

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 179) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be 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. 179) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 179

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 28, 2007, or Friday, June 29, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Friday, June 29, 2007, Saturday, June 30, 2007, Sunday, July 1, 2007, or Monday, July 2, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 9, 2007, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITIES OF THE ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to H.R. 1830.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1830) to extend the authorities of the Andean Trade Preference Act until February 29, 2008.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, the Senate has taken an important step in our relationship with Latin America. Following House action last night, the Senate unanimously approved an 8-month extension of the Andean Trade Preference Act, ATPA. Our action today prevents these key trade preferences from expiring abruptly this weekend. More importantly, it underscores the value that United States places on strong economic engagement with our partners in the Andean region.

The Andean Trade Preference Act provides duty-free access to certain products from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia. These preferences ensure that hundreds of thousands of workers in these countries can find legal and meaningful employment in their own countries—workers who might otherwise find jobs in coca fields or in other illicit industries. By doing so, the Andean trade preferences enable the United States to continue to promote economic and political stability in a key region of Latin America.

ATPA and other preference programs are not a one-way street. I hear repeatedly from American businesses and consumers how these preference programs benefit the United States. Specifically, ATPA provides numerous U.S. companies with a source of high-quality, duty-free inputs for their products. American companies then pass these benefits on to American consumers in the form of lower costs and greater product diversity.

While I welcome this extension, I do not wish to minimize legitimate concerns that some of my colleagues have about the program, especially those relating to protection of U.S. investment. ATPA provides a framework for addressing these concerns and finding the solutions. To benefit from these preferences, beneficiary countries must protect foreign investment. They must afford worker rights. They must uphold key intellectual property rights. And they must meet counternarcotics requirements. Because of these provisions, ATPA is one of the best diplomatic tools America has in Latin America.

Today we took an important step in passing an 8-month extension of ATPA. But 8 months is not a lasting solution. Rather, it is a stepping stone toward a possible longer term extension for ATPA beneficiaries, as circumstances warrant. Eight months from now, some countries may still need these preferences; others may not. During the time, I will closely monitor whether ATPA beneficiary countries live up to their end of the bargain and abide by the requirements of the program. If they do, I will work hard to secure a longer extension. The United States and the Andean region will be better for it.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before I ask this be completed, I am glad this is being done. I am disappointed it is only until the end of February.

I traveled to Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. This is so important to those countries. I am glad we will get it extended. It would have expired at the end of this month. It will not expire now. I hope by next February we can have a multiyear extension. I have spoken to Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS. I hope that is the case.

I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1830) was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 1585

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 1585 be withdrawn, that the motion to proceed be agreed to, and the Senate resume consideration of the bill on Monday, July 9, after the conclusion of morning business.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is the Defense authorization bill. I hope there will be a little conversation about this tomorrow. This will get us back and focusing on the intractable war that is taking place in Iraq.

I made a call a day or two ago to speak to Keith Modgling, the father of Josh. He just turned 22. He was in Iraq for less than a month. He was killed.

We are going to refocus on this. It is important we do that.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:45 a.m. Friday, June 29. On Friday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 29, 2007, at 9:45 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate June 28, 2007:

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 152 AND 601:

To be admiral

ADM. MICHAEL G. MULLEN, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 154: