

three terms before redeclaring himself as a Republican and serving two terms in the state Senate. He then served as mayor of the Bristol Bay Borough from 1972 to 1974, after serving as the borough's manager in the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Hammond then was drafted to run for Governor of Alaska in 1974, defeating the state's second Governor and former Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel in the Republican Primary before defeating the state's first Governor William A. Egan in the general election. It was an election dominated by Hammond's opposition to oil leasing in Southcentral's Kachemak Bay, concern over the State of Alaska's salmon fisheries and fear over the state over spending soon after the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope.

Governor Hammond during his two terms oversaw construction of the Trans-Alaska oil Pipeline System, TAPS, championed creation of the Alaska Permanent Fund savings account, and was the author of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend program, which provides Alaskans a yearly dividend check from the interest earnings of the savings from a quarter of the State's petroleum revenues. He also won approval of a constitutional budget reserve that was intended to reduce State spending, and championed agricultural development in Interior Alaska. He also oversaw the state's purchase of the Alaska Railroad from the federal government.

Hammond on environmental issues opposed construction of a proposed Ramparts hydroelectric dam on the Yukon River, supported the congressional creation of a 200-miles fisheries zone off the State's coast that improved state fishery stocks, oversaw creation of a state limited entry fisheries regime, oversaw the creation of the Nation's largest State park, the Wood Tikchik State Park in Southwest Alaska, which contains 1.6 million acres of wilderness, and worked with Congress and observed congressional passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980 that replaced the designation of 120 million acres of Alaska into protected status under the federal Antiquities Act, while placing 104 million acres of new lands into national parks, preserves, refuges, monuments, wilderness and wild and scenic river classifications. The law added 5.5 million acres of wilderness in 14 units in national forests, added more than 40 million acres in 10 new units to national parks, including the 3.86 million-acre Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, bringing to 54 million acres the total size of Federal park holdings in Alaska; added a number of new wildlife refuges in Alaska, bringing to 19 the number of refuges covering 76.8 million acres in the State; and created 13 wild and scenic rivers running 3,131 miles. The act created 57.9 million acres of formal wilderness in the State, Alaska containing about 60 percent of the nation's total formal wilderness.

Mr. Hammond was also a talented and prolific writer and poet, presenting to the University of Alaska Library Archives an impressive collection of speeches, testimony, notebooks and papers. He also wrote several books on life in Alaska, led by his first book, "Tales of Alaska's Bush Rat Governor." He died on Aug. 2, 2005, at age 83 in his sleep at his homestead near Port Alsworth, Alaska, having survived five plane crashes and innumerable close calls during his first flight to Alaska and in fighting a fire at his home at Lake Clark, and over the following 59 years in the State. He was survived by his wife, Bella and daughters Heidi and Dana.

Jay Hammond was well-respected for reaching across the aisle to forge bipartisan alliances and enjoyed many close friendships with colleagues in both political parties and with his staff, who were deeply loyal to him. The designation of the 2.6 million acres of already created wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, where his homestead lies, will honor Jay Hammond and will be a fitting tribute to his honorable life and legacy, a man that the Anchorage Municipal Assembly on August 7, 2005, called, "the finest example of a true public servant. There are few men who have influence through their quiet articulation of what is right and fair in the way of Jay Hammond."

I hope for quick passage of this bill prior to the anniversary of either his birthday or the date of the tenth anniversary of this death. He was creative, funny, thoughtful, respectful, wise and courageous and truly deserves this honor.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. REED):

S. 882. A bill to amend part A of title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we rely on our public schools to prepare the next generation for success as citizens, workers, and innovators. We have asked educators to raise the bar and educate all students to internationally competitive college and career-ready standards. To achieve these goals, we need to establish a comprehensive system of educator preparation and support that ensures that new educators are profession-ready and that provides for their growth and development over the course of their careers.

Today, I am pleased to join Senator CASEY in introducing the Better Education Support and Training, BEST Act to reform induction, professional development, and systems for professional growth and improvement for teachers, librarians, and principals currently on the job, updating the Effective Teaching and Leading Act that I introduced last Congress. The BEST Act will strengthen Title II, Part A, of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act to ensure that formula grant funds support the goal of all students having equitable access to profession-ready and effective educators. The BEST Act will ensure that all educators on the instructional team—teachers, principals, counselors, librarians, and other specialized instructional support personnel—collaborate and are prepared and supported in helping students achieve and grow. It will offer induction and mentoring programs for new educators; personalized, job-embedded professional development, and career pathways and leadership roles for teachers and other educators.

