

undue interruption of necessary supply to fulfill the requirements under this paragraph.

SA 11. Mr. NICKLES (for Mr. McCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 14, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust; as follows:

The first section of the resolution is amended by striking "April 18, 2001" and inserting "April 19, 2001".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 8, 2001 at 9:30 a.m., in open session, to receive testimony on the Secretary's priorities and plans for Department of Energy National Security Programs.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on: Making Patient Privacy A Reality: Does The Final HHS Regulation Get The Job Done? during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 8, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 8, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., in Dirksen 226.

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

A TRIBUTE TO LORETTA SYMMS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to add my voice to the chorus of those singing the praises of Loretta Symms. Much as I hate to say it, Loretta will be retiring as Deputy Sergeant of Arms at the end of this week.

We hear a lot of talk about bipartisanship these days—and that's good. But Loretta Symms was the walking, breathing personification of bipartisanship before bipartisanship was cool.

She is a consummate professional. As Deputy Sergeant at Arms, one of Loretta's many responsibilities is greeting visiting dignitaries. Over the years, she has escorted Presidents, Vice Presidents, foreign heads of state, and other visiting dignitaries through these hallways. In fact, she has probably met

more foreign leaders than most Senators. She is a good and gracious ambassador for this institution.

When it comes to the Senate, no chore is too big for Loretta—or too small. I understand she even put on rubber gloves once to show her staff how to clean. Her reverence for this building is something I share, and one of the many reasons I like her. Loretta feels strongly that the Capitol is the People's House. When visitors come here, she wants them to be treated with respect, and she wants them to be able to learn something they may not have known before. That is why she works so closely with the staff who work directly with the public.

Loretta has also made a difference in the lives of people in this building whom the public never sees. In her 14 years in the Sergeant at Arms office, she started a broad array of training programs to help employees sharpen their skills and advance their careers.

Beyond her considerable professional strengths, what I admire most about Loretta are her personal qualities: her kindness, and her generosity of spirit.

She has given her time—and in some cases, her own financial resources—to help other members of our Senate family through difficult times.

Between them, Loretta and her husband, our former colleague Steve Symms, share seven children. Many parents of seven would not have time for anyone else's children. But not Loretta. She is a surrogate Mom and confidante to many of our Senate pages.

Senators on both sides of the aisle also know they can count on Loretta to tell us honestly if she thinks we are wrong, and to encourage us when she thinks we are right. We will miss her good advice, her kind smile—and much more. As Loretta and Steve begin this next chapter in their lives, we wish them good luck and good health. We hope they have many great adventures, and we hope Loretta will come back to visit often.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT CHANDRIKA BANDARANAIKE KUMARATUNGA AND THE PEOPLE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 10, S. Res. 17.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 17) congratulating President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence.

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

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution (S. Res. 17) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 17

Whereas February 4, 2001, is the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka from Britain;

Whereas the present constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka has been in existence since August 16, 1978, and guarantees universal suffrage; and

Whereas the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the United States share many values, including a common belief in democratic principles, a commitment to international cooperation, and promotion of enhanced trade and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on the celebration of 53 years of independence;

(2) expresses best wishes to the Government and the people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as they celebrate their national day of independence on February 4, 2001; and

(3) looks forward to continued cooperation and friendship with the Government and people of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the years ahead.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President with the request that the President further transmit such copy to the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN EL SALVADOR

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 11, S. Res. 18.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 18) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck El Salvador on January 13, 2001.

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

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the 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 resolution (S. Res. 18) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 18

Whereas, on the morning of January 13, 2001, a devastating and deadly earthquake of a magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter scale shook the entire nation of El Salvador, killing more than 700 people, injuring more than 3,000, and leaving more than 50,000 homeless;

Whereas the earthquake of January 13, 2001, has left thousands of buildings in ruin, caused deadly landslides, and destroyed highways and other infrastructure;

Whereas the strength, courage, and determination of the people of El Salvador has been displayed since the earthquake;

Whereas El Salvador is still recovering from years of civil war, hurricane damage, and flood damage;

Whereas the people of the United States and El Salvador share strong friendship and mutual interests and respect;

Whereas some United States specialists from Costa Rica and Miami, including specialists from the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, were deployed to assist disaster relief efforts in El Salvador;

