

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to assure preservation of safety net hospitals through maintenance of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program.

S. 2330

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2330, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on telephone and other communication services.

S. 2423

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2423, a bill to provide Federal Perkins Loan cancellation for public defenders.

S. 2582

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2582, a bill to amend section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to better define the term political organization.

S. 2583

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2583, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase disclosure for certain political organizations exempt from tax under section 527.

S. 2585

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2585, a bill to amend titles IV and XX of the Social Security Act to restore funding for the Social Services Block Grant, to restore the ability of the States to transfer up to 10 percent of TANF funds to carry out activities under such block grant, and to require an annual report on such activities by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 2730

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2730, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2731

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2731, a bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to enhance the Nation's capacity to address public health threats and emergencies.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 111

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 111, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding ensuring a competitive North American market for softwood lumber.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution disapproving the extension of the waiver authority contained in section 402(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to Vietnam.

S. RES. 239

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 239, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Nadia Dabbagh, who was abducted from the United States, should be returned home to her mother, Ms. Maureen Dabbagh.

S. RES. 294

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 294, a resolution designating the month of October 2000 as "Children's Internet Safety Month."

S. RES. 301

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 301, a resolution designating August 16, 2000, as "National Airborne Day."

AMENDMENT NO. 3430

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3430 proposed to H.R. 4475, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3432

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3432 proposed to H.R. 4475, *supra*.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 123—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING MANIPULATION OF THE MASS AND INTIMIDATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS HIS STRONG CONCERN FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND THE INDEPENDENT MEDIA IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 123

Whereas almost all of the large printing plants, publishing houses, and newspaper distribution companies, several leading news agencies, and almost all of the nationwide television frequencies and broadcasting facilities in the Russian Federation remain under government control, despite the extensive privatization of state-owned enterprises in other sectors of the Russian economy;

Whereas the "Press Freedom Survey 2000" reported by "Freedom House" of Washington, DC, stated that the approximately 2,500 regional and rural newspapers in Russia outside of Moscow are almost completely owned by local or provincial governments;

Whereas the Government of Russia is able to suspend or revoke broadcast and publishing licenses and apply exorbitant taxes and fees on the independent media;

Whereas, in 1999, a major television network controlled by the Russian Government canceled the program "Top Secret" after it reported on alleged corruption at high levels of the government;

Whereas, in July 1999, the Government of Russia created a new Ministry for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications;

Whereas, in August 1999, the editors of fourteen of Russia's leading news publications sent an open letter to then Russian President Boris Yeltsin stating that high-ranking officials of the government were putting pressure on the mass media, particularly through unwarranted raids by tax police;

Whereas Mikhail Lesin, Minister for Press, Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Mass Communications, stated in October 1999 that the Russian Government would change its policies towards the mass media so as to address "aggression" by the Russian press;

Whereas the Russian Federal Security Service or "FSB" is reportedly implementing a technical regulation known as "SORM-2" by which it could reroute, in real time, all electronic transmissions over the Internet through FSB offices for purposes of surveillance, a likely violation of the Russian constitution's provisions concerning the right to privacy of private communications, according to Aleksei Simonov, President of the Russian "Glasnost Defense Foundation," a nongovernmental human rights organization;

Whereas such surveillance under SORM-2 would allow the Russian Federal Security Service access to passwords, financial transactions, and confidential company information, among other transmissions;

Whereas it is reported that over one hundred Russian journalists have been killed over the past decade, with few if any of the government investigations into those murders resulting in arrests, prosecutions, or convictions;

Whereas numerous observers of Russian politics have noted the blatant misuse of the leading Russian television channels, controlled by the Russian Government, to undermine popular support for political rivals of those supporting the government in the run-up to parliamentary elections held in December 1999;

Whereas it has been reported that Russian television stations controlled by the Russian Government were used to disparage opponents of Vladimir Putin during the campaign for the presidency in the beginning of this year, and whereas it has been reported that political advertisements by those candidates were routinely relegated by those stations to slots outside of prime time coverage;

Whereas manipulation of the media by the Russian Government appeared intent on portraying the Russian military attack on the separatist Republic of Chechnya to the maximum political advantage of the Russian Government;

Whereas in December 1999 two correspondents for "Reuters News Agency" and the "Associated Press" were reportedly accused of being foreign spies after reporting high Russian casualty figures in the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the arrest in January 2000, subsequent treatment by the Russian military, and prosecution by the Russian Government of Andrei Babitsky, a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty covering the war in Chechnya, have constituted a violation of commitments made by the Russian Government to foster freedom of speech and of the press, and have reportedly constituted a violation of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation;

