

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 49

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 49, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on television.

SENATE RESOLUTION 128

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 128, a resolution designating March 2000, as "Arts Education Month."

AMENDMENT NO. 1489

At the request of Mr. ENZI the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1489 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1548

At the request of Mr. SMITH the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1548 proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOTT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 51

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, August 5, 1999, Friday, August 6, 1999, or Saturday, August 7, 1999, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stands recessed or adjourned until noon on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, August 5, 1999, Friday, August 6, 1999, or Saturday, August 7, 1999, on a motion offered pursuant to

this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 1999, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 52—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN OPPOSITION TO A "BIT TAX" ON INTERNET DATA PROPOSED IN THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1999 PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. ASHCROFT submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 52

Whereas the Internet has become a highly valued tool for millions of people in the United States and promises to be an integral component of international commerce communications;

Whereas the Internet has spurred entirely new industries dominated by the United States and has become critical to the continued growth of our economy;

Whereas emerging telecommunications technologies promise to extend the benefits of the Internet to a growing percentage of the world population;

Whereas the Internet should remain tax-free;

Whereas any global tax collected by the United Nations would present a threat to the sovereignty of the United States and would violate the United States Constitution;

Whereas Americans are by far the greatest users of the Internet and would thus be disproportionately affected by any global Internet tax;

Whereas the most effective and just way to spread technology and wealth is through the operation of a free market;

Whereas the rapidly increasing sophistication and decreasing cost of telecommunications and computing products and services should not be disturbed; and

Whereas the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 1999 proposed that a so-called "bit tax" be levied on all data sent through the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress urges the Administration to protect the sovereignty of the United States by aggressively opposing the global "bit tax" proposed in the Human Development Report 1999 published by the United Nations Development Programme.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President. I stand before this body today to strongly oppose any attempt made by the United Nations to tax the American people. In its recently released Human Development Report, a proposal was included that would impose a one cent tax on Internet e-mail. This proposed

tax would violate every virtue of the American people. The United States should not be subjected to an internationally levied tax.

The United States was founded on the principle of "no taxation without representation." John Locke said, "If any one shall claim a power to lay and levy taxes on the people, . . . without . . . consent of the people, he thereby . . . subverts the end of government." Consent, according to Locke, could only be given by a majority of the people, "either by themselves or their representatives chosen by them." Among the first powers that the Constitution gave to the Congress, the government's most representative branch, was the power to tax. And, notably, bills to raise revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. The United Nations does not hold the power, authority or right to levy taxes on the American people. This tax would be in direct violation of American sovereignty.

There are currently 150 million Internet users in the world, 80 percent reside in the United States. Therefore, the United States would bear the biggest burden of this proposed tax. The American people are already overtaxed by the U.S. government, without being subjected to a tax imposed by the United Nations. By 2001, this number is expected to grow to approximately 700 million. If imposed, this tax would raise an estimated \$70 billion in tax revenue annually, in addition to the United States' share of the UN's regular budget of \$298 million. Mr. President, I firmly believe the Internet should be allowed to progress without government involvement or taxation. Instead of trying to tax the Internet we should be taking every action necessary to encourage its development.

Mr. President, the American people are constantly burdened by the affects of local, state, and federal taxes. Last week alone, we historically voted to give the American people a reprieve, cutting taxes by \$792 billion. The American people do not deserve this unfair and unjust tax. The Internet and e-mail are possibly the greatest inventions of modern technological history. They have revolutionized communication and have changed modern society. This proposed tax by the United Nations, or any other tax suggested by the UN—or any other international organization—should be aggressively opposed by the U.S. government.