

"9. It shall not be in order to consider a conference report unless such report is available to all Members and made available to the general public by means of the Internet for at least 24 hours before its consideration."

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by the senior Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, in submitting a bipartisan proposal to reform some of the procedures of the Senate that have caused an explosion of anonymous earmarks in conference reports.

Our proposal does not bar the longstanding practice of allowing Members to channel resources to communities in their States that need Federal resources. However, we attempt to bring a far greater degree of transparency to the process and make it nearly impossible for Members to insert items in unamendable conference reports which have not undergone thorough scrutiny by either the House or Senate.

The proposal we are submitting today would create a point of order against any item included in a conference report that had not been considered by either body. This point of order lies against all legislation, not simply appropriations bills. Thus a transportation authorization conference report that includes highway and bridge projects that were not considered by either body would be subject to this point of order, just as an earmark inserted in an appropriations conference report would be subject to a point of order. This point of order could be waived by 60 votes.

Although current Standing Rule 28 allows a point of order against items in conference reports that were not considered by either body, this point of order is almost never used. That is because if the Rule 28 point of order is sustained, the entire conference report is rejected and Senate and House Members must reconstitute a new conference where all items in the original bills must be renegotiated.

Under our approach, if a point of order against an item in the conference report is sustained, the conference report, minus the items struck by the point of order, is returned to the House for its concurrence.

Our approach is modeled after the Byrd Rule that applies in the case of reconciliation conference reports.

I believe that this new point of order will make it far less likely that Members will attempt to insert new items in conference reports that have not been thoroughly aired in debate. However, our resolution goes much further in enhancing the transparency of earmarks, especially in appropriations bills.

Our resolution requires that any Senator who requests an earmark in an appropriations bill must file a copy of the request with the Secretary of the Senate, who is then required to publish the earmark request in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Moreover, our resolution requires that all earmarks that are included in

appropriations bills must be specifically identified in the Report, along with the sponsor of the earmark and an explanation of the essential government purpose of the earmark. In addition, such reports, including conference reports, must be made available to all Members, and the general public via the Internet, at least 24 hours before consideration of the measure.

There is nothing inherently wrong when a Member directs financing for a key project in his or her state. Sometimes it is necessary to get the Federal bureaucracy to focus on the needs of our constituents. However, the process needs far greater transparency, and it is my hope that this resolution will resolve some of the problems that have been associated with this process.

SENATE RESOLUTION 366—AFFIRMING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND A NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE UGANDAN VICTIMS OF JOSEPH KONY'S LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SUDAN, UGANDA, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BRING JUSTICE AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NORTHERN UGANDA AND THAT FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH 9, 2006 SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR THE PEOPLE OF UGANDA

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. DEMINT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. KYL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. COBURN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. NELSON OF Florida, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 366

Whereas, Joseph Kony has led the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) since 1987, terrorizing the region of Northern Uganda;

Whereas, up to 200,000 people have been killed in violent conflict and from disease and malnutrition;

Whereas, 80 to 90 percent of Kony's fighters are enslaved children—brutalized and brainwashed to kill;

Whereas, sources estimate that between 20,000 and 50,000 children have been abducted by the LRA since 1987;

Whereas, these children are sexually abused, raped, beaten, taunted and traumatized by older soldiers in the LRA;

Whereas, these children are maliciously coerced to mutilate, rape, and murder others, even their own family members and friends;

Whereas, LRA leaders often force the friends and siblings of unsuccessful escapees to carry out vicious punishments to further the LRA's culture of fear, intimidation and guilt;

Whereas, even those children who do manage to escape are unspeakably traumatized, often infected with sexually transmitted diseases, and stigmatized by society;

Whereas, approximately 40,000 children in rural Uganda trek miles into towns each night to sleep under the protection of soldiers and attempt to avoid capture;

Whereas, more than 1.6 million people have been forced to flee their homes;

Whereas, the conflict has slowed Uganda's development efforts, costing the country at least \$1.33 billion, or 3 percent of its GDP;

Whereas, starting in October 2005, the Sudan government gave Joseph Kony a three month grace period to surrender;

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate—

(1) that the government of Sudan continue to prosecute LRA terrorists within its borders and aid Uganda in ending the conflict;

(2) that Uganda use every available resource to end the atrocities of the LRA and bring its members to justice;

(3) that the United States and international community recognize the atrocities occurring daily in Uganda and provide necessary humanitarian assistance; and

(4) that the week of February 2 through 9, 2006 should be designated as a National Week of Prayer and Reflection for the people of Northern Uganda.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2703. Mr. TALENT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2704. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2705. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2706. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2707. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2708. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2709. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2708 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2710. Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2711. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. TALENT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2710

proposed by Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BAUCUS) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2712. Mr. LEVIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2713. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2714. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2715. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2716. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REED, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2717. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2718. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2719. Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2720. Mr. BURNS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2721. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2722. Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2723. Mr. BIDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2724. Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. REED, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. OBAMA, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2710 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BAUCUS) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2725. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2726. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2727. Mr. FRIST (for Mr. TALENT) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for

himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2728. Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. BYRD (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. BUNNING)) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2729. Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2730. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. SALAZAR) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2731. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2732. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2733. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2734. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2735. Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. REED, and Mr. SALAZAR) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2736. Mr. GRASSLEY proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

SA 2737. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. SALAZAR) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2703. Mr. TALENT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PERMANENT EXTENSION OF EGTRRA PROVISIONS RELATING TO CHILD TAX CREDIT.

Section 901 of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (relating to sunset provisions) shall not apply to the amendments made by section 201 of such Act.

SA 2704. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . DISCLOSURE OF WHITE HOUSE CONTACTS WITH JACK ABRAMOFF.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) Public confidence in Government has been undermined by widespread reports of public corruption involving Jack Abramoff, including indictments and plea agreements that cite alleged wrongdoing by senior public officials.

(2) Public perception of a culture of corruption undermines the people's faith in their Government representatives and our system of Government.

(3) Due to the serious nature of Jack Abramoff's crimes and continuing allegations of corruption involving him, public confidence in the Government can be restored only if there is full disclosure of his contacts with the President, White House staff, and senior executive branch officials.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the White House should immediately and publicly disclose each visit and meeting between Jack Abramoff and the President, White House staff, or senior executive branch officials, which should include the date, list of attendees, purpose of the visit or meeting, any documentation associated with the visit or meeting, including any photographs, and any action taken or withheld by the Government as a result of the contact.

SA 2705. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2707 proposed by Mr. FRIST (for Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS)) to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING PROTECTING MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES FROM THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—
(1) the alternative minimum tax was originally enacted in 1969 as a supplemental tax on wealthy tax evaders, but has evolved into a tax on millions of middle-class working families, particularly families in which both parents work, and families with 2 or more children;

(2) by the end of the decade, the alternative minimum tax will ensnare more than 30,000,000 taxpayers, the majority of which will have adjusted gross incomes below \$100,000, and the National Taxpayer Advocate has thus identified it as the most serious problem facing individual taxpayers;

(3) the alternative minimum tax is often portrayed as a tax that is most problematic for residents of States such as New York, California, Massachusetts, and New Jersey, but the truth is that many other States have a significant percentage of taxpayers affected by the alternative minimum tax, including Oregon, Maryland, Virginia, Minnesota, Ohio, Maine, Georgia, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, so the problem is of national importance;

(4) a family with 2 children will become subject to the alternative minimum tax at about \$67,500 of income in 2006, and a family with 5 children will start owing the alternative minimum tax at about \$54,000 of income, if Congress fails to act;