

shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in form or language as may be adopted by the various states and provinces.

**“Article XIV—Amendment**

“This compact may be amended by agreement of the party jurisdictions.”

**SEC. 2. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.**

The validity of the arrangements consented to by this Act shall not be affected by any insubstantial difference in their form or language as adopted by the States and provinces.

**SEC. 3. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.**

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

**RECOGNIZING RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY'S SUCCESS IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND ITS CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED STATES NATIONAL INTERESTS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 281, S. Con. Res. 92.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the title of the concurrent resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 92) recognizing Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's success in promoting democracy and its continuing contribution to United States national interests.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

**S. CON. RES. 92**

Whereas on May 1, 1951, Radio Free Europe inaugurated its full schedule of broadcast services to the people of Eastern Europe and, subsequently, Radio Liberty initiated its broadcast services to the peoples of the Soviet Union on March 1, 1953, just before the death of Stalin;

Whereas now fifty years later, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (in this concurrent resolution referred to as “RFE/RL”) continues to promote democracy and human rights and serve United States national interests by fulfilling its mission “to promote democratic values and institutions by disseminating factual information and ideas”;

Whereas Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty were established in the darkest days of the cold war as a substitute for the free media which no longer existed in the communist-dominated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union;

Whereas Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty developed a unique form of international broadcasting known as surrogate broadcasting by airing local news about the countries to which they broadcast as well as providing regional and international news,

thus preventing the communist governments from establishing a monopoly on the dissemination of information and providing an alternative to the state-controlled, party dominated domestic media;

Whereas the broadcast of uncensored news and information by Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty was a critical element contributing to the collapse of the totalitarian communist governments of Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union;

Whereas since the fall of the Iron Curtain, RFE/RL has continued to inform and therefore strengthen democratic forces in Central Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union, and has contributed to the development of a new generation of political and economic leaders who have worked to strengthen civil society, free market economies, and democratic government institutions;

Whereas United States Government funding established and continues to support international broadcasting, including RFE/RL, and this funding is among the most useful and effective in promoting and enhancing the Nation's national security over the past half century;

Whereas RFE/RL has successfully downsized in response to legislative mandate and adapted its programming to the changing international broadcast environment in order to serve a broad spectrum of target audiences—people living in fledgling democracies where private media are still weak and do not enjoy full editorial independence, transitional societies where democratic institutions and practices are poorly developed, as well as countries which still have tightly controlled state media;

Whereas RFE/RL continues to provide objective news, analysis, and discussion of domestic and regional issues crucial to democratic and free-market transformations in emerging democracies as well as strengthening civil society in these areas;

Whereas RFE/RL broadcasts seek to combat ethnic, racial, and religious intolerance and promote mutual understanding among peoples;

Whereas RFE/RL provides a model for local media, assists in training to encourage media professionalism and independence, and develops partnerships with local media outlets in emerging democracies;

Whereas RFE/RL is a unique broadcasting institution long regarded by its audience as an alternative national media that provides both credibility and security for local journalists who work as its stringers and editors in the broadcast region; and

Whereas RFE/RL fosters closer relations between the United States and other democratic states, and the states of Central Europe and the former Soviet republics: Now therefore be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) congratulates the editors, journalists, and managers of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on a half century of effort in promoting democratic values, and particularly their contribution to promoting freedom of the press and freedom of expression in areas of the world where such liberties have been denied or are not yet fully institutionalized; and

(2) recognizes the major contribution of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty to the growth of democracy throughout the world and its continuing efforts to advance the vital national interests of the United States in building a world community that is more peaceful, democratic, free, and stable.

REFERRING S. 846 TO CHIEF JUDGE OF U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 83 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 83) referring S. 846 entitled “A bill for the relief of J.L. Simmon Company, Inc., of Champaign, Illinois” to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The resolution (S. Res. 83) was agreed to, as follows:

**S. RES. 83**

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. REFERRAL.**

S. 846 entitled “A bill for the relief of J.L. Simmons Company, Inc., of Champaign, Illinois”, now pending in the Senate, together with all the accompanying papers, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

**SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.**

The chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code, notwithstanding the bar of any statute of limitations, laches, or bar of sovereign immunity; and

(2) report back to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) such findings of fact and conclusions as are sufficient to inform Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for compensation referred to in such bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States, or a gratuity; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to J.L. Simmons Company, Inc., of Champaign, Illinois.

**AMENDING THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 3346.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3346) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the reporting requirements relating to higher education, tuition and related expenses.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3346) was read the third time and passed.