the question of the Transportation appropriations.

Am I not correct in that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. The reason for the quorum call is to accommodate the chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations who will be here, as I understand it, momentarily.

Senator LEVIN and I have just had the opportunity to talk on the telephone with the Secretary of Energy. It had been our intention and the Committee on Armed Services is currently scheduled to have a hearing at 9:30 tomorrow morning on the problems associated with the missing disks at the Los Alamos Laboratories.

In view of the fact that at least one committee—the Energy Committee, and I think it is so, that the Intelligence Committee—are conducting the hearing on this subject now, and basically the same witnesses would be involved, Senator Levin and I are of the opinion that time should be given for the Secretary of Energy and/or his staff to make certain assessments, and then we would proceed to address these issues in our committee.

I point out that our committee has explicit jurisdiction over these problems under the Standing Rules of the Senate. Nevertheless, other committees are looking at the situation. Secretary Richardson has agreed to appear as a witness before our committee, together with General Habinger, Ed Curran, and the Lab Director of Los Alamos. We will have that group of witnesses on Wednesday morning beginning at 9:30.

Senator LEVIN and I wish to notify Senators that we are rescheduling the hearing for tomorrow morning until 9:30

I ask Senator Levin if he wishes to add anything.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, only that John Brown is the fourth witness who will be invited. He is the Director at the Los Alamos Lab.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding the agreement the other committees have now, there will be a period for morning business with the time between now and 2 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders, and that at 2 p.m. the Senate turn to the Transportation appropriations bill.

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

Mr. WARNER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Hagel). The clerk will call the roll.

The acting legislative clerk proceeded to call.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 14, 2000

FLAG DAY 2000

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, today is the 223rd anniversary of the adoption, by the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia, of a resolution establishing a new symbol for the new nation that was then in its birth throes. The resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, was a model of simplicity, specifying only "that the flag be 13 stripes alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." Although the flag reputedly stitched by Betsy Ross arranged the stars in a full circle, other versions of this first flag placed the stars in a half circle or in a Washington, D.C. The resolution did not specify how the new constellation was to be configured.

This first flag, like the Constitution to follow it in 1787, was not entirely new, but rather predicated on flags that went before it. The English flag, known as the Red Ensign, flew over the thirteen colonies from 1707 until the Revolution. The body of this flag was red, with a Union Jack design in the upper left corner composed of the combined red-on-white Cross of St. George, patron of England, and the white-on-blue diagonal cross of St. Andrew, patron of Scotland. The Red Ensign was the merchant flag of England, reinforcing the colonists and their status as an unequal and lesser partner in their relationship with Mother England.

The Grand Union flag that first succeeded the Red Ensign was raised on January 1, 1776, approximately a year after the American Revolution had begun, over George Washington's headquarters in the outskirts of Boston. The Grand Union flag retained the Union Jack in the upper left corner, but the solid red body of the English flag and the white stripes. However, the stripes alone did not represent enough of a separation from England, and, a year later, the patron saints of England and Scotland were removed from the flag, to be replaced by the new constellation as a representation of the new nation which was then decisively vying for freedom.

In the ensuing years, stars and stripes were added to the flag, reflecting the growth of the young nation. The flag flying over Fort McHenry during the bombardment of September 13 and 14, 1814, that inspired Francis Scott Key to compose the immortal words that became our national anthem, contained fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. By 1818, the number of stars had climbed to twenty, while the number of stripes had shrunk back to the more manageable thirteen. On April 4, 1818, Congress adopted another resolution to specify that the number of stripes on the flag would forever remain at thirteen, representing the original thirteen United States.

Certainly, knowing the history and evolution of the American flag from the Red Ensign, through the Grand Union flag, to the Stars and Stripes, one can see clearly into the early history of our nation. The symbolism of the flag also echoes the principles of our government, with each state represented by its own star in the constellation, equal to all the other stars, and each one a vital part of the constellation as a whole. So I think it is also reflective of our nation of free people that the idea for Flag Day arose, not from a Governmental decree, but from the people. The idea of an annual day to celebrate the Flag is believed to have originated in 1865, when B.J. Cigrand, a school teacher from Fredonia, WI, arranged for pupils of Fredonia's Public School District 6 to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday." Over the following years, Mr. Cigrand advocated the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday' or 'Flag Day' in magazine and newspaper articles, as well as public addresses.

In 1889, George Balach, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned Flag Day ceremonies for the children in his school. His idea of observing Flag Day was subsequently adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. In 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and in 1892, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution held similar festivities.

The Sons of the Revolution in Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America, further encouraged the widespread adoption of Flag Day, and on June 14, 1893, in Independence Square in Philadelphia, Flag Day exercises were conducted for Philadelphia public school children. The following year, the Governor of New York directed that American flags be flown on all public buildings on June 14, while in Chicago, more than 500,000 children participated in that city's first Flag Day celebration.


So now, thanks to the inspiration of a pair of elementary school teachers
who had the vision to bring to life a vivid bit of history for their young students, who are reminded to look out our window for a bright bit of cloth floating on the breeze, and to recall the struggle that created it, and the great country which it represents so ably and so proudly. There is just nothing like it, nothing like the Stars and Stripes. For instance, yards of fabric, we can see the origin of our Nation, its beginnings. We can see the bit of British history that we all share, whether or not any English blood actually flows in our veins. It is in the very shape of our flag, with its red field split by white stripes of separation, in the white stars on a blue field supplanting the British crosses. We can sense the oppression of that unequal partnership. We can feel the frustration of being a subject colony in those white stripes that separate and break up the red field of the British trade flag. And, we can sense the purpose and optimism of the new nation, so eloquently portrayed by the “new constellation” of white stars against a deep blue sky.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of B.J. Cigrand and George Balach, and pay homage to this anniversary date. I hope that my colleagues and those who are listening and watching through those electronic eyes, might offer their own salutes to the flag today, and resolve to celebrate today or future Flag Days by unfurling their own flags and flying them proudly. In my own house, over in McLean, I fly the flag when I am there and can watch the flag and take it down if raindrops start to fall.

In January of this year, I was in Nepal and visited a home where girls who have returned from this terrible trafficking of human individuals live. What I saw there was a ghastly sight. There were young girls, 16, 17, 18 years of age, most of whom had been tricked out of their villages in Nepal and promised a job at a carpet factory or a job as a housekeeper in Kathmandu—sometimes in Bombay. India these girls took the job offered, not having any other economic opportunities available to them. Once taking the job and moving out of their villages and away from their families they were forced into a brothel. They were locked in a room, their families they were forced into a situation where they can resell their human flesh. Apparently, they believe by this body because the issue is so terrible, so disgusting, and awful. We need to put some focus on this and have some remedies to it.

Increasingly, you are seeing international organized crime groups getting involved in the trafficking of human flesh. Apparently, they believe this is a business they can be successful at, that unlike drugs, it does not involve as many criminal activities because much of this has not been criminalized. They are saying it is a situation where they can resell their “property.” Unlike drugs they sell once, they can sell human flesh multiple times.

It is just a ghastly, terrible thing that is taking place. Organized crime is increasing its activity in this arena, trafficking. We need to step up and address it.