

MIDDLE EAST PEACE  
FACILITATION ACT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2161, the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, just received from the House; that the bill be read three times, passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to this measure be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

So the bill (H.R. 2161) was deemed read the third time and passed.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 165, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Social Security Act, submitted earlier today by Senators PACKWOOD and MOYNIHAN; that the resolution and preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; further, that any statements on this measure appear in the RECORD at the appropriate place as though read.

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

So the resolution (S. Res. 165) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 165

Whereas on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, which represents one of the most significant legislative achievements of the 20th century;

Whereas the Social Security Act represents a national commitment between the American Government and the people;

Whereas Social Security is one of our Nation's most popular and effective programs with a 60-year track record;

Whereas 141,000,000 persons, along with their employers, pay into the Social Security system;

Whereas Social Security is an earned benefit for workers and their families when a wage earner retires, becomes disabled, or dies;

Whereas over 44,000,000 persons, including 3,000,000 children, receive Social Security benefits that are automatically adjusted for inflation;

Whereas over 95 percent of those age 65 and over are eligible for Social Security benefits, 4 out of 5 workers have worked long enough so that they could get Social Security benefits if they become severely disabled, and 98 percent of today's children would receive a monthly Social Security benefit if a working parent died;

Whereas Social Security benefits provide a financial base for retirement, to be supplemented by private savings and pensions;

Whereas Social Security is the Nation's most successful antipoverty program, saving 15,000,000 people from poverty;

Whereas Social Security is viewed by the public as one of the most important Government programs and as a pillar of economic security;

Whereas Social Security benefits help to maintain the independence and dignity of all who receive such benefits;

Whereas the American public has rejected cutting Social Security to reduce the deficit;

Whereas Social Security is a self-financed program that in 1994 had over \$436,000,000,000 in reserves;

Whereas reforms of Social Security benefits historically have been made only to strengthen the program's long-term integrity and solvency; and

Whereas Congress recently enacted legislation establishing the Social Security Administration as an independent agency so as to strengthen its ability to better serve beneficiaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Social Security Act is hereby commended on its 60th anniversary.

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, today, with Senator MOYNIHAN, I am submitting a resolution commending the 60th anniversary of the signing of the 1935 Social Security Act.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act on August 14, 1935. The act, in addition to provisions for general welfare programs, created a social insurance program to pay retired workers, age 65 or older, an income after retirement from the work force.

In signing the Social Security Act, President Roosevelt said:

We can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life, but we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age . . .

In saluting this 60th anniversary, Senator MOYNIHAN and I emphasize the economic security that this measure of protection has brought to millions of Americans. Our attention will continue to be focused on maintaining the solvency of the Social Security trust funds so that these earned benefits will continue to be provided to working Americans in the future.

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, Monday August 14 marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Social Security Act by President Franklin Roosevelt in the Cabinet Room of the White House. I am pleased to introduce today, along with Senator PACKWOOD, a resolution honoring this event.

As we celebrate this occasion we marvel at the confidence of President Roosevelt and his advisers who, in the midst of the despair of the Great Depression, could conceive of a Social Security program for the United States. President Roosevelt, a former Governor of New York, appointed a Committee on Economic Security chaired by Francis Perkins also of New York. And as the senior Senator from New York, I take pride in the fact that a third New Yorker—Senator Robert Wagner—introduced the Economic Security Act in 1935 which resulted in the Social Security Act that President Roosevelt signed 5 months later. And from that moment the program evolved along a natural course.

In 1995, as a result of this evolutionary process: 141 million persons will work in employment covered by Social Security; 95 percent of persons aged 65 and over as either receiving retirement benefits or eligible to receive benefits; 98 percent of children under 18 are eligible for survivor benefits if a working parent dies; and 80 percent of men and women aged 21 to 64 are eligible for benefits in the event of prolonged disability.

To continue this success story into the next century requires a Social Security program that is soundly financed, boldly administered, and widely supported.

The best way to maintain a strong Social Security program is by maintaining public support for the program. And here we need to pay attention to what is happening and why.

Polls consistently show that a majority of nonretired adults have little or no confidence in Social Security. And no wonder why. Despite the fact that we pay into the Social Security system every week we never hear from them. Or at least that was the case until now.

As result of legislation that I first introduced in 1988 and that was subsequently included in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989, the Social Security Administration, this year, began sending out annual benefit statements to future Social Security recipients.

These personal earnings and benefit estimate statement [PEBES] provide estimates of benefits that individuals may be eligible to receive, including retirement, survivors, disability, and dependents benefits.

Sixty years ago President Roosevelt and his advisers—in the midst of a depression—could look forward with confidence as they built a Social Security system.

Today our economy is eight times larger than the 1935 economy—and on a per-capita basis we are four times richer. Clearly we can afford Social Security.

As needed, the system will be modified to reflect changing demographics and labor markets. But those changes must be guided by a simple principle enunciated in the 1983 report of the National Commission on Social Security Reform—the Greenspan Commission on which I proudly served:

The National Commission believes that changes in the Social Security program should be made only for programmatic reasons, and not for the purposes of balancing the budget.

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS  
WEEK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 150, Senate Resolution 103.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 103) to proclaim the week of October 15 through October 21, 1995,