

Whereas Congress found it important enough to ensure coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts and formulate a national strategy that it established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission in 2003 and designated the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2004 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that may be associated with a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

ENHANCING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEM OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further action on S. Res. 299, and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 299) recognizing, and supporting efforts to enhance the public awareness of the social problem of child abuse and neglect.

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

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 299) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 299

Whereas each year in the United States approximately 3,000,000 reports of suspected or known child abuse and neglect, involving 5,000,000 children, are made to child protective service agencies;

Whereas 588,000 children are unable to live safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions;

Whereas it is estimated that every year in the United States more than 1,200 children, 85 percent of whom are under the age of 6 years, of whom 44 percent are under the age of 1 year, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect;

Whereas this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs through crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

Whereas Childhelp USA has initiated a Day of Hope to be observed on Wednesday, April 7, 2004, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, to focus public awareness on child abuse and neglect: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) all Americans should keep the victims of child abuse and neglect in their thoughts and prayers;

(B) all Americans should seek to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect and to give victimized children hope for the future; and

(C) the faith community, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers across America should recommit themselves and mobilize their resources to assist abused and neglected children; and

(2) the Senate—

(A) supports the goals and ideas of the Day of Hope, which will be observed on April 7, 2004, as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

(B) commends the individuals working on behalf of abused and neglected children throughout the United States.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further action on S. Res. 308, and the Senate now proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 308) designating March 25, 2004, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.”

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

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 308) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 308

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, “it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you”;

Whereas Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict for more than 100 years;

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete that presented the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during the World War II period;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said, “Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and

Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we’re strategic partners.”;

Whereas Greece is a stabilizing force by virtue of its political and economic power in the volatile Balkan region and is one of the fastest growing economies in Europe;

Whereas Greece, through excellent work and cooperation with United States and international law enforcement agencies, arrested and convicted key members of the November 17 terrorist organization;

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece’s successful “law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism”;

Whereas the Olympic Games will be coming home in August 2004 to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas the unprecedented Olympic security effort in Greece, including a record-setting expenditure of over \$850,000,000 and assignment of over 50,000 security personnel, as well as the utilization of a 7-country Olympic Security Advisory Group which includes the United States, will contribute to a safe and secure environment for staging the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece;

Whereas Greece, geographically located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; Whereas those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2004, marks the 183d anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 2004, as “Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy”;

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TAXATION CONVENTION WITH JAPAN

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 12, treaty document 108-14 on today’s Executive Calendar. I further ask unanimous consent the treaty be

considered as having passed through its various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of ratification, that any statements be printed in the RECORD, and the Senate immediately proceed to a vote on the resolution of ratification; further, that when the resolution of ratification is voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and that following the disposition of the treaty the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The resolution of ratification reads as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of the Convention between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Japan for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, together with a Protocol and an Exchange of Notes, signed at Washington on November 6, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-14).

Mr. NICKLES. I ask for consideration of the resolution before the Senate by a division vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division is requested. Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will please stand and be counted.

Those opposed will please stand and be counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2004

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 10. I further ask unanimous consent that following the prayer and pledge the morning hour be deemed expired and the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 95, the budget resolution; provided that when the Senate resumes consideration of the resolution tomorrow morning there be 27 hours equally divided remaining for debate under the statutory limit.

I further ask unanimous consent that upon proceeding to the resolution, Senator ENSIGN be recognized for up to 30 minutes to make a statement on the resolution; provided that following his remarks Senator MURRAY be recognized to offer an amendment, with the next amendment in order to be an amendment to be offered by Senator

GRAHAM of South Carolina or his designee.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 95, the budget resolution. When the Senate resumes debate tomorrow morning, there will be 27 hours remaining under the statutory time limit for debate.

I believe we made good progress today on the resolution. We were able to dispose of two very challenging amendments. The ranking member and I will return to the floor tomorrow morning to continue to work through amendments during the day. It is my hope that Members who wish to offer amendments will do so as early as possible, present their amendments to both my colleague, Senator CONRAD, and myself early so we can have a chance to examine and understand those amendments, and we may be able to dispose of them in a very intelligent and favorable way.

I also would like to inform my colleagues that we expect several rollcall votes throughout the day. Senators will be notified when we jointly agree upon having the first rollcall vote or two.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of my colleague and friend, Senator CONRAD.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to clarify that under the unanimous consent agreement Members are limited to 10 minutes under morning business, I believe. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak until I have completed my response to Senator BENNETT. I am sure it will be somewhat over 10 minutes.

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I also thank the chairman for the tone and the demeanor that he has exhibited throughout the day as we have disposed of the two fairly contentious amendments. Certainly, given our colleagues' significant opportunity to express their views on the budget, the economy and the state of the economy, I look forward to working with him again tomorrow. Hopefully we can dispose of many more amendments tomorrow and do our level best to avoid the vote-arama that has typically plagued us in budget resolutions and dispose of

this debate in a way that gives the Senate the dignity it deserves.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

VIEWING THE ECONOMY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, Senator BENNETT provided a view of the economy and the status of the jobs recovery. Let me give an alternative view as to what he discussed.

In looking at the jobs record of this President, what I see is that he is the first President who has lost private sector jobs in the last 70 years. I know it disturbs our colleagues to refer to the last President who lost private sector jobs, who was Herbert Hoover.

In making that statement, we are not saying the economy is in the same status as during the Great Depression. Obviously, that is not the case. Joblessness in the Hoover administration was approaching 25 percent of the workforce. That is not the case today. But it is an accurate statement to say this is the first President in 70 years who has lost private sector jobs. It is also true that something is happening in this recovery unlike anything we have seen in recoveries since World War II.

If we look at the average of the nine recessions since World War II, that is the dotted red line on this chart. This chart shows months after business-cycle peak on the bottom. What this shows is on average after 17 months, after the business-cycle peak, you start to see very strong job recovery. Here we are in this recession, 36 months past the business-cycle peak, and we are still not seeing meaningful job recovery. Something very different is happening. In fact, we are 5.4 million jobs short of a typical recovery. Something is wrong. Something is not working.

This shows the private sector job decline, and it shows 3 million jobs have been lost since January of 2001 when this President came into office. That is a fact.

This chart shows that we are also facing the longest average duration of unemployment in over 20 years; that is, when someone loses their job, it is taking them longer to find a new job than at any time in the last 20 years. Again, I think it is telling us this recovery is fundamentally different, and there is something wrong in the economy.

We also see we have the smallest share of the population at work since 1994. It is true we have millions of people at work. It is also true it is the smallest share of the population in a decade. Again, this is a recovery that is very unlike previous recoveries.

When we look at real wages, we go back to 1996, the last 4 years of the Clinton administration. We saw real wages increasing substantially. Since President Bush has taken office, we have seen real wages basically flat.

The President in his economic report in February of this year told us we could expect 2.6 million more jobs in