

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President. I received a rare personal telephone call today from Secretary Condoleezza Rice, which I appreciated. It was on this subject matter. I told her how I felt. I told her it is unfortunate that this legislation has been put aside since last July until today. I also told her that I personally support the legislation. I cosponsored it. I think it is important legislation.

I told her exactly what I told the majority leader and the Indian Foreign Minister last week; that is, I support this legislation and believe it is very important for the full Senate to act on it very quickly.

This legislation, I believe, is strongly supported by a sizable majority of the Senate. I canvased our side for amendments. We have a number of amendments that have been talked about. I think that is the universe of the amendments, with rare exception. I think these are manageable amendments. They are few in number. And I think we could complete this legislation very quickly. I have directed our floor staff to prepare a unanimous consent request to that effect.

We have a situation where the managers' amendment Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN have come up with—they have not been able to work this out, the two managers. These are two of the most senior Members of the Senate. I hope they can do that in the near future.

So I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader's request be modified as follows: that once the agreement has been reached on the managers' amendment, the Senate begin consideration of S. 3709 under the following limitations: that the managers' amendment be immediately agreed to for purposes of original text, that first-degree amendments deal with similar subject matter as contained in the bill, and that relevant second-degree amendments be in order.

Before the Chair puts the question, I would point out it would be my expectation we could finish this bill very quickly. I think we could finish it in 1 day. It might be a long day, but we could do that. I think we could do that. I think this is important enough that we should have a long day, if necessary, to do this and that agreements would be possible on each of our amendments. On every amendment we would offer, we would agree to a relatively short time limit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as the Democratic leader said, this is a critically important piece of legislation. That is why I wanted to bring it forward tonight and am pleased the Democratic leader so strongly supports the legislation. Our challenge will be to figure out how we can address it with the appropriate concerns. And I understand his state-

ment on the managers' amendment of the chairman and ranking member, that there is a little more work that needs to be done.

Enactment of this legislation will create significant export opportunities for U.S. industry, with job creation, with thousands of new jobs created. There are some technical differences between the House and Senate bills that will have to be worked out in conference. Therefore, I do believe we should address this bill before we leave.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, right now, I will object to the modification of my unanimous consent request. After a brief discussion, we can come back and see if we are close to being able to take this to the floor under this time agreement, with these amendments. I think we ought to lock it down tonight. With that, I object to the modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. FRIST. First, let me go through the remaining business.

Mr. DURBIN. I will wait.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session; provided further that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of the nomination of Charles F. Connor, PN1911, to be a member of the board of directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation; provided further that the Senate proceed to its consideration, the nomination be confirmed, with the motion to reconsider laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Charles F. Connor, of Indiana, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

OBSERVING GLOBAL FAMILY DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 582, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 582) urging the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day and One Day of Peace and Sharing.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read, without intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 582) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 582

Whereas in 2005, the people of the world suffered many calamitous events, including devastation from tsunamis, terror attacks, wars, famines, genocides, hurricanes, earthquakes, political and religious conflicts, diseases, poverty, and rioting, all necessitating global cooperation, compassion, and unity previously unprecedented among diverse cultures, faiths, and economic classes;

Whereas grave global challenges in 2006 may require cooperation and innovative problem-solving among citizens and nations on an even greater scale;

Whereas, on December 15, 2000, Congress adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 138, expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should issue a proclamation each year calling upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe an international day of peace and sharing at the beginning of each year;

Whereas, in 2001, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 56/2, which invited "Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all the peoples of the world to celebrate One Day in Peace, 1 January 2002, and every year thereafter";

Whereas many foreign heads of State have recognized the importance of establishing Global Family Day, a special day of international unity, peace, and sharing, on the first day of each year; and

Whereas family is the basic structure of humanity, thus, we must all look to the stability and love within our individual families to create stability in the global community: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate urgently requests—

(1) the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day and One Day of Peace and Sharing with appropriate activities stressing the need—

(A) to eradicate violence, hunger, poverty, and suffering; and

(B) to establish greater trust and fellowship among peace-loving countries and families everywhere; and

(2) that American businesses, labor organizations, and faith and civic leaders are urged to join in promoting appropriate activities for Americans and in extending appropriate greetings from the families of America to families in the rest of the world.