SENATE RESOLUTION 237—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT NOW THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS AND THE SENATE SHOULD ACT ON THE CONVENTION OF THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Whereas the United States has shown leadership in promoting human rights, including the rights of women and girls, and was instrumental in the development of international treaties; and

Whereas the Governments of South Africa, the United States and Japan have endorsed U.S. ratification of CEDAW; and

Whereas the United States has shown leadership in promoting human rights, including the Genocide Convention, the Convention Against Torture, the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and

Whereas CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls; and

Whereas 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran, Sudan, which have not; and

Whereas CEDAW is instrumental in the development of international human rights conventions; and

Whereas CEDAW has been unable to reunite with her daughter; and

Whereas in 1999, Syria invited Maureen Dabbagh to Syria to meet with her daughter; and

Whereas the Department of State believed that in 1999 Nadia was moved to Saudi Arabia; and

Whereas the Governments of Syria and the United States have granted child custody to Maureen Dabbagh and both have issued arrest warrants for Mohamad Dabbagh; and

Whereas Nadia Dabbagh, in 1990; and

Whereas Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh and Mrs. Maureen Dabbagh were divorced in February 1992; and

Whereas Nadia Dabbagh, in 1998; and

Whereas the Department of State believed that Nadia was residing in Syria until late 1998; and

Whereas the Senate passed S. Res. 239 for Nadia Dabbagh on October 21, 1998, asking Syria to aid in the return of Nadia to her mother in the United States; and

Whereas the Senate has been advised that in 1999 Nadia was moved to Saudi Arabia; and

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

(2) the Senate should act on CEDAW by March 8, 2000, International Women’s Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 238—TO AUTHORIZE REPRESENTATION OF MEMBER OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

WHEREAS 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and Sudan, which have not;

WHEREAS CEDAW is being waived by the United States; and

WHEREAS CEDAW has already agreed to the ratification of several important human rights treaties, including the Genocide Convention, the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and

WHEREAS CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls; and

WHEREAS 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and Sudan, which have not; and

WHEREAS CEDAW is helping combat violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world;

WHEREAS CEDAW has demonstrated a significant and positive impact on legal developments in countries as diverse as Uganda, Colombia, Brazil and South Africa, including, on citizenship rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Tanzania, property rights and political participation in Costa Rica;

WHEREAS the Administration has proposed a small number of reservations, understandings and declarations to ensure that U.S. ratification fulfills all constitutional requirements, including states’ and individuals’ rights;

WHEREAS the legislatures of California, Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota and Vermont have endorsed U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

WHEREAS more than one hundred U.S.-based, civic, legal, religious, education, and environmental organizations, support U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

WHEREAS the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations should hold hearings and the Senate should act on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

WHEREAS the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations should hold hearings and the Senate should act on the Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

(2) the Senate should act on CEDAW by March 8, 2000, International Women’s Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 239—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES, WHO WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD BE RETURNED HOME TO HER MOTHER, MS. MAUREEN DABBAGH

Mr. ROBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

WHEREAS Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh and Mrs. Maureen Dabbagh had a daughter, Nadia Dabbagh, in 1990;

WHEREAS Maureen Dabbagh and Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh were divorced in February 1992;

WHEREAS in 1993, Nadia was abducted by her father;

WHEREAS Mohamad Hisham fled the United States with Nadia;

WHEREAS the Governments of Syria and the United States have granted child custody to Maureen Dabbagh and both have issued arrest warrants for Mohamad Dabbagh;

WHEREAS Mohamad Dabbagh originally escaped to Saudi Arabia;

WHEREAS the Department of State believes that Nadia was residing in Syria until late 1998;

WHEREAS the Senate signed S. Res. 239 for Nadia Dabbagh on October 21, 1998, asking Syria to aid in the return of Nadia to her mother in the United States;

WHEREAS in 1999, Syria invited Maureen Dabbagh to meet with her daughter;

WHEREAS the Department of State believes that in 1999 Nadia was moved to Saudi Arabia and is residing with Mohamad Dabbagh;

WHEREAS neither Nadia nor Mohamad Dabbagh are Saudi Arabian citizens;

WHEREAS Maureen Dabbagh, with the assistance of missing children organizations, has been unable to reunite with her daughter;

WHEREAS the Department of State, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Interpol have been unsuccessful in their attempts to bring Nadia back to the United States;

WHEREAS Maureen Dabbagh has not seen her daughter in more than six years; and

WHEREAS it will take the continued effort and pressure on the part of the Saudi Arabian officials to bring this case to a successful conclusion; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Governments of the United States and Saudi Arabia immediately locate Nadia Dabbagh and return her safely to her mother.

