

Mr. President, as the men and women of America's greatest generation, enter a new century, I remain in awe of their continuing achievements. The remarkable career of Dr. Burgess epitomizes the commitment to improving peoples lives through dedicated effort. I am proud to be able to submit this Resolution recognizing a great man and paying tribute to his attainments and his goals. Thank you, Dr. Burgess, and I know my colleagues join me in recognition of your accomplishments.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place Wednesday, April 5, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on the proposed 5-year strategic plan of the U.S. Forest Service in compliance with Government Results and Performance Act.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the hearing originally scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., before the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, a hearing to receive testimony on the incinerator component at the proposed Advanced Waste Treatment Facility at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory and its potential impact on the adjacent Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, has been cancelled.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole or Kevin Cark of the committee staff at (202) 224-6969.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, for purposes of conducting a joint committee hearing with the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations, which is scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m. The title of this oversight hearing is "America at Risk: U.S. Dependency on Foreign Oil."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Children and Families, be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Keeping Children Safe from Internet Predators" during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled "Swindling Small Businesses: Toner-Phoner Schemes and Other Office Supply Scams."

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Governmental Affairs Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing entitled "Oversight of HCFA's Settlement Policies: Did HCFA Give Favored Providers Sweetheart Deals?"

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing to receive testimony regarding the Administration's budget for the EPA Clean Air programs and the Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands budget.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 9:30 a.m., on broadband deployment in rural areas.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, TERRORISM AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, at 10 a.m., in SD-226.

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

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—S.J. RES. 43

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, there is a joint resolution at the desk which was introduced earlier by Senator COVERDELL and others, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 43) expressing the sense of the Congress that the President of the United States should encourage free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Peru.

Mr. LOTT. I now ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN AND REAFFIRMING U.S. POLICY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 99, submitted earlier today by me.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 99) congratulating the people of Taiwan for the successful conclusion of Presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and reaffirming United States policy toward Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on March 18 the people of Taiwan went to the polls and chose their next president through a free and fair multiparty election. The winner of a close three-way race, Chen Shui-bian of the Democratic Progressive Party, will be inaugurated in May.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Chen in Washington in 1997 when

he was the mayor of Taipei. I was impressed by his political smarts and his commitment to building a more democratic and prosperous Taiwan.

I also found him to be genuinely committed to improving relations with the mainland.

I believe that Taiwan's election provides a fresh opportunity for the people of Taiwan and the people of China to reach out and resolve their differences peacefully through dialog on the basis of mutual respect.

I hope that leaders on both sides of the Strait will seize this opportunity and begin to lay the foundation of trust, goodwill, and understanding which must precede true reconciliation.

The inauguration of Chen will end the virtual monopoly of power the Nationalist Party has exercised for most of the past 50 years. This peaceful transition of power at the top of Taiwan's political system will mark the maturation of their democracy, and it is an event worthy of our profound respect and hearty congratulations.

It was only 13 years ago that Taiwan lifted martial law and ushered in a new period of open political discourse and expanded civil liberty. Prior to that, Taiwan's leaders did not tolerate dissent and moved swiftly and sometimes ruthlessly to silence their critics.

Taiwan's president-elect knows this well, because he got his start in politics as a young crusading lawyer working to promote transparency, freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly.

Taiwan's emergence as a genuine multiparty democracy is a significant development in the long history of China. It is all the more remarkable given the fact that China's leaders in Beijing have done their level best to intimidate Taiwan's voters and prevent them from exercising this fundamental right.

I cannot help but wonder how average Chinese on the mainland must view Taiwan's remarkable transformation. On the one hand, the people of China have a deep devotion to national unity and apparently are prepared to use force against Taiwan if it were to declare its independence.

As Zhang Yunling of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing explained to New York Times correspondent Elisabeth Rosenthal on March 20, "China was divided when it was weak, and now that it is getting strong again, people's nationalist feeling rises and they feel strongly it is time to reunite the country."

On the other hand, the people of China are beginning to form their own impressions of Taiwan, no longer content only to listen to the government's official propaganda demonizing the island. Some even admit publicly to a certain grudging admiration for Taiwan's accomplishments and hope their own government will do nothing to precipitate a crisis.

