

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 62.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 62) recognizing the goals of Catholic Schools Week and honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider by laid upon the table

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

The resolution (S. Res. 62) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 62

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,363,220 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas the graduation rate for all Catholic school students is 95 percent;

Whereas 83 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual character and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) commends Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to

education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.J. RES. 20

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.J. Res. 20 has been received from the House and is now at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 20) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is the continuing resolution, which is so important to continuing the functions of this Government, but I am objecting to my own request for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 470

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that S. 470, introduced by Senator LEVIN, is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 470) to express the sense of Congress on Iraq.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading but object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Thursday, February 1; that on Thursday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 11:45 a.m., with Senators per-

mitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Republicans and the next 30 minutes under the control of the majority; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session as under the previous order; that upon resuming legislative session, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2, the minimum wage bill; that all time during the adjournment and morning business count against the postcloture time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, the Senate has completed the amendment process on H.R. 2, and the Senate also invoked cloture on the bill by a vote of 88 to 8. Tomorrow, we will anticipate concluding action on the bill in the afternoon. Once the bill has been completed, there will then be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. Con. Res. 2, the bipartisan Iraq resolution, unless we work something out, as we expressed here at some length tonight.

To remind Members, we will be voting tomorrow prior to noon on three judicial nominations. Those votes are expected to begin at about 11:55 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senator SNOWE of Maine, the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

The Senator from Maine is recognized.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I know the hour is late. I want to speak briefly to the resolution that has been introduced by our most respected Member of the Senate, Senator WARNER, regarding Iraq.

I first ask unanimous consent to be added as a cosponsor.

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

Ms. SNOWE. For the record, I know the Senator from Virginia and the Senator from Michigan have had numerous conversations. The proposed changes in the resolution that was introduced this evening by the Senator from Virginia certainly reflect many of the concerns of those of us who are the cosponsors of the Biden-Hagel-Levin resolution regarding the troop surge. The changes in the proposed resolution now reinforce the opposition to troop increases. It does enhance the position. It solidifies the unified view of those of us who have adopted a position in opposition to the troop surge. It also helps to advance this debate. Now we can begin on a course of deliberation within the Senate.

I join the concerns of Senator WARNER and our Republican leader that we should proceed in consideration of a resolution and not proceed out of order on the Warner resolution. It was introduced as a resolution. It should be debated and voted upon as a resolution here in the Senate. I am pleased, because I think it does unite us now that we have had these types of changes that I think go a long way to making a strong statement with respect to the President's proposed strategy of increasing troops in Iraq.

I thank the Senator from Virginia for offering this resolution as modified so we can proceed and embark on the deliberations that not only consistently are the traditions of this institution but also are consistent with the views of the people of this country that this issue, which is the preeminent one of our time, deserves a full and open debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. I thank our distinguished colleague from Maine. I share her views, as I expressed them with our leader here, that it was certainly always the intention of the Senator from Virginia that this matter should be kept in a resolution status, thereby precluding any necessity for the President to become involved in the sense of a legislative process. I feel confident that what we have put forth are recommendations—not orders to the President, not contravening the President's constitutional authority in any way, but they are the heartfelt thoughts of Senators as to how there could be further modifications in the new strategy in such a way as to hopefully lower the profile of the United States Armed Forces in the Baghdad operation and, thereby, hopefully, wherever possible, not inject them into this sectarian violence which can be better handled by the Iraqis, who understand the Iraqis, who have a far better understanding of the cultural dif-

ferences that give rise to so much of this sectarian strife today. I am optimistic that can come to pass and we can treat this in the resolution status and that Senators can work their free will. There may be ideas far better than what I have embraced in this resolution, together with my colleagues, Senator COLLINS and Senator BEN NELSON. We are open to ideas. It is best that those ideas be exhibited right here on the Senate floor in full view of all to determine their merit.

I thank my colleague. I am honored the Senator sees fit to join us as a cosponsor.

Ms. SNOWE. I want to express my appreciation to the Senator from Virginia, because I do think this resolution reinforces the position of those of us who oppose the troop surge. I couldn't agree with the Senator more about the concerns we have involving the sectarian strife, particularly at a time in which the Iraqi Government has not demonstrated the political resoluteness to confront its own militias, to disarm and demobilize them, to proceed with a political process that would advance in unifying the country. That is long overdue. The time has come for the Iraqi Government and its people to step up and assume those responsibilities. That is why I had for the last few months the deep concern about the increase in the level of troops at a time in which sectarian strife has enveloped the country.

It is time for the Iraqi Government, the Iraqi Army to begin to proceed to take responsibility for the internal problems that are developing. We obviously should move in a different direction and place the pressure on them to do what is right.

Mr. WARNER. I thank our colleague. I also note the Senator from Maine was present on the floor in the course of the colloquy between the distinguished Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, and our distinguished leader, Mr. MCCONNELL. I think they are both working to-

ward trying to find the basis on which this matter can be treated as a resolution, which has been my desire from the first. I believe the Senator shares that view very strongly.

Ms. SNOWE. Absolutely. And I have indicated that concern about introducing this resolution in the form of a bill. I also understand that at some point that bill would obviously be converted to a resolution. But I think we should proceed in regular order and have a full and open debate, as the Senator from Virginia has recommended. I think that is consistent with the traditions and practices of the Senate. And certainly this issue is deserving of open debate for the American people.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator. I am glad she, once again, pointed out that if it were to go into bill status, there is a point in time when I—and I presume you would join me—and others would move to try and have that bill status once again returned to the resolution status before any final action on this or other measures that may come before the Senate in this debate. Senator MCCONNELL all along to all his colleagues has said, me included, that he wanted to try to provide an opportunity for as many viewpoints to be heard, either by resolution or by amendment, as possible.

I also note the Presiding Officer was an original cosponsor on the resolution that I and Senator NELSON and Senator COLLINS put forward.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2007.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 1, 2007, at 10 a.m.