Whereas in January 2000 Aleksandr Khinshtein, a reporter for the newspaper "Moskovsky Komosomlets", was ordered by the Russian Federal Security Service to enter a clinic over 100 miles from his home for a psychiatric examination after he accused top Russian officials of illegal activities, and such detainment in psychiatric wards was previously employed by the former Soviet regime to stifle dissent;

Whereas the Russian newspaper "Novaya Gazeta" was officially warned by the Russian Ministry of the Press for its printing of an interview with Aslan Maskhadov, the

elected President of the Republic of Chechnya; an entire issue of "Novaya Gazeta", including several articles alleging massive campaign finance violations by the presidential campaign of Vladimir Putin, was lost to unidentified computer "hackers"; and a journalist for "Novaya Gazeta" was savagely beaten in May of this year;

Whereas President Thomas Dine of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on March 14th, 2000, condemned the Russian Government's expanding efforts to intimidate the mass media, stating that those actions threaten the chances for democracy and rule of law in Russia;

Whereas "NTV", the only national independent television station, which reaches half of Russia and is credited with professional and balanced news programs, has frequently broadcast news stories critical of Russian Government policies;

Whereas on May 11, 2000, masked officers of the Russian Federal Security Service carrying assault weapons raided the offices of "Media-Most", the corporate owner of NTV and other independent media;

Whereas the May 11th raid on Media-Most represented a failure of recourse to normal legal mechanisms and conveyed the appearance of a politically-motivated attack on Russian independent media;

Whereas the raid on Media-Most was carried out under the authority of President Putin and Russian Government ministers who have not criticized or repudiated that action;

Whereas on June 12, 2000, Vladimir Gusinsky, owner of NTV and other leading independent media was suddenly arrested;

Whereas President Putin claimed not to have known of the planned arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky;

Whereas the continued functioning of an independent media is a vital attribute of Russian democracy and an important obstacle to the return of authoritarian or totalitarian dictatorship in Russia; and

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) expresses its continuing, strong support for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses its strong concern over the failure of the government of the Russian Federation to privatize major segments of the Russian media, thus retaining the ability of Russian officials to manipulate the media for political or corrupt ends;

(3) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of Russian officials' surveillance and physical, economic, legal, and political intimidation of Russian citizens and of the Russian media that has now become apparent in Russia;

(4) expresses its strong concern over the pattern of manipulation of the Russian media by Russian Government officials for political and possibly corrupt purposes that has now become apparent;

(5) expresses profound regret and dismay at the detention and continued prosecution of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalist Andrei Babitsky and condemns those breaches of Russian legal procedure and of Russian Government commitments to the rights of Russian citizens that have reportedly occurred in his detention and prosecution;

(6) expresses strong concern over the breaches of Russian legal procedure that have reportedly occurred in the course of the May 11th raid by the Russian Federal Security Service on Media-Most and the June 12th arrest of Vladimir Gusinsky; and

(7) calls on the President of the United States to express to the President of the Russian Federation his strong concern for freedom of speech and the independent media in the Russian Federation and to emphasize the concern of the United States that official pressures against the independent media and the political manipulation of the state-owned media in Russia are incompatible with democratic norms.

## SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this concurrent resolution to the Secretary of State with the request that it be forwarded to the President of the Russian Federation.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a resolution on an important human rights issue in the Russian Federation: freedom of the press. This resolution was introduced in the House yesterday by Congressmen GILMAN and LANTOS and Helsinki Commission Chairman CHRIS SMITH, who share my concern for human rights around the globe.

This resolution expresses the concern of the Congress over the treatment of the Russian media by the government of Russia. This treatment has included increased intimidation, manipulation, and scare tactics. Most recently, Vladimir Gusinsky, owner of the principal independent television station in Russia, was arrested and the offices of Media Most were searched without due process.

The media in Russia, even today, is still mostly state-owned. Of the large printing and publishing houses, newspaper distribution companies, nationwide television frequencies, and the broadcasting facilities that have been privatized at all, the government still maintains an interest and some measure of control over many of them. Such control has reportedly been used for political ends in recent parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia.

It is imperative for the future of democracy in Russia to maintain a free and independent media. A free press is essential to achieving stability in Russia and a government that is accountable to the rule of law. Such manipulation and intimidation tactics that have been employed by the Russian Government in recent weeks contradict the democratic values that we hope Russia will embrace.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this resolution to express our support for press freedom in Russia and our concern over its infringement.