

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 733) was agreed to.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to S. Res. 113 be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 113), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### TREATMENT OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 39, and that the Senate then proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the treatment of religious minorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and particularly the recent arrests of members of that country's Jewish community.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I offer this resolution on behalf of Mr. BROWNBACK of Kansas, Mr. LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, and many other cosponsors.

Last March, 13 Iranian Jews from the southern cities of Shiraz and Esfahan were arrested on preposterous charges of spying for Israel and the United States. These men have not been allowed visits by family or legal counsel, nor has any evidence been produced to warrant their arrest and imprisonment. For more than 2 months, leaders of the American Jewish community and the U.S. Government officials have worked behind the scenes for the release of these men.

Iran has done this sort of thing many times before, and they are usually just seeking some ransom money. Unfortunately, this situation is different. Iran went public with this issue first, mean-

ing something far more nefarious is at work.

It is clear that these 13 people are being used as unfortunate pawns between two warring political factions in Iran: moderate followers of President Mohammad Khatami and hardline ayatollahs who remain entrenched in high positions of power and seek to undermine Khatami's domestic reforms and overtures to the West. These men may very well be hanged without a trial under preposterous and trumped-up charges. We must not let that happen. Indeed, we must do all we can to secure their release.

We have a resolution before the Senate condemning in the strongest possible terms the arrest of these men and calling for their immediate release. I thank all my colleagues for supporting this resolution which denounces the worst form of religious intolerance.

The notion that Iranian Jews, particularly those living hundreds of miles from Teheran, even have the capacity to spy for Israel or the United States is laughable. What access would these individuals have to any valuable information whatsoever?

The truth is that since 1979, Iran has habitually utilized the term "spy" for anyone it arrests for political reason. Schoolgirls and blind old men have been hanged as "spies" simply because they were religious minorities.

Some say we should not come down too hard on Iran on this issue, lest we play into the hands of the hardline ayatollahs and set back Khatami's reform movement. I say that is out of the question. We are not going to sacrifice innocent lives to help one side in a political battle of wills.

Khatami has the power to stand up to the hardliners on behalf of these 13 pawns and for all of Iran's 30,000-member Jewish community, as well as other religious minorities. He won the Presidency with a 70-percent landslide vote, and moderate candidates continue to score big victories in local elections. He can choose the political battles he wishes to fight, and this resolution before us today makes it perfectly clear that this needs to be one of those battles.

In fact, any talk of a kinder, gentler Iran under the supposedly moderate President Khatami is simply empty rhetoric as long as Jews and other religious minorities are victims of the most vicious forms of religious intolerance.

The Koran in Islam treats justice like all the great religions, as something at the highest pinnacle of human values. If Khatami cannot deliver on this issue, then what is his reform movement about in the first place? And if Iran seeks to do this in the name of Islamic fundamentalism, what about the teachings of the Koran in terms of justice and fairness?

The administration has spoken out strongly on this issue, but they have to make this a top priority. President Clinton and Secretary of State

Albright should immediately press influential regional states—Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia—to help secure the release of the 13.

Iran must know from the United States, and the world, that should these men be executed, as 17 other Jews have been since 1979, Iran will slip back into pariah status for decades. That means no loans, no trade, no international respect.

With this resolution, the Congress, the Senate, has spoken today, and the world is watching.

AMENDMENT NO. 734

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 734) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 3, line 3, strike "Clinton administration" and insert "United States".

On page 3, Strike line 4 to line 5 before "continue".

On page 3, begin with line 7, strike the word "recommendation" and insert "the recommendation of resolution 1999/13".

On page 3, line 9, insert after "(2)" "continue to".

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without intervening action.

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

The resolution (S. Con. Res. 39), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

[The resolution (S. Con. Res. 39) will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.]

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the Chair.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF MILDRED WINTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 126, submitted earlier today by Senator BOND.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 126) expressing the sense of the Senate that appreciation be shown for the extraordinary work of Mildred Winter as a Missouri teacher and leader in