August 2, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

Whereas under the Extradition Treaty Mexico may be asked to extradite other suspects of capital crimes; and

Whereas the Extradition Treaty interferes with the justice system of the United States and encourages criminals to flee to Mexico: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,


It is the sense of the Senate that the President should renegotiate the Extradition Treaty Between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed in Mexico City in 1978 (31 U.S.T. 5669), so that the possibility of capital punishment will not interfere with the timely extradition of criminal suspects from Mexico to the United States.

Mr. TORRICElli. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution regarding our extradition treaty with Mexico. This resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that the United States renegotiate our extradition treaty to allow for the possibility of capital punishment. The case of Jose Luis del Toro has made the need for this resolution clear.

When Sheila Bellush was brutally murdered in November 1997, her accused murderer, Jose Luis del Toro, fled to Mexico to escape prosecution in the United States. From this time forward, there has been little consolation for the Bellush family, and a great deal of hardship. While Del Toro was apprehended in Mexico just 13 days later, a nightmare of government delays and roadblocks prevented his extradition to the United States.

The details of Sheila Bellush’s murder are shocking. By all accounts, her four 23-month-old quadruplets probably witnessed their mother’s murder, and wandered around in her blood to wake her up for as many as 4 or 5 hours before the 13-year-old daughter came home from school and found Mrs. Bellush’s body.

There is overwhelming evidence that Del Toro was involved in the murder. The Sarasota police believe that he was, in fact, the gunman in a murder-for-hire scheme. Del Toro’s cousin works at a golf course where Bellush’s ex-husband plays golf. That cousin and one of the ex-husband’s golfing partners have been arrested as co-conspirators. On the day of the murder, Del Toro asked directions to the Bellush house and left a clear fingerprint at the scene. He had directions to the Bellush house in his car, which was seen near the crime, and he stayed in a nearby motel, where a .45 caliber bullet was found, like the one used in the murder.

The Mexican government refused his extradition unless the United States agreed to waive the death penalty. Amaizingly, we approved such a provision in the U.S.-Mexico Extradition Treaty of 1978. This agreement allows Mexico the right to refuse extradition if the death penalty may be applicable in the case. In the Bellush case, this provision allowed Del Toro to evade prosecution for over a year while awaiting his extradition.

I became involved in this case when Jamie Bellush moved their six children to Newton, New Jersey, and sought my help with Del Toro’s extradition. I was in constant contact with the Justice and State Departments and the Mexican Embassy urging them to move quickly in returning Del Toro. The Mexican Government has since honored our request, and extradited Mr. Del Toro to Florida to stand trial. However, I believe that the U.S. should still move to renegotiate our extradition treaty with Mexico and prevent this unfortunate series of events from happening to other families in the future. I look forward to working with this Congress to pass this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DECEPTIVE MAIL PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. LEVIN) AMENDMENT NO. 1497

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. LEVIN) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 335) to amend chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, to provide for the nonmailability of certain deceptive mail matter, including material consisting of chance, administrative procedures, orders, and civil penalties relating to such matter, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 19, insert between lines 22 and 23 the following:

"(A) 'clearly and conspicuously displayed' means presented in a manner that is readily noticeable, readable, and understandable to the group to whom the applicable matter is disseminated; and

"(B) a prize is awarded or offered;"

On page 20, line 23, strike "‘(A)’ and insert "‘(B)’;"

On page 20, line 1, strike "‘(B)’ and insert "‘(C)’;"

On page 20, line 9, strike "‘(C)’ and insert "‘(D)’;"

On page 20, line 21, insert "prominently after ‘that’;"

On page 21, line 1, insert "prominently after ‘that’;"

On page 21, lines 4 and 5, strike "an entry from such materials’ and insert ‘such entry’.

On page 21, lines 8 and 9, strike ‘: in language that is easy to find, read, and understand’.

On page 21, line 15, strike ‘clearly’.

On page 22, line 5, insert ‘or’ after the semicolon.

On page 22, line 11, strike ‘or’ after the semicolon.

On page 22, strike lines 12 through 17.

On page 22, lines 23 and 24, strike ‘: in language that is easy to find, read, and understand’.

On page 23, line 1, strike ‘clearly and conspicuously’.

