

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 90

Whereas the people of Ireland have experienced civil conflict throughout their history with the latest phase, known as The Troubles, ongoing for the last thirty years;

Whereas this tragic history has cost the lives of thousands of men, women, and children, and has left a deep and profound legacy of suffering;

Whereas the governments of the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom have endeavored for many years to facilitate a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Northern Ireland; and such efforts, including the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement, the 1993 Joint Declaration, and the 1995 New Framework for Agreement, were important milestones in guiding the parties toward a political agreement;

Whereas the announced cessation of armed hostilities in 1994 by the Irish Republican Army and the Combined Loyalist Military Command created the opportunity for all-inclusive political discussions to occur;

Whereas representatives from Northern Ireland's political parties, pledging to adhere to the principles of non-violence, commenced all-party talks in June 1996, and those talks greatly intensified in the Spring of 1998 under the chairmanship of former United States Senator George Mitchell;

Whereas the active participation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was indispensable to the success of negotiations;

Whereas the support and encouragement for the Northern Ireland peace process by President Clinton, on behalf of the United States, was also an important factor in the success of the negotiations;

Whereas on April 10, 1998, the political parties, together with the British and Irish Governments successfully concluded the Northern Ireland Peace Agreement;

Whereas people throughout the island will have an opportunity to approve or reject the final agreement during the May 22 referendums;

Whereas the British and Irish Governments have committed to making the necessary constitutional and other legal changes necessary to bring the agreement into effect after the referendum approval processes have been concluded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) All of the participants in the negotiation deserve congratulations for their willingness to make honorable compromises in order to reach an agreement that promises to end the tragic cycle of violence that has dominated Northern Ireland for decades;

(2) Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern deserve particular credit for their leadership and constant encouragement in support of the peace process;

(3) The American people can be especially proud of the contributions made by the United States in the quest for peace, including President Clinton's vision and determination to achieve peace in Northern Ireland and his personal commitment to remain an active supporter throughout the process;

(4) All friends of Ireland owe a lasting debt of gratitude to Senator George Mitchell for his dedication, courage, leadership, and wisdom in guiding the peace talks to a successful conclusion.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

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

COMMEMORATING THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today is a holy day, Yom Hashoah. It is a day set aside every year to remember the victims of the Holocaust.

I had the privilege of starting this Yom Hashoah morning with an extraordinary group of people, the Founders of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Founders are men and women from across America who have given at least \$1 million to the Holocaust Museum.

This week, as we mark the fifth anniversary of the opening of the museum, it seems an especially appropriate time to recognize the incredible gift the Founders, and all the museum's supporters, have given our nation.

We are indebted to them all—particularly to Miles Lerman, chairman of the museum council, and Ruth Mandel, the council's vice chair, and to my dear friend Abe Pollin, the chairman of this year's Founders Reunion.

One of the sages of the Torah told us more than 200 years ago that God could have created plants that would grow loaves of bread. Instead, he created wheat for us to grow and mill and transform into bread. Why? Because He wanted us to be able to take part in the miracle of creation.

That is what the Holocaust Museum Founders have done. They used stone and steel and sacred artifacts, rather than wheat. But they have unquestionably experienced the miracle of creation.

Simon Dubrow, the great Jewish historian, was one of the 6 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. He was killed in the Latvian ghetto of Riga by a Gestapo officer who had once been his student. His dying words were "Schreibt und farschreibt." "Write and record." He believed to the end that truth and memory ultimately would triumph over the evil of the Holocaust.

Through the leadership and generosity of the Holocaust Museum Founders, his prediction has come true. Many in Congress remain in awe of the fact that the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has raised \$320 million since its inception. That's a part of the museum's story that isn't fully known or appreciated.

The Holocaust Museum has not only demonstrated that public/private part-

nerships can work—it has set the standard for such partnerships. Much has changed since that bitter cold, rainy day 5 years ago when the Holocaust Museum was dedicated.

Before the museum opened, I understand that the most optimistic estimates were that 700,000 people a year would walk through its doors. That first year, and every year since, I am now told, 2 million visitors have come to the museum—5,000 people every day. Before the museum opened, I well remember that there were some who questioned whether it should be built on the National Mall, since the Holocaust did not take place in our country.

Today, the Holocaust Memorial Museum is a fundamental part of this city. Not only does it belong on the Mall, but it gives a deeper meaning to the other great memorials there. Ask anyone who has been through the museum and they will tell you. The Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial have never looked so beautiful—and freedom and democracy have never seemed as precious—as they do when you emerge from the darkness of that extraordinary building.

Elie Weisel has said, "Survivors are understood by survivors only. They speak in code. All outsiders could do was come close to the gates." That is what the Holocaust Memorial Museum allows us to do: to come close to the gates; to see; to grieve; and, finally, to learn, so that we can pass the knowledge on from generation to generation, about what can happen when intolerance and hatred are allowed to spread unchecked.

Elie Weisel is right. We cannot walk on the shoes of the victims, or the survivors. But we can see their shoes—that heartbreaking room full of dress shoes and work boots and baby shoes. And it is one of the many paradoxes of the museum, that in looking at something as simple as those shoes, we can begin to feel the profound tragedy of that terrible time.

Anyone who has been there knows, the Holocaust Museum is not an easy place to visit. The images in it are not images of beauty, but of incomprehensible evil. People always spend longer in the museum than they expect. And they leave shattered. But they also leave changed. It is one of the few museums in the world that has the capacity to change people fundamentally.

It teaches many lessons. One of the most profound lessons is about the horrors that can be unleashed when we deny the basic humanity of even one person. Another is what can happen to democracy when we are not vigilant in its protection.

The museum also teaches us about the necessity of leadership dedicated to preventing intolerance, hatred and oppression. For members of Congress, that is an especially important lesson. And the presence of the museum on the mall is a constant reminder of it.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of its influence on Congress was 2 years