In the coming weeks, I will be re-introducing legislation to address the front end of the educator pipeline—the Educator Preparation Reform Act. This legislation builds on the success of the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, which I helped author in the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Together, these two bills will modernize Federal policy for education preparation and development to create a continuum of support for professional educators throughout their careers. They provide a blueprint for reauthorizing Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title II of the Higher Education Act. Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with many stakeholders on these bills, including the Coalition for Teaching Quality, representing over 100 national, State, and local organizations.

I look forward to working to incorporate these bills into the upcoming reauthorizations of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act, and I urge our colleagues to join in this effort.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 116—PROVIDING FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN BURMA

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 116

Whereas the Union Election Commission of Burma announced that the country will hold general elections in the final quarter of calendar year 2015;

Whereas Burma's history with general elections has been characterized by controversy, conflict, and interference instigated by the military of Burma (the Tatmadaw), including in May 1990 and November 2010, and in the April 2012 by-elections;

Whereas the Tatmadaw refused to transfer power to the National League for Democracy (NLD), an opposition political party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, following the May 1990 elections in which the NLD won 392 of 492 seats, and used the flawed 2008 Constitution of Burma to undermine elections in November 2010;

Whereas stated intentions of the Government of Burma to negotiate a Federal union

with ethnic leaders and groups is not matched by the ongoing Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin and Northern Shan States;

Whereas, on March 5, 2015, and March 10, 2015, the Government of Burma responded to peaceful student protests in Rangoon and Letpadan with brutal violence and detained over 120 peaceful protesters;

Whereas the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict stated on January 27, 2015, “I . . . urge the Government to put a final end to impunity for conflict-related sexual violence that is particularly targeting ethnic minority areas.”;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar stated on January 16, 2015, “I remain particularly concerned at the failure of measures to ensure accountability of military officials, including [for] sexual and gender based violence in conflict zones.”;

Whereas the Tatmadaw continues to wield unchecked political and economic power and influence in Burma, as evidenced by the consumption of over 23 percent of the national budget; the set-aside of one-quarter of the seats in parliament which gives the Tatmadaw veto power over legislative and constitutional reforms; and control of the country's largest business conglomerates, including in the natural resource sector;

Whereas the 2008 Constitution of Burma preserves and protects the power and influence of the Tatmadaw through Articles 417, 418, 420, and 425, which provide the President of Burma with authority to declare a state of emergency “due to acts or attempts to take over the sovereignty of the Union by insurgency, violence and wrongful or forcible means”; to transfer legislative, executive, and judicial powers to the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services “to enable him to carry out the necessary measures to speedily restore its original situation in the Union”; for such Commander to “restrict or suspend as required, one or more fundamental rights of the citizens in the required area”; and for such Commander to extend the state of emergency for two periods of six months each;

Whereas other provisions in the 2008 Constitution of Burma are contrary to democracy and the rule of law, including Article 59(f), which prohibits anyone from being President who has children born outside of Burma; Article 354, which limits certain freedoms that contradict laws “enacted for Union security, prevalence of law and order, community peace and tranquility or public order and morality”; and Article 436, which subjects Constitutional amendments to a 75 percent vote threshold in parliament (thereby confirming the Tatmadaw's veto power);

Whereas the NLD Central Executive Committee released a statement on January 13, 2015, expressing concern with the stall of democratic transition and reforms in Burma, and identifying the following conditions as prerequisites for free and fair general elections: constitutional amendments “in line with the desire of the people”; government involvement that is free from bias; fair and credible enforcement of election laws and regulations by the Union Election Commission; and cessation of discrimination and bias by the government to political parties;

Whereas the Commander-in-Chief in Burma General Min Aung Hlaing stated on January 21, 2015, regarding the planned elections in Burma, “When things become really out of control, if the President says the military needs to step in, in that region or state, the military will step in when a state of emergency is declared.”;

Whereas a state of emergency and military administration was declared on February 17, 2015, in Kokang Self-Administered Zone due to renewed armed conflict;

Whereas the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar stated on January 19, 2015, “. . . there are signs that since my last visit, restrictions and harassment on civil society and the media may have worsened . . . If Myanmar is serious about transitioning to democracy, it must be serious about allowing persons affected by its actions to express their frustrations without being punished.”;

Whereas the Government of Burma responded to the various concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur with accusations of interference in Burma's internal affairs, and pointedly failed to criticize slanderous comments made by a Buddhist nationalist monk who called the Special Rapporteur a “bitch” and “whore”;

Whereas the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power stated in Louisville, Kentucky on January 12, 2015, “Burma is still a long way from being a rights-respecting democracy. The civilian government is still subordinate to the military, and the Constitution continues to give the military the broad authority to dismiss Parliament and veto any constitutional amendment.”;

Whereas Ambassador Power further stated, “Attacks against the Rohingya and other Muslim groups have even increased . . . Yet virtually no one has been held accountable, and the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.”;