As one 22-year-old Beijing University physics major told Rosenthal, "I think both sides will have to make adjustments to their policies. After all Taiwan is democratic now, and the people have exercised their right to choose a president."

Let me read the words of that university student again, "... the people have exercised their right to choose a president."

In America, we take democratic transitions of power for granted. But in China, and until recently on Taiwan, it was a revolutionary concept. And yet that is precisely what the people of Taiwan did on March 18. They changed their leadership through a peaceful, orderly, democratic process. They did so, by all accounts, because they were frustrated with corruption, cronyism, campaign finance abuses, and bureaucratic inefficiency.

These are all faults that China's communist government has in spades. And with Internet use exploding in China, and with cross-straits commercial ties now in the tens of billions of dollars, there is no way that the people of China will not discover what is happening on Taiwan.

And they may become inspired not only by the island's prosperity, but also by its peaceful democratic revolution. I predict they will begin to ask themselves, "How come we don't enjoy the same standard of living and the same political rights here on the mainland?"

Taiwan's people are responsible for the island's miraculous transformation from authoritarian rule and poverty to democracy and prosperity. They deserve all of the credit. But the people of the United States have reason to feel a little bit of pride as well.

If Taiwan wins the Oscar for Best Actor, then we at least get a nomination for Best Supporting Actor. The United States commitment to Taiwan's security under the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act helped create the stable environment in which Taiwan has thrived.

The other critical component of cross-Strait stability has been our adherence to a "One-China" policy, in which we maintain that disputes between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait must be settled peacefully, and that the future relationship between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan must be determined in accordance with the wishes of the people of China and the people of Taiwan.

Maintaining a peaceful, stable environment in the Taiwan Strait has fostered economic growth throughout East Asia. It has also aided the emergence of democratic societies in the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, and Taiwan.

In the past decade, more people have come under democratic rule in East Asia than were liberated in Europe by

the end of the cold war and the collapse of the Soviet Union. This remarkable accomplishment would not have been possible without United States leadership.

Given all that Taiwan has accomplished in such a short span, I look forward to the future with renewed hope that someday all people of China will enjoy the rights and standard of living enjoyed by those fortunate few who live on Taiwan.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 99) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 99

Whereas section 2(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) states "[t]he preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" to be an objective of the United States;

Whereas Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process;

Whereas the people of Taiwan have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigns and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas Taiwan successfully conducted a presidential election on March 18, 2000;

Whereas President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has actively supported the consolidation of democratic institutions and processes in Taiwan since 1988 when he became President;

Whereas this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another in the history of Chinese societies;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Taiwan is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in East Asia and is supported by the United States Congress and the American people;

Whereas a stable and peaceful security environment in East Asia is essential to the furtherance of democratic developments in Taiwan and other countries, as well as to the protection of human rights throughout the region;

Whereas since 1972 United States policy toward the People's Republic of China has been predicated upon, as stated in section 2(b)(3) of the Taiwan Relations Act, "the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means";

Whereas section 2(b)(6) of the Taiwan Relations Act further pledges "to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people of Taiwan";

Whereas on June 9, 1998, the House of Representatives voted unanimously to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 270 that called upon the President of the United States to seek "a public renunciation by the People's

Republic of China of any use of force, or threat to use force, against democratic Taiwan”;

Whereas the People’s Republic of China has consistently refused to renounce the use of force against Taiwan;

Whereas the State Council, an official organ at the highest level of the Government of the People’s Republic of China, issued a “white paper” on February 21, 2000, which threatened “to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force”, if Taiwan indefinitely delays entering into negotiations with the People’s Republic of China on the issue of reunification; and

Whereas the February 21, 2000, statement by the State Council significantly escalates tensions across the Taiwan Straits and sets forth a new condition that has not heretofore been stated regarding the conditions that would prompt the People’s Republic of China to use force against Taiwan: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—*

(1) the people of Taiwan are to be congratulated for the successful conclusion of presidential elections on March 18, 2000, and for their continuing efforts in developing and sustaining a free, democratic society which respects human rights and embraces free markets;