Ms. Maureen Dabbagh of Virginia Beach has not seen or heard from her daughter, Nadia, in 6 years. When Nadia was just 3 years old, she was illegally abducted by her father, Mr. Mohamad Hisham Dabbagh, and the State Department believes they are currently in Saudi Arabia on temporary visas. Throughout this ordeal, Maureen Dabbagh has been aided by many caring people, groups, and government agencies, but despite FBI, State Department, and Interpol efforts, Nadia is still separated from her mother.

According to the Department of Justice, 983 children are abducted by non-custodial parents every day. I greatly sympathize with Maureen Dabbagh and with all parents facing similar situations. I believe that we, as Members of Congress and as parents, ought to use all available resources in locating and abducting children. I ask that we redouble our efforts to bring Nadia home.

SENATE RESOLUTION 240—COMMEMDING STEPHEN G. BAILE, KEEPER OF THE STATIONERY

Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

WHEREAS the Senate has been advised that its Keeper of the Stationery, Stephen G. Bale, will retire on December 31, 1999;

WHEREAS Steve Bale became an employee of the Senate of the United States on November 13, 1969, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the Senate for a period that Includes sixteen Congresses;

WHEREAS Steve Bale has served with distinction as Keeper of the Stationery, and at all times has discharged the important duties and responsibilities of his office with dedication and excellence, and

WHEREAS his exceptional service and his unflagging dedication have earned him our esteem and affection: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Senate of the United States should be represented by Stephen G. Bale, Keeper of the Stationery.
Resolved. That the United States Senate commend Stephen G. Bale for his exemplary service to the Senate and the Nation; wishes to express its deep appreciation for his long, faithful and outstanding service; and extends its very best wishes upon his retirement.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Stephen G. bale.

SENATE RESOLUTION 241—TO DIRECT THE SENATE COMMISSION ON ART TO RECOMMEND TO THE SENATE TWO OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WHOSE PAINTINGS SHALL BE PLACED IN TWO OF THE REMAINING UNFILLED SPACES IN THE SENATE RECEPTION ROOM

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

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WHEREAS the reception room in the Capitol outside the Senate Chamber was originally designed to commemorate likenesses of outstanding Americans; 

WHEREAS there are at present 6 unfilled spaces in the Senate reception room for such medallions; and

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to accomplish the original objective of the design of the Senate reception room by selecting individuals who were outstanding Senators with a deep appreciation for the Senate, who will serve as role models for future Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved. That (a) the Senate Commission on Art established under section 901 of the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (40 U.S.C. 188b) (referred to as the "Commission") shall select 2 outstanding individuals whose portrayals will be placed in 2 of the remaining unfilled spaces in the Senate reception room, upon approval by the Senate. 

(b)(1) The Commission shall select individuals from among Senators, without consideration to party affiliation, who have not served as a Senator in the last 21 years. The Commission shall not select a living individual. 

(2) The Commission shall consider first those Senators who are not already commemorated in the Capitol or Senate Office Buildings, although such commemoration shall serve as an absolute bar to consideration or selection only for those who have served as President of the Senate, as the latter are visible and appropriately commemorated through the Vice Presidential bust collection. 

(3) The Commission also shall give primary consideration to the service of the Senator while in the Senate, as opposed to other service to the United States. 

(c) The Commission is authorized to seek advice and recommendations from historians and other sources in carrying out this resolution.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall make its selection(s) on the recommendations pursuant to the first section no later than the close of the second session of the 106th Congress.

Scc. 3. For purposes of making the recommendations required by this resolution, a member of the Commission may designate another Senator to act in place of that member.