

when Greece began to reassert its historic role as a leading light of democracy. In 1821, when valiant Greeks raised the flag of revolt against their Ottoman Turk oppressors, they were striking a blow for liberty that captivated freedom-loving men and women all over Europe, and in the young American Republic. Thomas Jefferson was inspired enough to become involved in the Greek struggle in the twilight of his life. In the summer of 1823 the Greek Hellenist and patriot Adamantios Koraes wrote to our third president, requesting advice on drawing up a constitution for the liberated Greece he was certain would be achieved.

Jefferson's lengthy reply detailed his views on the fundamentals of democracy—freedom of religion, freedom of person (habeas corpus), trial by jury, the exclusive right of legislation and taxation reserved to the representatives of the people, and freedom of the press. The 80-year-old scholar-president concluded his letter with a moving tribute to Greece's unique importance to the world.

It took nearly a decade more of struggle until Greeks once again became masters in their own house. And maintaining Greece's independence and freedom over the ensuing 163 years has proven not to be easy.

Greece has had to cope with internal divisions and external threats. Seemingly unending arguments over the Greek constitution and form of government occupied much of the nineteenth century. Then came the two Balkan wars, World War I, the Anatolian War, World War II, the Civil War that pitted Greek against Greek, and after a peaceful, if troubled, interlude, the short-lived dictatorship of the Colonels.

Thankfully, today we can celebrate nearly a quarter-century of restored democracy and peace in Greece. Greece is now solidly integrated economically and politically in the European Union.

Greece's relations with most of its neighbors have improved. Despite some lingering problems, relations are relatively good with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and with Albania. Greece continues to maintain a solid relationship with Bulgaria.

I will not hide the fact that—like every other country—Greece still faces formidable problems. Athens' relations with Ankara remain stormy. Turkey continues its illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus and its belligerent behavior in the Aegean.

Moreover, the state of the Greek economy still leaves much to be desired. Let us be honest—as in the United States, there have been gross inefficiencies and wasteful policies. Greece will have to put its financial house in order if it hopes to take part fully in the ambitious integration that the European Union foresees in the coming years. I am confident that Prime Minister Simitis' reform program will bear fruit.

Improving Greece's economy and finding ways to improve relations with Turkey are daunting tasks. But one look at hard-working, talented Greek-Americans, assures me that Greeks everywhere will continue to triumph over adversity and will remain an inspirational democratic ally.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 171) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 171

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people; Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of the only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas the heroism displayed in the historic World War II Battle of Crete epitomized Greece's sacrifice for freedom and democracy as it presented the Axis land war with its first major setback and set off a chain of events which significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 1998, marks the 177th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 25, 1998, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy"; and

(2) requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

#### AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 238, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 238) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds

for a breast cancer survivors event sponsored by the National Race for the Cure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements on this resolution appear in the RECORD at this point.

There being no objection, the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 238) was considered and agreed to.

#### PERMITTING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 206, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

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

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask consent the resolution be deemed agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 206) was deemed agreed to.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1998

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, before closing I ask consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19; immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then begin a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes each with the following exceptions: Senator COVERDELL or his designee, 30 minutes from 9:30 until 10:00; Senator REID, 30 minutes from 10:00 until 10:30; Senator HAGEL or his designee, 30 minutes from 10:30 until 11 a.m.; Senator TORRICELLI for 10 minutes; Senator BRYAN for 10 minutes; and Senator GRAHAM of Florida for 10 minutes.

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

Mr. LOTT. I also ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to resume

consideration of treaty document 105-36 dealing with the NATO expansion.

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

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that at 5:15 p.m., the time prior to the previously scheduled cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the Coverdell A+ education account bill, be equally divided in the usual form between Senator COVERDELL and Senator DASCHLE.

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

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#### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. So then tomorrow the Senate will be in the morning business period from 9:30 until 11:30. Under the previous consent, then at 11:30 we will go back to the NATO expansion treaty. All Senators with amendments to the treaty are encouraged to contact the managers of the treaty with their amendments in hopes of making considerable progress on the treaty during Thursday's session. I want to emphasize the bulk of the day tomorrow, from 11:30 until 5:15, that entire time, will be devoted to discussion or debate on the NATO enlargement issue. We hope that amendments can be offered. We want to give the Senate ample time to think about this issue and debate it, have amendments and to have votes.

We are double-tracking it now, while we await the cloture votes on the education bill, but that is quite often done. It is in no way intended to diminish the importance of NATO enlargement. It is, in fact, intended to begin the process for Senators and the American people in every way possible to think about this issue, make sure we are doing the right thing. And I think it is the right thing to have the NATO enlargement.

