

The bill on illegal immigration is a very important bill. We ought to protect our borders. We ought to take it up, in my view, separately. On the bill on legal immigration, I have already stated my intention to introduce an amendment, but I think it worthwhile to make this statement in the Chamber of the Senate so it will appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my colleagues and others will have notice as to what I intend to do.

But the amendment would make the following changes. First it would increase the worldwide level of employment-based visas from 90,000 to 135,000 a year. Second, it would eliminate the fee that employers must pay for each immigrant employee they sponsor, which is now \$10,000 or 10 percent of the employee's compensation annually, whichever is greater. Third, my amendment would eliminate the fee that certain employers must pay for each temporary foreign worker that they employ.

Next, it restores the maximum length of the H visa to 6 years and the maximum length of the L visa to 7 years. Next, it restores the "Outstanding Researchers and Professors," which is a category that is exempt from the labor market screening requirement. It also eliminates the requirement that employers must pay foreign workers 105 percent of prevailing wages.

Mr. President, there has been an effort made to limit legal immigration under the general guise of protecting American workers. But I believe this bill is exactly wrong and exactly counterproductive because the kinds of people who are going to be excluded from this bill are Ph.D.'s, scientists, M.D.'s, and those who have great proficiency and capability for adding much to employment potential in this country.

In 1989-90, I sponsored the lead amendment to add people to come in people who were in demand in industry. I did that because the chamber of commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers were interested in that as a job-producing approach. Again, this year, after having meetings with extensive numbers of my constituents in Pennsylvania, both in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, I have found that there is a tremendous demand for these highly skilled people, and that the people are not available in the United States to take the jobs. Rather than decreasing employment opportunities for American workers, the bringing in of these additional people will increase the employment opportunities.

I also say, Mr. President, that Americans should never lose sight of the fact that this is a nation of immigrants. It is something that I feel particularly strongly about since both of my parents were immigrants.

My father came to the United States at the age of 18, literally walked across Europe from the Ukraine with barely a ruble in his pocket, rode steerage, the bottom of the boat, to come to America for a better life for himself and his family.

My father was a great contributor to the United States. He did not know when he came over steerage he had a round-trip ticket back to Europe, back to France, not to Paris and the Follies Bergere, but to the Argonne Forest, where he served with great pride in the United States Army. He rose to the rank of buck private. I say that somewhat facetiously because my dad was at the bottom of the totem pole in rank but at the top of the totem pole in dedication, loyalty, bravery.

In the Argonne Forest, he sustained shrapnel in his legs, wounds he carried with him until the day he died. But he was a great American, a great contributor to this country. He was an immigrant. If he had been barred from the United States, I would not be in the U.S. Senate today. In fact, I would not be.

My mother, too, came as an immigrant, as a child of 5 with her parents from a small town on the Russian-Polish border. She, too, was a great American, raising a family. My brother, two sisters and I have had the advantage of an education in America and have been able to share in the American dream, as have so many Americans. More than sharing in the American dream, the immigrants have created the American dream. This is a factor that I think has to be borne in mind.

I talked to my distinguished colleague, Senator SIMPSON, about this bill. Senator SIMPSON made the unusual effort of coming to see me twice. When Senator SIMPSON walked in, he said, "I've been here for lunch frequently with the Wednesday Group, but I never looked at the pictures." I showed Senator SIMPSON a picture of Mordecai Shem, my mother's father, who came in 1905, another great American. I showed him a picture of my father in military uniform marrying my mother in St. Joe in 1919.

I said to Senator SIMPSON, "I'm going to agree with you on just about nothing on this immigration bill." I think the future of our country is wrapped up in inviting these highly skilled, highly trained immigrants to create more jobs and more prosperity in America.

AN OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am optimistic today that the Congress will move forward with an omnibus appropriations bill to cover the departments now not covered in existing legislation. I have been particularly concerned about what has happened to the subcommittee of Appropriations which I have the honor to chair, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. The absence of an appropriations bill in these departments has been very, very, very problematic.

It has been impossible for the Secretary of Labor to plan on worker safety and impossible for the Secretary of Education to advise various States as

to the allocation of their funding. It has been impossible for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make allocations on very important items, although we have taken some items out like the National Institutes of Health, where we have maintained, again, an increased appropriation on that very important line.

I had scheduled last week a hearing of the three Secretaries to outline the needs of their Departments and to the approaches which they might be able to take. I deferred that hearing because, in the absence of knowing how much the additional funding would be, it was impossible to have that hearing in a meaningful way.

I had been in touch with the Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, on a number of occasions spreading over several weeks trying to push ahead to see to it that we had an opportunity to construct this legislation well in advance of the March 15 date when the current continuing resolution would expire.

