

H.R. 1417, To amend title 117, United States Code, to replace copyright arbitration royalty panels with Copyright Royalty Judges Act of 2003, Smith-TX, Berman-CA, Conyers-MI;

S. 2204, A bill to provide criminal penalties for false information and hoaxes relating to terrorism Act of 2004, Hatch, Schumer, Cornyn, Feinstein;

S. 1860, A bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act of 2003, Hatch, Biden, Grassley;

S. Department of Justice reauthorization bill;

S. 2195, A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify the definition of anabolic steroids and to provide for research and education activities relating to steroids and steroid precursors Act of 2004, Biden, Hatch, Grassley, Feinstein;

S.J. Res. 23, A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the event that one-fourth of the members of either the House of Representatives or the Senate are killed or incapacitated Act of 2003, Cornyn, Chambliss.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Cheri Rolfes of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of today's session.

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

EXPRESSING OUTRAGE AT THE TERRORIST ATROCITIES IN BESLAN, RUSSIA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 421, which was submitted earlier today by Senators DASCHLE, TALENT, FRIST, and SANTORUM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

A resolution (S. Res. 421) expressing outrage at the recent terrorist atrocities in Beslan, Russian Federation, and condolences to the families of the victims.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, 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 this matter be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 421) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 421

Whereas on Wednesday, September 1, 2004, a group of approximately 30 terrorists took

control of School No. 1, located in Beslan, North Ossetia, Russian Federation, and held approximately 1,200 Russians hostage;

Whereas the terrorists reportedly infiltrated the school and stockpiled weapons and explosives during the ongoing renovation of the school;

Whereas the terrorists held the captives for more than 50 hours, and denied the captives, including the children, access to food, water, and medicine;

Whereas the terrorists rigged the school with explosives, including a large bomb in the center of the gymnasium where the hostages were being held, and strapped suicide bombs to themselves;

Whereas children, parents, and teachers who attempted to flee, or to assist the hostages that attempted to escape, were shot by the terrorists;

Whereas on September 3, 2004, Russian troops and the Beslan hostage-takers exchanged gun fire, a bomb exploded that collapsed the roof of the school, the terrorists began killing the hostages, and massive loss of life ensued;

Whereas this horrendous terrorist action left more than 300 people dead, many of them children, as well as hundreds more who are severely wounded or unaccounted for;

Whereas the Russian people, as a result of this and other attacks in recent weeks, have experienced incredible loss and are experiencing immense grief as they begin the process of burying their loved ones killed by the actions of these terrorists; and

Whereas the United States has sent medical supplies and has offered its moral support to the Russian people in response to the terrorist attack at School No. 1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms this despicable act;

(2) expresses its condolences to the Russian people and in particular to those families who lost loved ones in the Beslan school tragedy; and

(3) commends the efforts of the United States Government to provide humanitarian and medical assistance to the people of the Russian Federation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I may take a moment at this late hour, I reflect back on the relations between the Soviet Union and United States. One day—I don't remember the exact day—they had a book out there, and there was someone from the Russian Embassy here, and Senators walked out there and wrote their heartfelt feelings about what had taken place in Russia. I was so moved by that. The man who was there from the Embassy was speaking very broken English, but he was so glad we were there. I was so glad to be able to write in that book, recognizing the tremendous progress that has been made between the United States and Russia.

I applaud the leader for submitting this resolution. We have come such a long way. We stand in this war on terror with former enemies who are now our friends. Again, I applaud and commend the leaders for bringing this forth. This will be sent to the Russian Government so they will know the Senate's sentiments representing the United States, and that we speak for all Americans. We send our condolences for the brutal acts of these evil men in taking the lives of children and many other innocent people.

Mr. FRIST. I very much appreciate the comments made by the assistant Democratic leader, especially in light of the real tragedy that played out before our eyes not too long ago, several days ago.

The resolution we passed is a resolution that addresses the brutal terrorist attacks that occurred in Beslan, Russia. We all, through this resolution, offer our condolences to the families who have lost loved ones, and the people of Russia who continue to mourn beside them.

It was only last week we all watched as terrorists took control of that School No. 1 in Beslan, Russia, a small southern town near the Chechen border, and the horror, the slaughter that went on, as 1,200 students, teachers, and parents—because it was the first day of school—were held hostage and were denied food and medicine and water. In the horrific video, we saw individuals trying desperately to escape and they were simply shot. During the final massacre itself—and it was a massacre—we saw the fear and desperation in people's faces. It captured this war on terror that we talk about a lot; it captured the face of terrorism.

The Beslan massacre stands as the most monstrous, most despicable act of terrorism since the catastrophic events of 9/11. More than 300 people, many of whom were children, were murdered, and, as we know, hundreds more were critically wounded and missing. If there was any doubt, there is no doubt any more. Our enemy is willing to commit any barbarity to achieve its twisted aims. Our enemy is capable of shooting toddlers and destroying a schoolhouse, lacing it with bombs. As we saw on 9/11, our enemy rejoiced in the murder of innocent people.

The purpose of the resolution is to express the ache in our hearts for the Russian people, for those dark days they must endure, and it also reflects the importance of us renewing our commitment to resolve to defeat these forces of terror and to strengthen our determination to crush those who would bring calamity upon the civilized world.

I want to commend President Bush for his compassion and steadfastness as he reaches out to President Putin and the Russian people in their hour of need, providing appropriate assistance and moral support from all of us, from the American people, as the Russian people bury their dead and search for meaning amid what is incomprehensible horror. We stand by them as reflected in the resolution. America is with the Russian people, and together we will eventually defeat terrorism.

AUTHORIZING PRESIDENT TO AWARD GOLD MEDAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WIDOW CORETTA SCOTT KING

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further