Then, when we complete the education bill, whenever that comes, we will meet with interested and involved Senators on both sides, see how much more time is needed, what other amendments are pending, and then we would stay on it until it is completed. I hope we could get that done by a reasonable time next week, hopefully Wednesday or Thursday. But it is a very important issue and we will continue working on it until we are convinced that Senators are satisfied they have had their say. Then we would go to the recorded vote.

Also, under the previous consent, then, at 5:15 the Senate would debate H.R. 2646, the Coverdell education bill, for 30 minutes prior to the previously scheduled 5:45 cloture vote on the bill.

We may actually move that time a little bit so that we can have an earlier vote. As a matter of fact, Madam President, I will change my earlier unanimous consent request and ask consent that the cloture votes previously ordered on H.R. 2646 now occur at 5:15 p.m. and the debate time earlier agreed to actually occur now at 4:45.

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

Mr. LOTT. I want to remind all Members that first-degree amendments to H.R. 2646 must be filed by 1 p.m. on Thursday, and second-degree amendments must be filed by 4:45 tomorrow—it's now 4:15—under the most recent agreement. Second-degree amendments must be filed by 4:15.

In addition, the Senate may consider other legislative or Executive Calendar business cleared for Senate action. We do have some Executive Calendar items I hope we can take up before the end of the week.

So Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout Thursday's session with the ones that I have already mentioned scheduled for sure to occur at, I believe, 5:15 now.

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#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator CONRAD.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

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#### TOBACCO LEGISLATION

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair. Madam President, I especially thank her for locating me properly in North Dakota. We are very sensitive about that up our way, as you can imagine. I also thank the leader for accommodating me in this way.

Moments ago, we heard the Senator from Iowa speak on the budget and the fact that we are considering the budget in the Budget Committee. I wanted to make just a few observations on what is occurring there and what has led us to this point.

In 1993, the Democrats passed an economic plan that was a 5-year plan. That plan cut spending and it also raised income taxes on the wealthiest 1.5 percent of the people in this country. Many criticized us for that plan at the time, doubting that it would reduce the deficit as we believed, doubting that it would strengthen the economy as we believed, and doubting that it would reduce unemployment and inflation as we believed. But now we are able to look back and see the record and the record is clear. The 1993 economic plan has worked and worked remarkably well. It worked so well that this year we are actually contemplating a balanced budget on a unified basis. That will be the first time in 30 years that the United States has had a balanced budget on a unified basis. When I use those words "on a unified basis," that simply means that we are looking at all of the spending and all of the revenue of the Federal Government. All of them are put together. They are accumulated in order to determine balance.

As a result of that economic policy and economic plan that was put in place, we have enjoyed a remarkable

economic resurgence in this country. We have very strong economic growth, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest inflation in 30 years. The size of the Government in relationship to the size of our entire economy has been coming down steadily. We have the smallest size of Government in this country in 30 years. But the job is not yet done, because it is also true that we continue to use Social Security trust fund surpluses in order to achieve balance. So the next great challenge is to stop using the Social Security trust fund surpluses. That is why the President has called on us to save Social Security first, before we use any of those surpluses for any other purpose.

The Democrats subscribe to that position. I am pleased to report in the budget that has been put before us by the chairman of the Budget Committee, he, too, has subscribed to the notion of saving Social Security first and not using the surpluses for any other purpose until we resolve the long-term solvency of the Social Security system. But we do have a problem with the budget resolution laid down by the chairman today. The problem that we have is that many of us believe that it endangers comprehensive tobacco legislation, comprehensive national tobacco policy. The reason for that is in the chairman's mark he has provided that if we do get revenues from tobacco, that they can only be used for the Medicare system.

Madam President, I would be the first to acknowledge the great importance of the Medicare system. But I do not believe that the chairman's mark solves the Medicare problem. I do not think he makes any representation that it does.

What is required to save Medicare for the long term is Medicare reform. That is why we have a bipartisan commission that worked this year to prepare us an outline as to how we strengthen Medicare for the long term.

But I think it is also fair to say that Medicare is not a national tobacco policy, and we need a national tobacco policy. If we are going to have comprehensive legislation, if we are going to have a resolution of the tobacco controversy, the experts have told us we need a comprehensive plan, one that has as its highest priority protecting the public health, one that has as its highest priority the reduction of teen smoking, because we all know that 90 percent of smokers start before they are 19, fully half start before age 14.

So if we are really going to do something to protect the public health, we need to act to prevent people from taking up the habit. That means if we get tobacco revenues, we should use part of that money for smoking cessation programs, smoking prevention programs, countertobacco advertising programs, health research, and, yes, Medicare, and we Democrats also believe, yes, Social Security.

We believe some of the money should be saved for strengthening both Medicare and Social Security, but we don't