As a matter of fact, I even made an effort to talk to Chief of Staff Panetta when he was traveling with the President recently, when he traveled Friday to Wilkes-Barre, where the President was due to stop to look at flood damage in Pennsylvania, which was very extensive. There is flood damage all over the State, not only with the Susquehanna in Wilkes-Barre, the Lackawanna River in Scranton, and the Susquehanna through central Pennsylvania, very great damage off Dauphin and Cumberland counties, other places, Pittsburgh as well, and western Pennsylvania.

When the President came to Wilkes-Barre, he was scheduled to have Mr. Panetta with him. I thought I would be able to get the facts there. But Chief of Staff Panetta had left the party, so I had a chance to talk with the President about the additional funding. The President was in agreement we needed to do just that.

Yesterday I was advised that there would be an additional \$4.5 billion in budget authority, slightly in excess of \$1.7 billion in budget outlays, so we can go ahead.

I am looking forward to rescheduling the hearing with Secretary of Labor Reich, Secretary of Health and Human Services Shalala, Secretary of Education Riley, to make a determination as to where those funds ought to be added.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my letter to Chief of Staff Leon Panetta dated February 20, 1996, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
Washington, DC, February 20, 1996.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Chief of Staff, the White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEON: I called again this morning to try to find out from you the possible offsets to add approximately \$3.3 billion for appropriations for my Subcommittee on Labor,

Health and Human Services and Education. As you know, when we talked the week before last, you expected to be able to identify those offsets by last Tuesday. When I caught up with you on Friday, you thought the offsets could at least be identified by today.

As I had mentioned to you, a Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for February 21 to hear from Secretary Reich, Secretary Shalala and Secretary Riley to try to structure an appropriations bill which the President would sign with the additional funding.

I believe it is advisable to defer that hearing until we can identify the amount of the additional funding and the offsets so that we can pass a bill in advance of the March 15 expiration of the continuing resolution.

As I have said on many occasions, I think it is very important that we move ahead on these preliminary steps forthwith because I anticipate many controversial issues in the Senate floor debate and then a House-Senate conference which could take considerable time.

As I mentioned to you when we talked Friday afternoon, I had hoped to see you in Wilkes-Barre with the Presidential party, but I understood you had to leave in advance of that stop.

At Wilkes-Barre, I discussed with President Clinton the urgency of identifying these offsets. The President said he had already discussed the offsets with you and agreed on the importance of moving ahead promptly to identify additional funding for these three important departments.

As soon as you can advise me on the additional funding and the offsets, we shall move ahead to reschedule the hearing.

Sincerely,

ARLEN SPECTER.

Mr. SPECTER. In the absence of any other Senator on the floor, Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. 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 29, 1996

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 11 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, and that immediately following the prayer, the Journal of the proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that there be a period for morning business until the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator MURKOWSKI for 15 minutes, Senator DORGAN for 20 minutes.

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

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO REPORT LEGISLATION REGARDING SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WHITEWATER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on

Rules have until the hour of 5 p.m. today in order to report legislation regarding the special committee on Whitewater.

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2196) to amend the Stevenson-Wydler technology cooperative research and development agreements, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1494. An act to provide an extension for fiscal year 1996 for certain programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2196. An act to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development agreements, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 520

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 520, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit for adoption expenses.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify the liability of certain recycling transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restructure and replace the income tax system of the United States to meet national priorities, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to place restrictions on the promotion by the Department of Labor and other Federal agencies and instrumentalities of economically targeted investments in connection with employee benefit plans.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. WELLSTONE], the Senator from

Georgia [Mr. NUNN], the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG], and the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] were added as cosponsors of S. 837, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of James Madison.

SENATE RESOLUTION 215

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 215, a resolution to designate June 19, 1996, as "National Baseball Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 224

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 224, a resolution to designate September 23, 1996, as "National Baseball Heritage Day."

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. FRIST):

S. Res. 226. A resolution to proclaim the week of October 13 through October 19, 1996, as "National Character Counts Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. Res. 227. An original resolution to authorize the use of additional funds for salaries and expenses of the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—RELATIVE TO NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. NUNN, Mr. DODD, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. DORGAN, and Mr. FRIST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 226

Whereas young people will be the stewards of our communities, nation, and world in critical times, and the present and future well-being of our society requires an involved, caring citizenry with good character;

Whereas concerns about the character training of children have taken on a new sense of urgency as violence by and against youth threatens the physical and psychological well-being of the nation;

Whereas, more than ever, children need strong and constructive guidance from their families and their communities, including schools, youth organizations, religious institutions and civic groups;

Whereas the character of a nation is only as strong as the character of its individual citizens;

Whereas the public good is advanced when young people are taught the importance of good character, and that character counts in