

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of any presentation of a commemorative medal under this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike gold medals with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) DESIGNS EMBLEMATIC OF TRIBAL AFFILIATION.—The design of the commemorative medals struck under this Act for Native American Code Talkers who are members of the same Indian tribe shall be emblematic of the participation of the Code Talkers of that Indian tribe.

SEC. 504. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary of the Treasury may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the commemorative medals struck under this Act—

(1) in accordance with such regulations as the Secretary may promulgate; and

(2) at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the bronze medal).

SEC. 505. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 506. FUNDING.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as are necessary to strike and award medals authorized by this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—All amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 504 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

REAUTHORIZING THE LIVESTOCK MANDATORY REPORTING ACT OF 1999

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3408.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3408) to reauthorize the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 and to amend the swine reporting provisions of that Act.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act was enacted by Congress in 1999 to level the playing field for independent producers. This Act is important because it improves market transparency by requiring packers, processors, and importers to provide critical price, contracting, supply and demand information to USDA, which in turn creates price reports for livestock producers.

Since the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program was implemented by USDA, I have heard repeated concerns from producers about the accuracy and overall transparency of the program. Since this law was due to sunset, to get as many facts as possible for purposes of reauthorizing this important law, Senator GRASSLEY and I requested an audit by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to evaluate the accuracy of the program. This GAO audit found numerous instances of limited

transparency and lengthy lag times by USDA in actions to correct problems when packers failed to report or provide accurate information, and instances where USDA was excluding packer data in price reports but not making information about the exclusions available to the public.

Thus far, USDA has provided very little information to Congress regarding USDA's implementation of the six recommendations made by GAO. In fact, USDA has known of many of the problems described by GAO since 2001, but failed to act. That is why there needs to be strong oversight by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry to ensure this program is functioning correctly and that GAO's recommendations are fully implemented.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I also call on Chairman CHAMBLISS to help Senator HARKIN and me get much-needed answers to what USDA has done to implement the GAO recommendations. There has been a lack of believability regarding the information generated by the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program, many producers across Iowa and many parts of the Nation feel strongly that the information would be more valuable if the program had more credibility through improved transparency.

Mr. HARKIN. I do believe that some of the GAO recommendations would be better implemented if codified in law. Senator GRASSLEY and I provided numerous farm and livestock groups and the packing industry draft legislation that would address the GAO recommendations and other outstanding producer concerns. This process has been difficult and has taken considerable time given the complexity of issues and diversity of the groups. Since a full consensus was not reached among these parties, the legislative changes will not be approved this year. Senator GRASSLEY and I ask that Chairman CHAMBLISS be willing to help us achieve these needed legislative changes in the next Congress.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last year, Senator HARKIN and I introduced legislation, that passed the Senate by unanimous consent, that would extend the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act for one-year to allow additional time to review the GAO recommendations and develop needed modifications to the law to improve the functioning and operation of the program. Unfortunately, the House refused to take up the bill and the law expired. I conditioned my support of any multi-year extension or revision of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program on carrying out the GAO study results. Now we are at a crucial point with the legislative session coming to a close. Senator HARKIN and I realize that we are facing strong opposition from the packing industry on moving a Senate version that includes the GAO recommendations. I ask for assurances from Chairman CHAMBLISS that he will work with Senator HARKIN and me to move our proposed legislative changes forward.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I agree with Senators HARKIN and GRASSLEY about the importance of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act (LMRA) to producers. For over a year, I have worked with the Senators from Iowa in their attempt to craft consensus language to which all interested parties could agree. I agreed to wait for a report from the Government Accountability Office, GAO, even though there was concern that the report would be released after the expiration of this important mandatory program. Since that time, packers have continued to consistently report on a voluntary basis limiting potential disruptions to the information provided by LMRA to the marketplace. While I understand my colleague's interest in implementing the recommendations from GAO, I am also concerned that all stakeholders—producers and packers—have comfort and assurance in this program and that any changes made to the program will minimize potential litigation and the false reporting of data.

I intend to work with Senators HARKIN and GRASSLEY to ensure that there is another opportunity to find consensus among interested parties in implementing further changes to the program. Next year provides an excellent opportunity to debate this and other issues of importance to the livestock industry during the farm bill reauthorization process. In addition, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry will conduct a hearing in the spring of 2007 that will focus on livestock issues which will allow us to explore any needed changes to the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act.