(2) President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan is to be congratulated for his significant contributions to freedom and democracy on Taiwan;

(3) President-elect Chen Shui-bian and Vice President-elect Annette Hsiu-lien Lu of Taiwan are to be congratulated for their victory, and they have the strong support and best wishes of the Congress and the American people for a successful administration;

(4) it is the sense of Congress that the People’s Republic of China should refrain from making provocative threats against Taiwan and should instead undertake steps that would lead to a substantive dialogue, including a renunciation of the use of force against Taiwan and progress toward democracy, the rule of law, and protection of human and religious rights in the People’s Republic of China; and

(5) the provisions of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) are hereby affirmed as the statutory standard by which United States policy toward Taiwan shall be determined.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—  
S. 2285

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I have a unanimous-consent request which I have communicated to Senator DASCHLE. He is here to respond. Before I propound it, I will say this does have to do with the issue of gasoline taxes, and it is an effort to get a process started so we can have a discussion and debate about votes on this issue.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to Calendar No. 473, S. 2285, regarding gas taxes, and that following the reporting of the bill, there be 4 hours equally divided for debate under control of the two leaders or their designees. I further ask unanimous consent that no amendments or motions be in order and, following the use or yielding back of time, the bill be advanced to third reading and passage occur, all without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first, this bill has never been in committee. It has not had the opportunity afforded most legislation to be considered, have hearings, have people come forth and talk about the implications of eliminating the gas tax. Normally bills go through committee, and then they come to the floor. That is No. 1.

No. 2, what kind of a debate would one have when no amendments are made available? I cannot imagine that on an issue of this import we would want to accelerate the debate, accelerate the consideration, and prevent Senators from offering amendments and other ideas.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I regret the objection from the minority leader, but I understand. This agreement would allow the Senate to pass and send a message to all Americans that we are trying to do what we can in the short term to alleviate the rising gas prices all Americans are paying at the pumps.

I would not suggest for a moment that this is the long-term solution, and I should emphasize, this legislation would allow for the suspension of the 4.3-cents-a-gallon gas tax for the remainder of the year, with a trigger device that says that if the average price nationwide reaches \$2, then there will be a gas tax holiday for the remainder of the year for the full 18.4 cents a gallon.

It is pretty simple and straightforward. There would be time for debate, but I understand.

We will get the process started, and we will see how it develops in terms of the debate and what votes will occur in order for us to start this process, which looks like we will have to go through a motion to proceed to invoke cloture on the bill and then there will be subsequent votes.

In order for this to be considered in a timely fashion, which could take as long as a week or two, I thought we needed to get it started.

MOTION TO PROCEED—S. 2285

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 473 and send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to the Gas Tax Repeal Act, S. 2285:

Trent Lott, Frank H. Murkowski, Paul Coverdell, Conrad Burns, Larry E. Craig, Mike Crapo, Judd Gregg, Orrin Hatch, Rod Grams, Susan Collins, Robert F. Bennett, Chuck Grassley, Mike Inhofe, Don Nickles, Sam Brownback, and Richard G. Lugar.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this cloture vote will occur then on Thursday. I will work with the Democratic leader to set this vote, hopefully following the passage of the satellite loan guarantee bill, which I know the Senate is anxious to get completed. It was part of an agreement last year that we entered into with regard to the satellite bill that there was a need for a loan program to make sure that it actually worked, and so this bill will be on the floor. I am sure there are going to be some amendments that will be offered on that, but we would like to complete that and then go to this subsequent vote on Thursday. We will work through the timing of it. In the meantime, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. LOTT. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

LEADER’S LECTURE SERIES—BOB DOLE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I note that at 6 o’clock tonight, we will be hearing the sixth presentation in the Leader’s Lecture Series. Our presenter tonight is our beloved former minority and majority leader, Bob Dole. I encourage all Senators to attend. I know there will be family and friends and guests of Senator Dole. Hopefully, we will be available on C-SPAN so the American people will be interested in hearing from this patriot and one of America’s favorite sons.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29. I further ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then resume debate on S.J. Res. 14, the flag desecration bill for up to 30 minutes equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member.

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