

information regarding the Y2K issue in S-407 of the Capitol, and I further ask the Senate stand in recess for the weekly party caucuses between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 on Tuesday, March 2.

I further ask at 2:15 on Tuesday, the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 7, having discharged the resolution from the Rules Committee, and there be 3 hours of debate, being equally divided between Senators BENNETT and DODD, with no amendments or motions being in order, and a vote to occur on adoption of that resolution at the conclusion or yielding back of that time.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in light of that order, the Senate will not be in session on Friday and will be in pro forma session only on Monday. The Senate will debate the Y2K loan program bill on Tuesday morning, with a rollcall vote on passage at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday. Therefore, the next rollcall vote will be at 10:30 on Tuesday. Following that vote, the Senate will proceed to the briefing in S-407. I want to encourage Senators to attend this briefing because it does involve very important, classified information with regard to the Y2K issue.

At 2:15, the Senate will proceed to the funding resolution for the special committee on the year 2000 technology and related issues, for up to 3 hours.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation and, again, I commend those who have been involved in S. Res. 45. I yield the floor.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The Senate continued with the consideration of the resolution.

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered on S. Res. 45.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Bingaman	Byrd
Akaka	Bond	Campbell
Allard	Boxer	Chafee
Ashcroft	Breaux	Cleland
Baucus	Brownback	Cochran
Bayh	Bryan	Collins
Bennett	Bunning	Conrad
Biden	Burns	Coverdell

Craig	Hutchinson	Murray
Crapo	Hutchison	Nickles
Daschle	Inhofe	Reed
DeWine	Inouye	Reid
Dodd	Jeffords	Robb
Domenici	Johnson	Roberts
Dorgan	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Durbin	Kerrey	Roth
Edwards	Kerry	Santorum
Enzi	Kohl	Sarbanes
Feingold	Kyl	Schumer
Feinstein	Landrieu	Sessions
Fitzgerald	Lautenberg	Shelby
Frist	Leahy	Smith (NH)
Gorton	Levin	Smith (OR)
Graham	Lieberman	Snowe
Gramm	Lincoln	Specter
Grams	Lott	Stevens
Grassley	Lugar	Thomas
Gregg	Mack	Thompson
Hagel	McCain	Thurmond
Harkin	McConnell	Voinovich
Hatch	Mikulski	Warner
Helms	Moynihan	Wellstone
Hollings	Murkowski	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Torricelli

The resolution (S. Res. 45) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 45

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet and continues the coercive implementation of family planning policies and the sale of human organs taken from executed prisoners;

Whereas such abuses stem from an intolerance of dissent and fear of civil unrest on the part of authorities in the People's Republic of China and from a failure to adequately enforce laws in the People's Republic of China that protect basic freedoms;

Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct enshrined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the People's Republic of China recently signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the steps necessary to make the covenant legally binding;

Whereas the President decided not to sponsor a resolution criticizing the People's Republic of China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1998 in consideration of commitments by the Government of the People's Republic of China to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and based on a belief that progress on human rights in the People's Republic of China could be achieved through other means;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize a legal democratic opposition, as well as religious leaders, writers, and others who petitioned the authorities to release those arbitrarily arrested; and

Whereas these efforts underscore that the Government of the People's Republic of

China continues to commit serious human rights abuses, despite expectations to the contrary following two summit meetings between President Clinton and President Jiang in which assurances were made regarding improvements in the human rights record of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that at the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the United States should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The distinguished Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Under a previous agreement, this time has been allotted to Senator COVERDELL or his designee, and I have been designated to oversee this next 45 minutes to an hour to talk about the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will be discussing two critical areas as we address the education of our youth in this country. Those two areas are flexibility and accountability. Discussing this topic with me will be Senators CHAFEE, BOND, CRAIG, VOINOVICH, GREGG, HUTCHINSON, and COLLINS.

The issue that we will discuss is called Ed-Flex. Specifically, it is the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999. The shorthand version is "Ed-Flex." That is the way it will be referred to, I am sure, over the next several hours and the next several days as we look at this particular bill which I expect to come to the floor next week.

Let me begin by discussing what Ed-Flex is so people will know what we are talking about. It is really pretty simple. Ed-Flex is a State waiver program that allows schools and school districts at the local level to obtain or have the opportunity to obtain a waiver to carry out and accomplish a specific educational mission, but with flexibility free of Washington red tape, free of the administrative regulatory burden which too often—and we hear it as we travel across the State again and again—shackles them in terms of meeting those specific goals. These regulations are often well intentioned.