Whereas the Government of Burma, under the direction and leadership of President Thein Sein, submitted draft legislation to parliament that seeks to stigmatize and discriminate against religious minorities in Burma through coercive population control, marriage restrictions, and anti-conversion methods that violate established international human rights norms and instruments to which Burma is a party;

Whereas Ambassador Power reaffirmed, “Our tools include incentivizing continued progress, shining a bright light on the government's shortcoming, and imposing targeted sanctions on individuals who stand in the way of change.”;

Whereas President Barack Obama stated during his visit to Burma on November 14, 2014, that the United States expects elections in Burma “to take place on time. We do not want to see delays, because it's time for the voice of the people of Burma to be heard in a fair, free, and transparent manner . . . the constitution amendment process needs to reflect inclusion rather than exclusion, that there are certain provisions in the Burmese constitution that objectively don't make much sense.”; and

Whereas internationally recognized standards of free and fair elections include: the right of adult citizens to register and vote in elections, without discrimination; equal opportunity for individuals to stand as candidates, form political parties, and conduct campaign and civic education activities free from interference and intimidation; the fair and impartial conduct of elections, including accountable voter registration processes and transparent resolution of election disputes by independent election commissions and judiciaries; and an electoral environment that is free from fear, intimidation, and violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) endorses the aforementioned internationally recognized prerequisites for free and fair general elections in Burma and finds them consistent with those articulated by

the National League for Democracy in its January 13, 2015, statement;

(2) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to—

(A) publicly support meaningful efforts to reform the 2008 Constitution of Burma, with the full and unfettered participation of the people of Burma and in a manner that promotes and protects the democratic development of Burma and safeguards against arbitrary and capricious interference by the Tatmadaw;

(B) support free and fair elections in Burma, including by taking bilateral and multilateral steps, as necessary, to ensure that the Tatmadaw and its affiliates do not influence the outcome of such elections (including through a declaration of a state of emergency in order to influence or postpone such polls) and that President Thein Sein and other ruling government officials do not engage in the use of official resources (including international assistance) for electioneering; and

(C) express solidarity with the United Nations special mechanisms that are investigating and protesting against violations of human rights in Burma, and to express concern regarding the Government of Burma's refusal to work cooperatively with such mechanisms;

(3) calls upon the United States Government, in partnership with other international donors, to ensure that the Government of Burma and the Union Election Commission function in an independent, fair, and impartial manner throughout the preparation and conduct of elections in Burma, and that the Tatmadaw publicly affirms in advance that it will honor the results of such elections;

(4) expects the President to delay further steps toward normalization of relations with Burma, including immediately suspending all military-to-military engagement with the Tatmadaw, should the Government of Burma, including the Tatmadaw and any of its affiliates, undermine the prospects for free and fair elections in Burma;

(5) expects the President to take additional actions to sanction specific individuals within the Government of Burma whom the President determines undermine free and fair elections in Burma, including through the denial of visas and freezing of assets of such individuals, as appropriate;

(6) calls upon the President and the Secretary of State to take action to ensure that ethnic groups in Burma are not coerced, in any way or by any means, into ceasefire agreements with the Government of Burma;

(7) calls upon the Secretary of State to work with like-minded regional and international governments to ensure that the general elections in Burma meet international standards of free and fair elections, including by ensuring that international and domestic monitors have full and unimpeded access to all aspects of the electoral process; and

(8) calls upon the Secretary of State to publicly and forcefully condemn human rights abuses committed by the Tatmadaw and to demand credible and independent investigations and prosecutions of any and all allegations of such abuse, including with respect to—

(A) the January 19, 2015, rape and murder by the Tatmadaw of two Kachin volunteer schoolteachers in Northern Shan State;

(B) the December 22, 2014, murder of Daw Khin Win, a nonviolent protestor at the Letpadaung mine site;

(C) the November 19, 2014, killing of 23 cadets in Laiza, Kachin State, by the Tatmadaw's shelling;

(D) the October 4, 2014, murder of Ko Par Gyi in Mon State, a freelance journalist and

former body guard of opposition political leader Aung San Suu Kyi; and

(E) the September 13, 2012, fatal shooting by the Tatmadaw of 14-year old Ja Seng Ing in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.

