

with the most effective and worthwhile services their State agencies can provide.

Accountability is critical in any human undertaking. It provides an environment for those doing well to be commended and recognized. And, it sheds light on those acting irresponsibly. We in Congress have the responsibility to see that taxpayer money is spent wisely. I see a no more critical responsibility than in ensuring States are responsibly spending money on vulnerable youth in foster care.

November is National Adoption Month. Earlier this month, I joined my colleagues with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption in celebrating those who have made a difference through adoption. I was able to honor three worthy individuals from the great State of Iowa: Ruth Ann Gaines and Jeff and Earletta Morris. Ruth Ann adopted an autistic boy more than 14 years ago, and the Morrises adopted a teenager just over a year ago. I am grateful for their efforts and heart-felt belief in the value of family, and I am glad to announce them "Angels in Adoption."

In closing, I want to reaffirm my commitment to finding permanent, loving families for each boy and girl currently without a loving and safe home. I am disappointed the Foster Care Independence Act did not contain more provisions supporting permanency. However, I will continue my efforts in support of permanency for children in foster care. Among others, Congresswoman NANCY JOHNSON has given me her word that she will work with me to improve accountability in the child welfare system. I look forward to working with all my colleagues in the next session to that end.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, as amended, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1802), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding the sine die adjournment of the present session of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, the majority leader of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate be, and they are hereby authorized, to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, and inter-parliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. With objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the chairman of the Finance Committee, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) as a member of the Joint Committee on Taxation, in lieu of the late Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Chafee).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO FILE REPORTED LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE MATTERS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, committees have from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7, and on Friday, January 7, in order to file reported legislative and executive matters.

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

CONVENING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate turn to the resolution convening the second session of the 106th Congress, House Joint Resolution 85, that the resolution be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without any intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. 85) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

H.J. RES. 85

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DAY FOR CONVENING OF SECOND SESSION OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS.

The second regular session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress shall begin at noon on Monday, January 24, 2000.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL SESSION PRIOR TO CONVENING.

If the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the Senate, determine that it is in the public interest for the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to reassemble prior to the convening of the second regular session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress as provided in section 1—

(1) the Speaker and Majority Leader shall so notify their respective Members; and

(2) Congress shall reassemble at noon on the second day after the Members are so notified.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1982

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 1982 be placed on the Calendar.

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

COMMENDING STEPHEN G. BALE, KEEPER OF THE STATIONERY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 240, submitted earlier today by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE.

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

The legislation clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 240) commending Stephen G. Bale, Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on December 31, 1999, Steve Bale will retire as Keeper of the Stationery for the United States Senate.

Steve began his Senate career in November 1969 as a clerk in the Stationery Room. In July 1980, he was appointed Assistant Keeper of the Stationery, and in September 1987, assumed the responsibilities as the 16th Keeper of the Stationery.

In this capacity, Steve has directed a busy operation, successfully serving a client base that now spans over 240 offices and five buildings. His leadership of the recent renovations to the Stationery Room has ensured that the office will function efficiently, well into the 21st century.

In his 30 years of public service, Steve has set a standard among his associates for commitment to excellence and dedication to personal service. According to his staff, one of Steve's favorite expressions is, "In this business, one 'oops' can wipe out fifteen 'attaboys!'" The standard of excellence he set will benefit the Senate for years to come, as the associates he leaves behind continue in the tradition of the principles he espoused.

Steve Bale should enter his retirement with tremendous satisfaction for all he has accomplished. I am pleased to join so many others in thanking him for his long and faithful service and in wishing him health and happiness in the years to come.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, Steve Bale is one of those individuals who serve faithfully and diligently over many years to ensure that the United States Senate runs efficiently and effectively. All Senators know and appreciate the members of the Senate community who share their pride in public service and commitment to the Senate. We know we could not do our jobs without the dedication of people such as Steve Bale.

Steve began his career in the Senate in 1969 as an employee of the Stationery Room under the jurisdiction of