

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2603, S. 2611, AND S. 2612

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2603) to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2611) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2612) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for their second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

H.R. 4939—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 391, H.R. 4939, the supplemental appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the pending legislation be set aside until Tuesday, April 25, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATY ON THE MARPOL CONVENTION

TREATY ON MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE WITH JAPAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today's Executive Calendar: No. 12 and 14.

I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification, that any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read, and the Senate take one vote on a resolution of ratification to be considered as separate votes; further, that when the resolutions of ratification are voted upon, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

Senators in favor of the ratification of these treaties, please rise.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

With two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolutions of ratification are agreed to.

The resolutions of ratification are as follows:

PROTOCOL OF 1997 AMENDING MARPOL CONVENTION (TREATY DOC. 108-7)

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to Understandings and Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 Relating Thereto (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "Protocol of 1997"), signed by the United States on December 22, 1998 (T. Doc. 108-7), subject to the understandings and declaration in sections 2 and 3.

Section 2. Understandings.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understandings, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

(1) The United States of America understands that the Protocol of 1997 does not, as a matter of international law, prohibit Parties from imposing, as a condition of entry into their ports or internal waters, more stringent emission standards or fuel oil requirements than those identified in the Protocol.

(2) The United States of America understands that Regulation 15 applies only to safety aspects associated with the operation of vapor emission control systems that may be applied during cargo transfer operations between a tanker and port-side facilities and to the requirements specified in Regulation 15 for notification to the International Maritime Organization of port State regulation of such systems.

Section 3. Declaration.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification:

The United States of America notes that at the time of adoption of the Protocol of 1997, the NO_x emission control limits contained in Regulation 13 were those agreed as being achievable by January 1, 2000, on new marine diesel engines, and further notes that Regulation 13(3)(b) contemplated that new technology would become available to reduce on-board NO_x emissions below those limits. As such improved technology is now available, the United States expresses its support for an amendment to Annex VI, that would, on an urgent basis, revise the agreed NO_x emission control limits contained in Regulation 13 in keeping with new technological developments.

MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY WITH JAPAN (TREATY DOC. 108-12)

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty between the United States of America and Japan on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Washington on August 5, 2003 (Treaty Doc. 108-12).

DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF APRIL AS "NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 439, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) to designate the third week of April 2006 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week."

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague Senator ALEXANDER, to introduce a resolution that of the resolution the Senate has passed to proclaim the third week of April of 2006 as Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week. Last year, we passed a similar resolution and continue to support raising awareness of this important issue. I would like to recognize the many groups, particularly the National Shaken Baby Coalition and the SKIPPER Initiative, who support this effort to increase awareness of one of the most devastating forms of child abuse, one that results in the death or lifelong disability of hundreds of children each year.

We must recognize child abuse and neglect as the public health problem it is, one that is linked with a host of other problems facing our country and one that needs the comprehensive approach of our entire public health system to solve. The month of April has been designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month as an annual tradition that was initiated in 1979 by former President Jimmy Carter. In 2006, April is again National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The tragedy of child abuse is well documented. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, NCANDS, almost 900,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2002, causing unspeakable pain and suffering to our most vulnerable citizens. Each day, nearly four of these children die as a result of this abuse. Most experts are certain that cases of child abuse and neglect are in fact underreported.

Abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is recognized as the leading cause of death of physically abused children, especially young children. Shaken Baby Syndrome is a totally preventable form of child abuse that results from a caregiver losing control and shaking a baby, usually an infant who is less than 1 year old. This severe shaking can kill the baby, or it can cause loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, and seizures, resulting in lifelong disabilities and causing untold grief for many families.

Too many families have experienced the pain of Shaken Baby Syndrome. A 2003 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association estimates