SENATE RESOLUTION 117—RECOGNIZING LINEMEN, THE PROFESSION OF LINEMEN, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 31, 2015, AS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. TILLIS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 117

Whereas the profession of linemen is steeped in personal, family, and professional tradition;

Whereas linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes;

Whereas linemen must work high atop powerlines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing;

Whereas linemen play a vital role in the Nation's economy by maintaining and growing the energy infrastructure of the United States;

Whereas linemen must often work under dangerous conditions separated from their families to keep schools and businesses open;

Whereas linemen put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work; and

Whereas March 31, 2015, would be an appropriate date to designate as National Lineman Appreciation Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the efforts of linemen in keeping the power on and protecting public safety; and

(2) supports the designation of National Lineman Appreciation Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118—AMENDING RULE XXXI OF THE STANDING RULES FOR THE SENATE, TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS

Mr. MERKLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 118

Resolved,

SECTION 1. TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs 3 through 7 as paragraphs 4 through 8, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph 2 the following:

“3.(a) In this paragraph, the term ‘covered nomination’ means a nomination other than a nomination—

“(1) of an individual to serve as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States or as Chief Justice of the United States; or

“(2) to a position entitled to expedited procedures under S. Res. 116 (112th Congress).

“(b) Subject to subparagraph (c), if a covered nomination has been on the Executive

Calendar for more than 14 calendar days, the covered nomination shall be eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with subparagraph (d).

“(c)(1) For a covered nomination described in clause (3), unless not less than 10 Senators have submitted written requests for the record that the covered nomination be considered by the full Senate in executive session before the end of the 14 calendar day period described in subparagraph (b)—

“(A) the nomination shall be deemed to be confirmed by the Senate; and

“(B) the Secretary shall send to the President a notification of the confirmation.

“(2) If not less than 10 Senators submit a written request in accordance with clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination described in clause (3), the covered nomination shall be eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with subparagraph (d).

“(3) A covered nomination described in this clause is a covered nomination other than the nomination of an individual—

“(A) to serve as a judge or justice appointed to hold office during good behavior; or

“(B) to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

“(d)(1) The majority leader may provide notice that a covered nomination that is eligible for expedited consideration in accordance with this subparagraph shall be considered on an expedited basis.

“(2) Except as provided in clauses (3) and (4), 24 hours after the majority leader provides notice under clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination, the Senate shall proceed to executive session and begin consideration of the covered nomination.

“(3) Forty-eight hours after the majority leader provides notice under clause (1) with respect to a covered nomination to serve as a judge appointed to hold office during good behavior or a nomination to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code, the Senate shall proceed to executive session and begin consideration of the nomination.

“(4) If the majority leader provides notice with respect to more than 1 covered nomination during any 24 hour period, the covered nominations shall be considered in accordance with clause (5) in the order in which notice was provided.

“(5) Notwithstanding rule XXII, expedited consideration of a covered nomination under this subparagraph, including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith—

“(A) shall be limited to 4 hours, evenly divided in the usual form, in the case of a nomination to serve as a judge of a circuit court of the United States or a nomination to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code; and

“(B) shall be limited to 2 hours, evenly divided in the usual form, in the case of any other covered nomination.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 119—AMENDING RULE XXVIII OF THE STANDING RULES FOR THE SENATE TO PROVIDE FOR TIMELY ESTABLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 119

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE.

Rule XXVIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking paragraph 2(b) and inserting the following:

“(b) Consideration of a motion described in subparagraph (a), including consideration of any debatable motion or appeal in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—MODIFYING EXTENDED DEBATE IN THE SENATE TO IMPROVE THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 120

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EXTENDED DEBATE.

Paragraph 2 of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by striking the second undesignated paragraph and inserting the following:

“Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close? And unless that question shall be decided in the negative by one more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (except on a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules, in which case the necessary vote shall be two-thirds of the Senators present and voting in the affirmative, a quorum being present), then cloture has been invoked.

“If that question is on disposition of a bill or joint resolution, a resolution or concurrent resolution, a substitute amendment for a bill or resolution, a motion with respect to amendments between the Houses, a conference report, or advice and consent to a nomination or treaty, and if such question shall be decided in the affirmative by a majority of Senators voting, a quorum being present, and in the negative by more than two-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn (or in the affirmative by less than two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, in the case of a measure or motion to amend the Senate rules), then it shall be in order for the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to initiate a period of extended debate upon the measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, in relation to which the motion to close debate was offered, in which case the period of extended debate shall begin one hour later.

“During a period of extended debate, such measure, motion, or other matter pending before the Senate, or the unfinished business, shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business, except on action or motion by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee).

“During a period of extended debate it shall not be in order for a Senator other than the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) to raise a question as to the presence of a quorum, except immediately prior to a vote or when it has been more than forty-eight hours since a quorum was demonstrated. If upon a roll call it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present, then the Senate shall adjourn to a time previously decided by order of the Senate or, if no such time has been established, then to a time certain determined by the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Minority Leader.

“During a period of extended debate a motion to adjourn or recess shall not be in order, unless made by the Majority Leader (or his or her designee) or if the absence of a quorum has been demonstrated. Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of rule XIX, there shall