

The resolution (S. Res. 536) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 536

Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by John Wallach, organizes and operates a program that brings together young people and educators from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas Seeds of Peace operates a summer camp in Otisfield, Maine, as well as regional programs around the world, such as the Facilitation Training Course in the Middle East, the Homestay Programs in South Asia, or the International Regional Conferences;

Whereas the first International Conflict Resolution Camp welcomed Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youth the summer of 1993, and the camp has since expanded to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas Seeds of Peace utilizes the summer camp to initiate dialogue between the youth of the United States and youth from various conflict regions to dispel hatred and create religious and cultural understanding;

Whereas hundreds of educators receive training through the regional operations of Seeds of Peace to support and teach peaceful conflict resolution techniques in their classrooms, ensuring that thousands of students around the world are exposed to those techniques;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of youth who are too often exposed to hatred, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities, such as sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and exploring creativity through the arts and computers;

Whereas the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as India-Pakistan and Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions, are currently at critical junctures, and progress toward peace will be enhanced by the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities, through regional programming and the innovative use of technology, to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue in the participants' home countries, where they are most needed;

Whereas youth graduates of the camp, known as "Seeds", currently number more than 4,000, with an additional 567 adult delegation leaders also having completed the camp programming;

Whereas this graduate network receives continued support in promoting professional cooperation;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders;

Whereas Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates the recognized importance of Seeds of Peace in promoting the foreign policy goals of the United States; and

Whereas it is especially important to reaffirm that youth must be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to conflicts perpetuated by cycles of violence: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of the founding of Seeds of Peace;

(2) honors the accomplishments of Seeds of Peace in promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace among youth from the Middle East and other regions of conflict around the world; and

(3) recognizes Seeds of Peace as a model of hope for living together in peace and security.

CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 538 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 538) designating April 30, 2008 as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans," and for other purposes.

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

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I support this resolution designating the 30th day of April 2008 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans." Over the years, the Senate has passed seven similar resolutions in recognition of the young people throughout our country.

Nations throughout the world, and especially within Latin America, celebrate Día de los Niños every April 30th, in recognition and celebration of their country's future, their children. Many American Hispanic families continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day by celebrating Día de los Niños in their homes.

The designation of April 30 as a day to honor the children of our Nation will continue to affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community. This special recognition of children will provide them with an opportunity to reflect on their future aspirations and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities. This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

I am joined in introducing this resolution by a bipartisan group of Senators that includes Senators MENENDEZ, CRAIG, LUGAR, COCHRAN, BROWN, DURBIN, and CRAPO. I urge the remainder of my colleagues to lend their support.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 538) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 538

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children", on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States and are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas, according to the latest Census report, there are more than 44,000,000 individuals of Hispanic descent living in the United States, nearly 15,000,000 of which are children;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and that encourage children to explore and develop confidence;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans", a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2008, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength and the will and fire of the human spirit to make their dreams come true.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST  
TIME—H.R. 5715

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I understand that H.R. 5715 has been received from the House and is at the desk. I would ask for its first reading.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5715) to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 29,  
2008

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 29; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2881, FAA reauthorization; that all time during any period of morning business, recess, or adjournment count against cloture and the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus lunches.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SESSIONS. I wish to again thank Senator SESSIONS. I did not realize that this closing moment would take so long. I appreciate his patience.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

ENERGY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and Senator KLOBUCHAR for her comments. These

things just take time. I fully understand that.

I would share with her a question as to why we would continue to pour large amounts of petroleum into our Reserve when we are clearly at high, even peak prices that seems to me not a good idea. It would help relieve some pressure on price and on supply if we were to suspend that. I also share her concern that on the world market, we are not in a free marketplace. Those experts who said they thought the price ought to be \$50, \$55 a barrel, I don't know what the prices ought to be, but I know OPEC meets and decides what the production level will be. As a prosecutor myself, that is a cartel. That is price fixing, as I understand it. Somehow, we need to make it a part of our sustained national policy to stand up to this.

In one sense, what OPEC does when they drive up the price by limiting production, what they are doing is taxing the United States of America. They just decide how much they are going to tax us for the oil we use. One expert has said that the cost of producing a barrel of oil in those fabulous oil sands in Saudi Arabia is less than \$10 a barrel. So we see what the profit margin is when it hits \$120 a barrel on the world market. Many factors are in it. I know the decline in the dollar and other factors are involved.

But I just want to say that I do think we are moving into a new era of government-controlled oil more than we ever have. Most people think oil companies control it. But recent studies show about 85 percent of oil is owned by nation states. For example, Mexico owns all of its oil and will not allow private industry to participate in its extraction. Because the Government is inefficient and unproductive, their production has fallen, whereas Mexico has huge reserves. Venezuela's production has fallen. Aramco, the Saudi Arabian company, owns theirs, and their production has fallen. As a result, we continue to see shortages on the world market, driving prices up, allowing certain people who are clever and smart and who have invested wisely or aggressively to make billions of dollars.

We have a serious energy problem in the United States. The high costs are impacting the lives of American citizens and farmers and others. There was an article in a local paper—I believe the Mobile Press Register—that I saw today where an individual who has a shrimp boat parked his boat at the dock and said: If the price of shrimp doesn't go up or the price of fuel drop, I cannot make a profit. There is no way I can go out and do this. He docked his boat. There was a similar article in the Florence Times talking about farmers and the increasing cost farmers see from the fuel they use.

Increased demand from India, Southeast Asia, South America, with decreased production around the globe, has created the opportunity for prices

and profits to grow for certain people who are wisely positioned.

During my last trip to Alabama for a week, I had townhall meetings and visited with people throughout the State. Energy prices were the No. 1 thing people talked to me about. It is having a real impact on their family budget. The price of regular unleaded gasoline climbed to \$3.50 a gallon. A year ago, it was \$2.84, and 2 years ago, it was \$2.74. That is a 28-percent increase in 2 years. This helps explain the economic doldrums and slowdown we are in. The typical American family with two cars is paying about \$750 to \$1,000 more per year for the same amount of fuel they were buying the previous year. That represents \$70, \$80 a month of disposable income that previously they could use for other things for their family. It is now going to buy the same amount of fuel they were using the year before or 2 years before. This represents a huge economic hit to the American family.

There is another adverse, serious problem for America as a nation: More than 60 percent of the fuel we utilize in our vehicles comes from places such as Saudi Arabia and Venezuela and Russia and Mexico, some of which countries are not friendly to us. That represents a \$400 billion transfer of wealth on an annual basis from this country. Businessman T. Boone Pickens, in a recent interview in the American Spectator, referred to this as "the greatest transfer of wealth in the history of mankind." That is a pretty smart guy. He is an oil man himself. He said we have to do something about this. It is not something we can just ignore.

Of course, there is no silver bullet to solving the problems, but there are some basic principles we should respect. We must increase supplies in our own country, increase production in our country, which we certainly can do and which I regret to say we have attempted in this Senate and in the House more than once, to be blocked by various groups that seem to complain about high energy prices but don't want to do anything to allow us to produce more in the United States. We must conserve more energy. I supported the increased gas mileage standards which represent a substantial improvement. Maybe we can even do more. We certainly must try to use more biofuels, if we can, although under current technologies, we are reaching the limits. But I think other technology will help us in the future to expand the amount of biofuels we can use. We must use the fuel we have more efficiently.

The Government does have a responsibility to ensure that we have fairness in the world marketplace and in the American marketplace and to make sure these cartels openly fixing the price of oil do not succeed. As I will discuss in a minute, I think we should take a serious look at establishing a policy with regard to diesel fuel. I will mention that in a moment.