ethics Committee. The only changes the Joint Committee in fact approved regarding the Ethics Committee were new standards on disciplinary sanctions.

The Senate too often has been found lagging in proposals to reform itself—thus becoming targets for media accusations of indifference and institu-

tional arrogance. We have an opportunity with the proposed resolution, on the other hand, to start a process by which a strong signal may be sent to the American people that we are in fact willing to change with regards to the manner in which this institution polices its own members.

Mr. President, the American people expect the power entrusted Senators to be used for the public good and never for our own benefit or the benefit of the few. Likewise, the American people have a right to expect that Senators who abuse their power and the public trust to be held accountable for their actions—swiftly and justly.

I fully expect, and welcome, suggestion for accomplishing this goal. There will be, and should be, other ideas for reforming the Ethics Committee, ideas that no doubt will enhance and improve the suggestions I am making in my resolution. I reiterate: The time to begin is now, not when the Senate finds itself—again—in the midst of another institutional crisis.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22—RELATING TO CARGO PREFERENCE POLICY

Mr. INOUE submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 22

Whereas the maritime policy of the United States expressly provides that the United States have a Merchant Marine sufficient to carry a substantial portion of the international waterborne commerce of the United States;

Whereas the maritime policy of the United States expressly provides that the United States have a Merchant Marine sufficient to serve as a fourth arm of defense in time of war and national emergency;

Whereas the Federal Government has expressly recognized the vital role of the United States Merchant Marine during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas cargo reservation programs of Federal agencies are intended to support the privately owned and operated United States-flag Merchant Marine by requiring a certain percentage of government-impelled cargo to be carried on United States-flag vessels;

Whereas when Congress enacted Federal cargo reservation laws Congress contemplated that Federal agencies would incur higher program costs to use the United States-flag vessels required under such laws;

Whereas section 2631 of title 10, United States Code, requires that all United States military cargo be carried on United States-flag vessels;

Whereas Federal law requires that cargo purchased with loan funds and guarantees from the Export-Import Bank of the United States established under section 635 of title 12, United States Code, be carried on United States-flag vessels;

Whereas section 901b of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1241f) requires that 75 percent of the gross tonnage of certain agricultural exports that are the subject of an export activity of the Commodity Credit Corporation or the Secretary of Agriculture be carried on United States-flag vessels;