On page 23, line 6, strike ‘clearly’.

On page 34, line 1, strike all through page 39, line 23, and insert the following:

SEC. 8. REQUIREMENTS OF PROMOTERS OF SKILL CONTESTS OR SWEEPSTAKES MAILINGS.

(a) In General.—Chapter 39 of title 39, United States Code (as amended by section 7 of this Act) is amended by adding after section 3001(k)(4); or

(b) originates and causes to be mailed any skill contest or sweepstakes, except for any matter described under section 3001(k)(4); or

(c) a purchase, payment, or donation is required or implied to be required to enter the contest; and

(d) ‘sweepstakes’ means a game of chance for which no consideration is required to enter.

(b) NONMAILABLE MATTER.—In General.—(1) In General.—Matter otherwise legally acceptable in the mails described under paragraph (2)—

"(A) is nonmailable matter;"

"(B) shall not be carried or delivered by mail; and"

"(C) shall be disposed of as the Postal Service directs;"

"(2) NONMAILABLE MATTER DESCRIBED.—Matter that is nonmailable matter referred to under paragraph (1) is any matter that—

"(A) is a skill contest or sweepstakes, except for any matter described under section 3001(k)(4); and"

"(B)(i) is addressed to an individual who made an election to be excluded from lists under subsection (d); or

"(ii) does not comply with subsection (c)(1).

(c) REQUIREMENTS OF PROMOTERS.—(1) NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS.—Any promoter who mails a skill contest or sweepstakes shall provide with each mailing a statement that—

"(A) is clearly and conspicuously displayed;

"(B) includes the address or toll-free telephone number of the notification system established under paragraph (2); and

"(C) states that the notification system may be used to prohibit the mailing of all skill contests or sweepstakes by that promoter to such individual.

(2) NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—Any promoter that mails or causes to be mailed a skill contest or sweepstakes shall establish and maintain a notification system that provides for any individual (or other duly authorized person) to notify the system of the individual’s election to have the name and address of the individual excluded from all lists of names and addresses used by that promoter to mail any skill contest or sweepstakes.

(d) ELECTION TO BE EXCLUDED FROM LISTS.—(1) In General.—Any individual (or other duly authorized person) may elect to exclude..."
the name and address of that individual from all lists of names and addresses used by a promoter of skill contests or sweepstakes by submitting a removal request to the notification system established under subsection (c).

(2) RESPONSE AFTER SUBMITTING REMOVAL REQUEST TO THE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.—Not later than 35 calendar days after a promoter receives a removal request pursuant to an election under paragraph (1), the promoter shall exclusively exclude from any of that individual’s name and address from all lists of names and addresses used by that promoter to select recipients for any skill contest or sweepstakes.

(3) EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTION.—An election under paragraph (1) shall remain in effect, unless an individual (or other duly authorized person) notifies the promoter in writing that such individual—

(A) has changed the election; and

(B) elects to receive skill contest or sweepstakes mailings from that promoter.

(e) PROMOTER NONLIABILITY.—A promoter shall not be subject to civil liability for the exclusion of an individual’s name or address from any list maintained by that promoter for mailing skill contests or sweepstakes, if—

(1) a removal request is received by the promoter’s notification system; and

(2) the promoter has a good faith belief that the request is from—

(A) the individual whose name and address is to be excluded; or

(B) another duly authorized person.

(f) PROHIBITION ON COMMERCIAL USE OF LISTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) PROHIBITION.—No person may provide any information (including the sale or rental of any name or address) derived from a list described under subparagraph (B) to another person for commercial use.

(B) LISTS.—A list referred to under subparagraph (A) is any list of names and addresses (or other related information) compiled from individuals who exercise an election under subsection (d).

(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be assessed a civil penalty by the Postal Service not to exceed $25,000 per violation.

(g) CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any promoter—

(A) who recklessly mails nonmailable matter in violation of subsection (b) shall be liable to the United States in an amount of not less than $10,000 per violation for each mailing to an individual of nonmailable matter; or

(B) who fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (c) shall be liable to the United States.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Postal Service shall assess civil penalties under this section.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 30 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 3016 the following:

“3017. Nonmailable skill contests or sweepstakes matter; notification to prohibit mailings.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.