

Whereas the Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh is responsible for breaking the Lome Peace Accords and for the violent aftermath that has consumed Sierra Leone since May 1, 2000: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States Government should do all in its power to help ensure that the Revolutionary United Front and its leaders, as well as other groups committing human rights abuses in Sierra Leone, are held accountable for the crimes and abuses committed against the people of Sierra Leone;

(2) the United States Government should not condone, support, or be a party to, any agreement that provides amnesty to those responsible for the crimes and abuses in Sierra Leone; and

(3) the United States Government should not provide incentives of any kind to regional supporters of the Revolutionary United Front until all support from them to the Revolutionary United Front has ceased.

AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT OF A PLAQUE WITHIN THE SITE OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Energy Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3293, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3293) to amend the law that authorized Vietnam Veterans Memorial to authorize placement within the site of the memorial of a plaque to honor those Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war but as a direct result of that service.

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

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The bill (H.R. 3293) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I should note this is legislation that is sponsored in the Senate by Senator BEN CAMPBELL of Colorado, but this is a House bill, originally sponsored by Congressman GALLEGLY of California. I thank Senator WYDEN for helping us work through getting this cleared, since it is an authorization for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before this Memorial Day weekend. I commend the three Senators and others who were involved in that issue.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to consideration of H.R. 4489, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4489) to amend section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I support the passage of H.R. 4489, the Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000, which makes very important revisions to section 110 of the 1996 Immigration Act. I, along with many of my colleagues, introduced an identical Senate companion to this bill, S. 2599, late last week.

As originally enacted, section 110 of the 1996 law mandated that an automated system be established to record the entry and exit of all aliens as a means to provide more information on individuals who "overstay" their visas. In the opinion of many, it became clear that this well-intentioned measure, if implemented, could have an unforeseen impact. Today, when INS or Customs officials inspect people at land borders, they examine papers as necessary and make quick determinations, using their discretion on when to solicit more information. Section 110, however, was being understood to require revisions to that system that would have greatly complicated travel across the land border by mandating that every single passenger of every single vehicle be required to provide detailed information in a form that could be entered into a computer on the spot. According to Dan Stamper, president of the Detroit International Bridge Company, even assuming an incredibly quick 30 seconds per individual, the traffic delays could exceed 20 hours in numerous jurisdictions at the northern border. This would obviously create extraordinary economic and environmental harm. Moreover, it would divert scarce law enforcement resources away from more effective measures.

Out of concern for its harmful impact on Michigan and law enforcement, I passed legislation in 1998 to delay implementation of section 110 from its original start date of September 30, 1998, until March 30, 2001. But it remained clear that a delay could not sufficiently satisfy concerns that the INS might develop a system that would prove harmful to the people of Michigan and other states.

FRED UPTON showed great leadership in the House on this issue and served his constituents extraordinarily well in helping to forge this compromise. LAMAR SMITH deserves great credit for working closely with us and his other House colleagues in making an agreement that meets the economic and security interests of all sides on this

issue. And JOHN LAFALCE also provided important assistance in this effort.

This is a great victory for the people of Michigan. This agreement strikes the right balance in enhancing our security and immigration enforcement needs while ensuring that we preserve the jobs and the other economic benefits Michigan receives from our close relationship with Canada.

This product of the agreement with the House replaces the current requirement that by March 30, 2001, a record of arrival and departure be collected for every alien at all ports of entry, with a more achievable requirement that the Immigration and Naturalization Service develop an "integrated entry and exit data system" that focuses on data INS already regularly collects at ports of entry.

The goal of section 110 has been to track individuals who overstay their allowable stay in the United States. That goal is redirected into a more achievable direction. INS will be directed to put in electronic and retrievable form the information already collected at ports of entry and pursue other measured step to improve enforcement of U.S. immigration laws. It is also directed to prepare a report on unmatched entry and departure data. That report is required to contain not only numbers of unmatched records, but an analysis of those numbers. The purpose of the latter requirement is to make sure that sufficient context for the data is provided to ensure that readers of the report are able to understand to what extent unmatched records reflect actual overstays, versus to what extent they are simply a function of data weakness (such as a lag time between the acquisition of the data and the entry of the data into the system). This will allow those charged with assessing the system to be in a better position to recommend its proper use and recommend ways of improving it. To that end, and to the end of otherwise improving implementation of the section, a task force chaired by the Attorney General that will include representatives of other government agencies and the private sector is established to examine the effectiveness of the system, ways of improving it, and the need for and costs of any additional measures, including security improvements. The bill also calls for increased international cooperation in securing the land borders.

In essence, the agreement substitutes this approach in place of a mandate that a system be developed that would have required that all foreign travelers or U.S. permanent residents be individually recorded into a system at ports of entry and exit, thereby likely bringing traffic to a halt on the northern border for miles, trapping U.S. travelers in the process and costing potentially tens of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, tourism and other industries. The