Whereas United States military personnel from the United States Southern Command are providing some technical assistance;

Whereas the USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has set up an office in El Salvador's National Emergency Committee (COEN) to assist the office in its coordination efforts and to ensure access to the latest information; and

Whereas the United Nations launched an appeal for humanitarian assistance and initial rehabilitation to address the devastation caused by the powerful earthquake: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of El Salvador and other Central American countries for the tragic losses suffered as a result of the earthquake of January 13, 2001;

(2) expresses its support for the people of El Salvador as they continue their efforts to rebuild their cities and their lives;

(3) expresses support for disaster assistance being provided by the United States Agency for International Development and other relief agencies;

(4) recognizes the important role that is being played by the United States and other countries in providing assistance to alleviate the suffering of the people of El Salvador; and

(5) encourages a continued commitment by the United States and other countries to the long-term, sustainable development of El Salvador.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE IN INDIA

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 12, S. Con. Res. 6.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 6) expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake that struck India on January 26, 2001, and support for ongoing aid efforts.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to cosponsor S. Con. Res. 6. This concurrent resolution sends a message of sympathy and support to the people of India, who have been struck by one of the worst natural disasters to afflict their nation in the half-century since Independence.

The earthquake which devastated the Western Indian state of Gujarat killed untold thousands. The magnitude of this tragedy is demonstrated by the fact that 30,000 dead is now referred to as an optimistic estimate. Other sources, such as the Indian Minister of Defense, have suggested a worst-case scenario of 100,000 dead.

As President Bush noted, a disaster such as this knows no national boundaries. The victims have been the people of India, but the burden of humanitarian relief rests on the shoulders of the entire world community.

I congratulate the relief workers, from many nations, who have stepped up to the challenge. The most important work, of course, has been done by the Indians themselves: tens of thousands of military and civilian personnel who have labored tirelessly to help save the lives of those trapped in the wreckage.

Working alongside them have been search and rescue teams from Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Russia and Turkey. They helped locate victims with state-of-the-art thermal sensors, and with specially-trained canine units.

Following closely after the search and rescue teams have been medical units from France, Japan, Israel, Denmark and NGOs like the International Federation of the Red Cross and Doctors without Borders. These nations and groups have set up field hospitals and shipped in medical supplies to tend to the needs of tens of thousands of wounded.

Many other countries have offered cash donations, food, tents, blankets, or other humanitarian assistance. Of these donor countries I would like to single out Pakistan for particular commendation: in light of recent tensions, and of Pakistan's own losses in the earthquake—at least a dozen dead,

with a full reckoning not yet made—the shipment of relief supplies was an important gesture of peace.

The United States, for logistical reasons, has concentrated its efforts on providing potable water, shelter, and food to those rendered homeless by the quake. USAID has already made several airlifts of vital material, and more aid is in the pipeline.

When a disaster occurs at such a great geographical remove, US assets might not always be the first to arrive on the spot. But once the US gears up for a challenge, it is equal to any task. The job of the world community now is to make sure that the earthquake does not claim more victims after the last tremors have ceased.

The basic human-needs infrastructure of Gujarat has, in many areas, been entirely wiped out: hundreds of thousands of people will be effected, to one degree or another. In a situation like this, diseases like cholera or dysentery—easily preventable, with proper medical and nutritional facilities—can spread like wildfire. Simply insuring that the dispossessed people have access to food, shelter, and clean water can save countless lives.

We Americans are a compassionate people. But from the stark figures of relief provided and pledged, the extent of our compassion may not be clear. In the crucial first days following the disaster—when a dozen other countries were actively engaged in rescue and medical support—our financial pledge was one-third that of Great Britain, a million dollars lower than that of Germany, and a sum less than the combined pledges of Holland and Italy.

Our contribution has since risen, and I am told that it will continue to rise in the days and weeks to come. I certainly hope that it does. And when the time comes to fund the reconstruction of Western India's basic infrastructure a task that will require more than \$1 billion in loans from international financial organizations I hope that we will demonstrate the full extent of our country's compassionate nature.

Today, as India works to save the lives of its citizens and mourns the lives of those who could not be saved, our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Gujarat. I hope that the United States will accelerate its efforts to put these thoughts and prayers into generous, concrete action.

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

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 6) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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