

to the United States or in allowing left-behind parents adequate visits with their children in Germany. To that end, we must not allow Germany—or any other signatory nation—to ignore their convention obligations and turn blindly against the parents who have suffered unbelievable heartache due to the loss of their children.

What we have to remember when a parent abducts a child is that each abduction involves the destruction of a family. Yes, it is unfair for the mother or father who is left behind, but much more importantly, it is unfair for that child. A good illustration of this is what happened to Tom Sylvester of Cincinnati, OH. I have talked to Mr. Sylvester about his case, about his child. I have seen the desperation on his face. Tom is the father of a little girl named Carina, whom he has seen for a total of only about 18 days since his ex-wife abducted her from Michigan, where they lived, in 1995. The ex-wife took this little girl to Austria. The day after the kidnapping, Mr. Sylvester filed a complaint with the State Department and started legal proceedings under the Hague convention.

An Austrian court heard his complaint, and the court ordered the return of Carina to Mr. Sylvester. However, this court order was never enforced, and Carina's mother took the child into hiding. Eventually, though, when Carina's mother surfaced with the child, the Austrian courts reversed their decision on returning her to the father, finding that she "resettled into her new environment"—a decision clearly contrary to the terms of the Hague convention.

Sadly, Mr. Sylvester is still waiting to get his little girl back.

The bottom line is this, Mr. President: We must make the return of America's children a top priority with our State Department, a top priority with our Justice Department. Governance and policymaking are clearly about setting priorities. It is my hope that the new leadership in our State Department and the new leadership in the Justice Department will make that issue a top priority and will start trying to get these kids back.

I raised this issue with Attorney General Ashcroft during his Senate confirmation hearings, and I have written to the Secretary of State as well about the urgency of this issue. Today, I again say to our Justice Department and to our State Department: We must begin to prioritize these cases. Yes, it is important to worry about trade issues. Yes, there are many other issues on the desks of the State Department and our embassies. But what could be more important than a child? If we can say that foreign trade is important, we should also say that our children are important as well.

It is a question of setting priorities, and we must begin to prioritize these

cases, and our State Department and our Justice Department must do this. No excuses should be accepted by the parents of these children, nor by the Senate, nor by the House of Representatives, nor by the American people. This must be a priority. These kids must be a priority.

As a parent and a grandparent, I cannot begin to imagine the nightmare so many American parents face when their children are kidnapped by a current or former spouse and taken abroad. It is hard to imagine. But, tragically, this is a very real and daily nightmare for hundreds of parents right here in this country. That is why the resolution we have introduced is critical to encouraging the safe return of children to the United States. It gives us an opportunity to help make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families.

In the end, if we are to succeed in bringing parentally abducted children back to their homes in the United States, the Federal Government must take an active role in their return. Ultimately, our Government has an obligation to these parents, but much more importantly, to these children. We must place our children first. They must become our priority.

I urge my colleagues to join in support and passage of this very important resolution.

THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. No. 69, which is now at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and urging all Contracting States to the Convention to recommend the production of practice guides.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. DEWINE. 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 that any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 69) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I now ask

unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Monday, March 26. I further ask that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to a period for morning business not to extend beyond 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator BYRD, or his designee, controlling the time between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Senator THOMAS, or his designee, controlling time between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon the Senate resume consideration of S. 27 and that Senator WELLSTONE be recognized for an amendment.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the campaign finance reform bill at noon this coming Monday. Senator WELLSTONE will be recognized to offer an amendment during Monday's session. Debate on S.J. Res. 4, the Hollings constitutional amendment, will begin at 2 p.m. by previous consent. Debate will continue on that issue until 6 p.m., with a vote scheduled on passage of S.J. Res. 4 at 6 p.m.

Any votes ordered with respect to amendments to the campaign finance legislation will be stacked to follow the 6 p.m. vote. Therefore, several votes will occur in a stacked sequence beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2001, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 26, 2001, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 23, 2001:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARC ISAIAH GROSSMAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL AFFAIRS).
RICHARD LEE ARMITAGE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Above Nominations Were Approved Subject To The Nominee's Commitment To Respond To Requests To

Appear and Testify Before Any Duly
Constituted Committee of the Senate.