

FOREIGN RELATIONS
REVITALIZATION ACT OF 1995

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2033

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, yesterday I proposed an amendment to instruct the United States delegation as to the sense of the Congress regarding the representative American perspective the United States delegation should promote at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women which will be held in Beijing, China from September 4 to 15, 1995. I am pleased that the amendment was adopted today by voice vote.

My amendment instructs the U.S. delegates to recognize the importance of motherhood, to uphold the traditional family as the fundamental unit of society upon which healthy cultures are built, and to define or agree with definitions of gender only as the biological classification of male and female.

Most Americans would be surprised to learn that an amendment of this nature was even necessary. Most Americans would respond that of course a U.S. delegation to an international conference would be eager to uphold the family as the fundamental unit of society and of course, that there are only two genders, male and female.

However, the delegates to the Fourth World Conference on Women have made these simple concepts an issue, and therefore, we need to be clear that our U.S. delegation represents the views of most Americans.

At the last preconference meeting, held in New York City in March 1995, one nation suggested that the word "mother" be removed from the platform document and replaced with "caretaker."

What about the traditional family? We have heard a great deal of discussion lately about families and the important role they play in the well-being of children and society. Conservatives and liberals alike are lamenting the breakdown of the American family and the dire consequences—such as increased crime, high teen pregnancy rates, drug use and lower educational performance which result from a breakdown in the family and family values.

On all sides of the political spectrum there is a growing understanding that the family is the single most important factor in combating these problems.

Finally, on the issue of gender Mr. President, this issue on its face seems ridiculous. At the March 15, 1995 Preparatory Committee meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, delegates prepared a draft platform. The word gender appears 184 times in that document. The use of gender had never been an issue as a majority of delegates assumed that the term did not need definition.

In response to the various questions about the definition of gender, the con-

ference leadership floated the definition:

Gender refers to the relationship between women and men based on socially defined roles that are assigned to one sex or the other.

Delegates pressed for bracketing the word gender until a definition could be agreed upon. Bella Abzug of the U.S. delegation in an angry speech contested the bracketing saying:

We will not be forced back in the "biology is destiny" concept . . . the meaning of the word "gender" has evolved as differentiated from the word sex to express the reality that women's and men's roles and status are socially constructed and subject to change.

Many delegates became convinced that this move to refine gender was designed to forward an entirely different agenda, and not to further the interests of ordinary women, the primary purpose of the Conference.

When many of these delegations sought to define gender as "male and female, the two sexes of human being" that definition proved unacceptable to many Western nations and even the U.S. delegation did not want to be bound by a two-gender definition. The United Nations responded to these concerns by issuing a statement that said "gender is a relative concept" and its "roles can vary with time and circumstance."

It is for that reason that my amendment sought to ensure that the U.S. delegation agree with the definition of gender as the biological classification of male and female, which are the two sexes of the human being.

Mr. President, the purpose of my amendment was to ensure that those who represent the women of the United States at a world conference on women must indeed be representative of the majority of the women in America. The amendment which the Senate adopted today sends a strong message in support of motherhood and the family, and traditional values which have made America a great nation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 908, the State Department Reorganization bill:

Bob Dole, Jesse Helms, John McCain, Fred Thompson, Olympia Snowe, Jim Inhofe, Lauch Faircloth, Spence Abraham, Trent Lott, Strom Thurmond, Larry E. Craig, Don Nickles, Mitch McConnell, Bob Smith, John Ashcroft, Nancy Landon Kassebaum.

CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 908, the State Department reorganization bill, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are required.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 346 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Abraham	Gorton	Murkowski
Ashcroft	Gramm	Nickles
Bennett	Grams	Packwood
Bond	Grassley	Pell
Brown	Gregg	Pressler
Burns	Hatch	Roth
Campbell	Hatfield	Santorum
Chafee	Helms	Shelby
Coats	Hutchison	Simpson
Cochran	Inhofe	Smith
Cohen	Jeffords	Snowe
Coverdell	Kassebaum	Specter
Craig	Kempthorne	Stevens
D'Amato	Kyl	Thomas
DeWine	Lott	Thompson
Dole	Lugar	Thurmond
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Faircloth	McCain	
Frist	McConnell	

NAYS—45

Akaka	Feingold	Leahy
Baucus	Feinstein	Levin
Biden	Ford	Lieberman
Bingaman	Glenn	Mikulski
Boxer	Graham	Moseley-Braun
Bradley	Harkin	Moynihan
Breaux	Heflin	Murray
Bryan	Hollings	Nunn
Bumpers	Inouye	Pryor
Byrd	Johnston	Reid
Conrad	Kennedy	Robb
Daschle	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Dodd	Kerry	Sarbanes
Dorgan	Kohl	Simon
Exon	Lautenberg	Wellstone

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, and the nays are 45. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I am going to give President Clinton an opportunity to micromanage the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When he is in the mood to have some ambassadors confirmed or some treaties considered, and that sort of thing, all he has to do is send word that he no longer believes in that memorandum that was circulated by the Agency for International Development, the memorandum that said the way the administration is going to beat this bill is to "delay, postpone, obfuscate, derail." Well, his minions have done that in denying an opportunity to have cloture on this bill.

Invariably, as the Senators know, and as one of the reporters said, the shoe is on the other foot—and that is correct. But this is an important bill, and the budget requirements of the Foreign Relations Committee cannot be met without this bill, or some bill very close to it.