

“(B) The Secretary shall provide, directly or by grant to or contract with public or private nonprofit agencies or organizations—

“(i) technical assistance and resource and referral information to assist State or local governments with termination of parental rights issues, in recruiting and retaining adoptive families, in the successful placement of children with special needs, and in the provision of pre- and post-placement services, including post-legal adoption services; and

“(ii) other assistance to help State and local governments replicate successful adoption-related projects from other areas in the United States.”.

SEC. 404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 205 (42 U.S.C. 5115) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$10,000,000,” and all that follows through “203(c)(1)” and inserting “\$20,000,000 for fiscal year 1996, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2001 to carry out programs and activities authorized”;

(2) by striking subsection (b); and

(3) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b).

TITLE V—ABANDONED INFANTS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1986

SEC. 501. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 104(a)(1) of the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 670 note) is amended by striking “\$20,000,000” and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting “\$35,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1995 through 1997, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2001”.

TITLE VI—REAUTHORIZATION OF VARIOUS PROGRAMS

SEC. 601. MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 408 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777) is amended—

(1) by striking “To” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—”

(2) by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, and 1997 through 2001”; and

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(b) EVALUATION.—The Administrator shall use not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (a) to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs and activities established and operated under this title.”.

SEC. 602. VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE ACT OF 1990.

Section 214B of the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13004) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, and 1997”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “and 1996” and inserting “1996, through 2001”.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—REPORT NO. 104-319

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that report number 104-319 be star printed with the changes that I understand are at the desk.

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

AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF MFN TREATMENT TO THE PRODUCTS OF ROMANIA

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3161, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3161) to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (most-favored-nation treatment) to the products of Romania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

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

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3161, a bill to extend permanent most-favored-nation trade status to Romania. I believe it is premature to surrender leverage over developments in Romania less than 4 months before their national elections. Adoption of this measure now will weaken our ability to extend support to democratic forces in Romania.

I spoke in opposition to the Senate version of this measure, S. 1644, when the Finance Committee held a hearing on it on June 4, 1996. Before that, as Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I joined with our Chairman, the distinguished Representative CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, in a letter to the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, urging postponement of action on this initiative until after Romania's elections.

On Wednesday, the House passed H.R. 3161, after a spirited debate on the previous day. Their action, and the likely passage of this bill by this Chamber, surrenders leverage over developments in Romania which is uniquely ours. The semi-annual review process for Romania's most-favored-nation gives Congress the ability to express itself if the slow but steady progress with democratization and privatization that has been occurring in Romania should suffer a reverse after this fall's election.

I do not need to recite the horrors that occurred in the former Yugoslavia, just over the border from Romania when extremists seized control of the political process. Genocide in Bosnia has not yet been redressed, and thousands of American troops are deployed there on the ground to help the Dayton Accords succeed.

Romania has a substantial ethnic minority population. Approximately 9 percent of Romania's population of 23 million is ethnically Hungarian. Relations between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians have not always been easy. The current Romanian Government

is a coalition government. It contained three extremist minority parties for 3 of its 4 years in office, with two leaving the government only this past December.

All of the experts I have spoken with, and all knowledgeable Romanian officials believe that the next government will be a coalition government, too. I think it is very important for those who support democratic progress and privatization in Romania to keep a

close eye on these national elections and the government they produce.

The opposition did very well in this spring's local elections. This bodes well for their chances in the fall, but it appears that no single party has the strength or public support to form a government on its own. Even if the opposition wins, this does not resolve the question of who will be included in the coalition government.

Romania has made clear that its first priority in its foreign relations is NATO integration. They view passage of this measure and receipt of unconditional MFN status as a step in this direction, a credential that they have made progress.

I have no trouble saying that they have made progress. Measured since Ceausescu's fall, the progress has been serious. Over a shorter time-frame, it sometimes appears to be one step forward and two steps back, but it is progress nonetheless.

Having said that, there are also problems. I think these problems are serious enough for Congress to want to keep the leverage it has through the semi-annual MFN report and review process until after this fall's national elections. Then, once we see how the elections have turned out, who is in the coalition government, and what their policies will be, we can make a well-considered judgment on whether to terminate the review process and make their MFN trade status unconditional. Action now is premature.

I know that the Romanian Assembly and Senate both passed resolutions stating that all parties agreed that MFN would not be a political issue in the fall campaign. I ask you to imagine what would happen if both our House and Senate passed a resolution stating, for instance, that NAFTA would not be a campaign issue.

In a nation with a free press, passage of such a resolution would have the immediate effect of moving the issue to the top of the political agenda, and focusing hard questions on the leadership of both parties. It would not take the issue off of the agenda.

I received a copy of a May 27, 1996 letter from the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania, the DAHR, which states, “In the opinion of the DAHR, the entire population of Romania has great need of Most Favored Nation status, but we believe that the best method for the American government would be to continue to link this benefit to respect for human rights and minority rights until such time as practical results are achieved in these areas.”

Mr. President, it does not sound to me as if there is unanimous support within Romania for pressing ahead with unconditional MFN. In fact, the ethnic minority most vulnerable to oppression and discrimination, and the one that has suffered serious human rights violations in the past, is the very one that asks the United States to retain the MFN review process.