

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to provide assistance for efforts to improve conservation of, recreation in, erosion control of, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat of the Missouri River in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to provide for the payment of Financing Corporation interest obligations from balances in the deposit insurance funds in excess of an established ratio and, after such obligations are satisfied, to provide for rebates to insured depository institutions of such excess reserves.

S. 2299

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2299, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to continue State Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for fiscal year 2001 at the levels for fiscal year 2000.

S. 2300

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2300, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any 1 State.

S. RES. 90

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 90, a resolution designating the 30th day of April 2000 as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans," and for other purposes.

S. RES. 271

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 271, a resolution regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS AND THE SENATE SHOULD ACT ON THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr.

LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. REED, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. TORRIGELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 279

Whereas the United States has shown leadership in promoting human rights, including the rights of women and girls, and was instrumental in the development of international human rights treaties and norms, including the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

Whereas the Senate has already agreed to the ratification of several important human rights treaties, including the Genocide Convention, the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Whereas CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls;

Whereas 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran, and Sudan, which have not;

Whereas CEDAW is helping combat violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world;

Whereas CEDAW has had a significant and positive impact on legal developments in countries as diverse as Uganda, Colombia, Brazil, and South Africa, including, on citizenship rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Tanzania, property rights and political participation in Costa Rica;

Whereas the Administration has proposed a small number of reservations, understandings, and declarations to ensure that U.S. ratification fully complies with all constitutional requirements, including states' and individuals' rights;

Whereas the legislatures of California, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont have endorsed U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas more than one hundred U.S.-based, civic, legal, religious, education, and environmental organizations, including many major national membership organizations, support U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas ratification of CEDAW would allow the United States to nominate a representative to the CEDAW oversight committee; and

Whereas 2000 is the 21st anniversary of the adoption of CEDAW by the United Nations General Assembly: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

(2) the Senate should act on CEDAW by July 19, 2000, the 20th anniversary of the signing of the convention by the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN CHECHNYA

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 280

Whereas the Senate of the United States unanimously passed Senate Resolution 262 on February 24, 2000, condemning the indiscriminate use of force by the Government of the Russian Federation against the people of Chechnya, encouraging peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government, and urging the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately grant international organizations full and unimpeded access into Chechnya in order to provide humanitarian assistance and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

Whereas the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony reporting grave human rights violations on both sides of the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony that Russian forces in Chechnya caused the deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians and the displacement of well over 250,000 innocents; forcibly relocated refugee populations; and committed widespread atrocities including summary executions, arbitrary detentions, torture, and rape;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its military campaign in Chechnya through the use of indiscriminate force, causing further dislocation of people from their homes, the deaths of unarmed civilians and widespread suffering;

Whereas this war contributes to ethnic hatred and religious intolerance within the Russian Federation, and could divert much-needed international development assistance, undercut the ability of the international community to trust the Russian Federation as a signatory to international agreements, generate political instability within the Russian Federation, and be a continuing threat to the peace in the region; and

Whereas the Senate again expresses its deep concern over the war and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya, and its desire for a peaceful and durable settlement to the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the lack of vigorous and sustained action of most Western governments, including that of the United States, to respond to the conflict in Chechnya could be too easily interpreted by the Government of the Russian Federation as indifference to it and thus allow that government to intensify and expand its military campaign there, further contributing to the suffering of the Chechen people;

(2) the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, is responsible for the conduct of Russian troops in and around Chechnya and has an obligation to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights norms, including the obligation to prevent present and future atrocities there, and to investigate fully atrocities already committed, and to initiate, where appropriate, prosecutions against those accused;