

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 11 and Calendar No. 12.

I further ask that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NATIONAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD

A. Wilson Greene, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2009.

Katina P. Strauch, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the National Museum and Library Services Board for a term expiring December 6, 2009.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WRITINGS OF DASHIELL HAMMETT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 51, submitted earlier today by Senator FEINSTEIN.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 51) recognizing the importance of the writings of Dashiell Hammett to American literature and culture on the 75th anniversary of the first publication of "The Maltese Falcon."

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to support passage of a resolution I submitted recognizing the importance of the writings of Dashiell Hammett on the 75th anniversary of the first publication of *The Maltese Falcon*. This novel has had a notable impact on American literature and culture, as well as a profound influence on my hometown of San Francisco—the home of hard-boiled detective stories.

Dashiell Hammett's work exemplifies a unique and original American literary style. Drawing upon his own experiences in detective work and amateur sleuthing, Hammett brought realism and fact into the crime novel: He did not tolerate inaccurate details, and even once wrote a column for the New

York Evening Post to note incorrect facts in others' works, to aid would-be writers who were never detectives and would not know the difference between an automatic pistol and a revolver.

The *Maltese Falcon*, his best-known work, one of the most historically significant crime novels in history, portrayed its protagonist, Private Investigator Sam Spade, in the rough and tumble San Francisco underworld of the 1920s. The novel was the third of the five published Hammett novels. After its 1930 publication as a novel, it also appeared as a comic book and was syndicated in newspaper supplements. It became a giveaway for soldiers serving during World War II. And it has been printed in hundreds of editions in 50 countries and in over 30 languages.

It is not only in print that *The Maltese Falcon* has soared. Within a year of its initial publication, it had already been adapted for the screen in 1931, followed by a second adaptation in 1936. The final, and most faithful, adaptation is the 1941 film starring Humphrey Bogart and Mary Astor by first time director John Huston. The American Film Institute rated this version as one of the top films of the twentieth century and it can be found on the countless other "Great Films" listings.

Much of Dashiell Hammett's formative experience that led to his stories was found in San Francisco. In fact, in one of his short stories, "The Scorched Face," some of the action takes place in a house set on the street where I lived as a child. Because of Hammett's works, San Francisco is still the preferred setting for crime noir and detective stories on the page and on the screen.

On February 14 and throughout this year, literary organizations across the country will be celebrating this important anniversary, including a lecture organized by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and cosponsored by the Mystery Writers of America, by Dr. Richard Layman, a literary scholar and Hammett specialist.

The National Council of Teachers of English, which will hold its annual conference in San Francisco, has invited Hammett's daughter to present a lecture. The Friends of the Library USA will dedicate 891 Post Street, where Hammett lived when he wrote *The Maltese Falcon*, as a National Literary Landmark, on March 19.

The San Francisco Public Library will also commemorate the anniversary with an exhibition—*The Maltese Falcon* at 75—of Hammett memorabilia connected with the novel and will have discussions with Hammett's granddaughter. This collection could even become a traveling exhibit.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in commemorating this important anniversary in American literary history.

Mr. FRIST. 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, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 51) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 51

Whereas Samuel Dashiell Hammett was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, on May 27, 1894, and died in New York City, on January 10, 1961;

Whereas Dashiell Hammett joined Pinkerton's National Detective Agency in 1915 at the age of 21 and worked for the agency in Maryland, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Montana, and California;

Whereas Dashiell Hammett served the United States in the Army Ambulance Motor Corps during World War I and, after enlisting in 1942 at the age of 48, in the Aleutian Islands during World War II, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas Dashiell Hammett wrote "The Maltese Falcon" (published on February 14, 1930), 1 of the most widely-read crime novels in history, which introduced the literary figure Sam Spade, 1 of the most famous detectives in American literature, and set San Francisco as the center of hard-boiled crime fiction;

Whereas "The Maltese Falcon" has appeared in hundreds of editions in 50 countries and over 30 languages and was adapted into 3 movies, including a 1941 Warner Brothers film directed by John Huston and starring Humphrey Bogart, which has been recognized by the American Film Institute as 1 of the greatest movies of all time; and

Whereas "The Maltese Falcon" turned mystery and crime novels into a widely-recognized genre of literature and is a classic novel of American literature: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) salutes Dashiell Hammett as 1 of the most notable authors of hard-boiled crime fiction;

(2) notes the 75th anniversary of the publication of Dashiell Hammett's "The Maltese Falcon"; and

(3) recognizes "The Maltese Falcon" as a great American crime novel.

HONORING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 52, submitted earlier today by Senator CLINTON.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 52) honoring Shirley Chisholm for her service to the Nation and expressing condolences to her family, friends, and supporters on her death.

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

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I add my voice to so many in New York and Washington who are mourning the loss