

TITLE II

Section 201 sets out the short title of the Act.

Section 202 establishes a mechanism for certain Nicaraguans and Cubans who have been present in the United States since 1995 to adjust to the status of lawful permanent resident.

Section 203 modifies certain transition rules established by IIRIRA with regard to suspension of deportation and cancellation of removal. The changes state that the "stop time" rule established by that Act in section 240A of the INA shall apply generally to individuals in deportation proceedings before April 1, 1997, with certain exceptions. They also state that the rule shall not apply to certain applicants for suspension of deportation. The exception includes certain Salvadorans and Guatemalans who were members of the ABC class or applied for asylum by April 1, 1990 and derivatives as specified in the statute, as well as applicants from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe who came here by December 31, 1990 and applied for asylum by December 31, 1991 and derivatives as specified in the statute. Section 203 also makes clear that in order to obtain cancellation these individuals have to meet the standards laid out in that section, rather than the ones laid out in section 240A of the INA. Finally, the section provides for temporary reductions in visas available under the "diversity" and "other workers" immigration categories, with the reduction in the latter to take effect after those in the backlog have received visas.

Section 204 makes technical and clarifying changes to certain provisions in section 240A(e) of the INA. •

HISTORIC TOWN HALL MEETING IN BILLINGS, MONTANA

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of one city in Montana in addressing the issues of gangs, violence and kids.

On September 29, 1997, a historic town hall meeting took place in Billings, Montana. This cooperative and coordinated effort involved the media, school officials, and community leaders. It also involved a critical component: experts in addressing gang activity from Los Angeles. Together this effort created an hour-long video conference called "Gangs, Violence and Kids" and aired it on every major media outlet in the Billings area.

This presentation incorporated a panel and studio audience format which brought in a cross-section of the population, including teenagers, represented in the region. Concerns were raised, perceptions were addressed, and issues were confronted in an honest and straightforward manner.

By no means an end to itself, this town hall meeting has launched a series of follow-up gatherings, a foundation, a mentoring connection and a pipeline of support for ongoing programs like the U.S. Department of Justice's Weed and Seed program for Billings and surrounding communities has been established.

Beginning last week, a series of 30-second public service announcements were aired to address the issues raised in the town hall meeting. This cam-

aign will contribute to the community's understanding of how these important issues affect all our neighborhoods. I especially appreciate the significant commitment by those who have agreed to continue in their role as advocates for change.

I am extremely proud of what Billings has accomplished and how its residents strive to respond to important issues. I hope my colleagues will agree that this successful effort in Billings is a model that can be duplicated in their community. •

FUNDING FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to express my disappointment that—due to compromises made during negotiations over three separate conference reports, the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for FY 1998, the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill for FY 1998, and the State Department Authorization Act for FY 1998—conferees were forced to trade away authorization and appropriations that would have cleared existing U.S. debt to the United Nations. As the Senate adjourns for the holiday recess, only a fraction of the \$900 million in arrears payments that was originally proposed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on which I serve was included in the CJS appropriations bill.

Mr. President, what this means is that we will still be in substantial debt to the United Nations.

Mr. President, the United Nations is not a perfect organization. I certainly have some real concerns about the size and extent of the UN bureaucracy, for example. Just as with any organization this big, we must be on guard against possible mismanagement or abuse, and certainly the U.N. system has had its share of both.

But at the same time, I think that U.S. participation in the United Nations—with all the benefits and costs that membership implies—is an indispensable tool in this country's foreign policy bag. When it operates effectively, the United Nations provides a framework to serve U.S. interests at the same time that it achieves economies of scale.

Just this week, Mr. President, the United States is working within the U.N. structure to assert a united front against the flagrant abuses of international law exercised by Iraq in recent weeks. Mr. President, if nothing else, the crisis in Iraq aptly demonstrates the value of the United Nations to our country.

I would make a similar point about the role the United Nations plays in peacekeeping operations. U.N. forces have participated in more than 40 peacekeeping operations around the world since 1948. Members of this body may have disagreements over whether or not each and every one of those was necessary, but when you look at places where the U.N. has been instrumental

in maintaining cease-fires or providing humanitarian relief, it is clear that the United States can achieve its national interest goals at a lower cost to U.S. taxpayers than would be possible if the United States tried to do it alone.

Mr. President, during the listening sessions that I conduct in the 72 counties in the state of Wisconsin, I hear sympathetic words from my constituents about the need for the involvement of the international community in times of crisis. But they also express hesitation about sending their sons and daughters to fight in far-away conflicts.

The United Nations provides a mechanism through which the United States can contribute to international security without having to send our own troops every time there is a problem.

The U.N. reform and funding package that was agreed to in the Foreign Relations Committee was a carefully crafted compromise between those that would limit or eliminate U.S. participation in the United Nations and those that would like to see a fully funded and active United Nations.

But, Mr. President, due to the intransigence of some of our colleagues in the other body, it appears that the moral and legal obligations of the United States to pay its debts to the United Nations have been sacrificed to serve an unrelated domestic interest.

The compromise package worked out in our Committee would have gradually decreased the amount of our assessed contribution to the United Nations from the current level of 25 percent, to 20 percent by fiscal year 2001. Assuming the budget for the United Nations remained constant, the time line set forth in this package could have saved the US taxpayer at least \$375 million over the next four years from a combination of savings from the assessments and from budget discipline. It would have allowed us to continue our participation in the United Nations, which I think is important, while at the same time achieving some real cost savings for the taxpayer.

Now, with authorization of repayment of these arrears in jeopardy, it remains unclear how the United States will manage to clean the slate with the United Nations.

Mr. President, I hope we will be able to resolve this issue when the Senate returns for the 2d session of the 105th Congress. •

NATIONAL D-DAY MEMORIAL

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on Tuesday, I was privileged to attend the dedication of the National D-Day memorial. Located in Bedford, VA, among the grandeur of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this memorial truly dignifies those who participated in the historic military operation of June 6, 1944.

As many of my colleagues may recall, there had not been a national memorial honoring those who served in