Although the Senators from Iowa and I have worked diligently with livestock groups and the packing industry to address the concerns of all interested parties, we were not able to reach an agreement. Given the limited time before adjournment, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3408, which has passed the House, and will reinstate the mandatory provisions of this much needed program. As I said previously, I will continue to work with the Senators from Iowa next year on the farm bill to arrive at consensus legislation that all stakeholders can support.

Finally, I would like to commend all of the industry groups that have worked on this issue for over a year. The countless hours of negotiations, meetings, and debate are healthy and represent the American legislative process at its best. The complexity of this issue has unfortunately made it impossible to accommodate all the changes requested by the Senators from Iowa, but I commend them for recognizing the importance of this program for not only producers in Iowa, but producers across this great Nation. H.R. 3408 will provide price discovery and transparency to the marketplace, allowing all producers to confidently receive fair prices for their livestock.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank Chairman CHAMBLISS for his patience throughout

this process and willingness and commitment to help Senator GRASSLEY and me to get GAO's recommendations implemented. His commitment to help us pursue our legislative proposals next year is sincerely appreciated.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3408) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 893; provided further that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from consideration of the following nominations and that the Senate proceed to those en bloc: Senator COLEMAN (PN2044) and Senator BOXER (PN2043).

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Cindy Lou Courville, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

UNITED NATIONS

Norman B. Coleman, of Minnesota, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Barbara Boxer, of California, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, tomorrow, September 21. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first 15 minutes under the

control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the final 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee; further, that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act, and further, that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, all time count against the motion under rule XXII.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today, we unanimously invoked cloture on the motion to proceed to the border fence act by a vote of 94 to 0. Unless an agreement is reached to begin earlier, we will begin consideration of that bill no later than 5:45 tomorrow afternoon. We will update Senators as to the voting schedule as we attempt to reach agreement on this bill, as well as any other legislative or executive items that may be considered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 503

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for its second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in conclusion, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order following the remarks of the Democratic leader and Senator HATCH.

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

The minority leader.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was in my office and listened to the distinguished senior Senator from Idaho talk about the bill that is before the Senate, the so-called fence bill. I have great respect for the distinguished senior Senator. We have served together in the House and the Senate. He talked with

great emotion about the agricultural workers and how people are losing crops as a result of not having sufficient agricultural workers and that it was extremely important that we have agricultural worker legislation.

I heard my friend, the distinguished senior Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, talk about agricultural workers and how important they are. She gave vivid illustrations of how they are important. I agree with both, but I am stunned that the Senator from Idaho appears to only be talking and not being meaningful in what he is saying about agricultural workers.

"Congress Daily PM," which is a publication put out on a daily basis by the National Journal, says as follows:

Senator Larry Craig, Republican of Idaho, would like to offer his amendment which would streamline certification for migrant farm workers, language that was included in the Senate's immigration package.

Listen to this one, though, this final sentence:

Craig spokesman said the Senator would not offer his amendment if it would hold up consideration of the House-passed bill.

We have a bill before the Senate. No one has any intent of holding up the bill, but there are some important amendments that people want to offer. According to the Senator from Idaho, he feels his agricultural workers provision is pretty important. Then why shouldn't we be able to offer some amendments on this? Why shouldn't we be able to offer one amendment, an agricultural workers amendment? Why shouldn't we be able to offer two amendments, three amendments with time on them?

I am told the majority leader is going to fill the tree—that is a buzzword around here for having the majority lock up this legislation so no amendments are possible.

My friend from Idaho cannot have it both ways. He cannot be righteously indignant about the fact we are not having an opportunity to help agricultural workers and then, in effect, throw in the towel and say he is going to do nothing about it.

He is part of the majority party; we are not. We cannot do much about it, but he can.

MIDDLE-CLASS SQUEEZE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want the record to reflect that I appreciate very much Senator STABENOW, Senator REED, and Senator SARBANES coming here today and talking about something we haven't talked about much in recent weeks. The Republicans wanted to make this September "security month." So we have devoted all of our time talking about the failure of the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism. We know that the war in Iraq has been a diversion to the real war on terror, but that is what they want to talk about.

I am so grateful that my friends came and talked about the economy. It