

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2364, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 2432

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2432, a bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 257, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that October 15, 1998, should be designated as "National Inhalant Abuse Awareness Day."

SENATE RESOLUTION 259

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 259, a resolution designating the week beginning September 20, 1998, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week," and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES CITIZENS IN PUERTO RICO TO EXPRESS THEIR DESIRES REGARDING THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. HARKIN): submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 279

Whereas nearly 4,000,000 United States citizens live in the island of Puerto Rico;

Whereas 1998 marks the centenary of the acquisition of the island of Puerto Rico from Spain;

Whereas in 1917 the United States granted United States citizenship to the inhabitants of Puerto Rico;

Whereas since 1952, Puerto Rico has exercised local self-government under the sovereignty of the United States and subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and other Federal laws applicable to Puerto Rico;

Whereas the Senate supports and recognizes the right of United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico to express their views regarding their future political status; and

Whereas the political status of Puerto Rico can be determined only by the Congress of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING A REFERENDUM ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate supports and recognizes the right of United States citizens residing in Puerto Rico to express democratically their views regarding their future political status through a referendum or other public forum, and to communicate those views to the President and Congress; and

(2) the Federal Government should review any such communication.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—DIRECTING THE PRINTING AS A SENATE DOCUMENT OF A COMPILATION OF MATERIALS ENTITLED "HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY"

Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. HARKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 280

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.

The Public Printer shall print—

(1) as a Senate document a compilation of materials, with illustrations, entitled "History of the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry"; and

(2) 100 copies of the document in addition to the usual number.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

[Amendments submitted for the RECORD are transmitted electronically; data was not available at time of printing. This data will be printed in the next issue of the RECORD.]

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. on China Technology Transfer.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nominations of Gregory H. Friedman to be Inspector General of the Department of Energy; Charles G. Groat to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department

of the Interior, and to consider any other pending nominations which are ready for consideration before the Committee.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing on the General Services Administration FY99 Capital Investment and Leasing Program, on the FY99 courthouse construction requests of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and proposed legislation dealing with public buildings reform Thursday, September 17, 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406).

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., for a hearing on the nominations of Kenneth Prewitt, to be Director of the Bureau of the Census, and Robert "Mike" Walker, to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD226, of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 10:00, in room SD226, of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Professional Development: Incorporating Advances in Teaching during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 10:00 a.m.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000
TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on September 17, 1998 at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND
MANAGEMENT

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2385, a bill to establish the San Rafael Swell National Heritage Area and the San Rafael National Conservation Area in the State of Utah.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC
PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 17, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1175, a bill to reauthorize the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Citizen Advisory Commission for 10 additional years; S. 1641, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to study alternatives for establishing a national historic trail to commemorate and interpret the history of women's rights in the United States; S. 1960, a bill to allow the National Park Service to acquire certain land for addition to the Wilderness Battlefield, as previously authorized by law, by purchase or exchange as well as by donation; S. 2086, a bill to revise the boundaries of the George Washington birthplace National Monument; S. 2133, a bill to designate former United States Route 66 as "America's Main Street" and authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance; S. 2239, a bill to revise the boundary of Fort Matanzas National Monument, and for other purposes; S. 2240, a bill to establish the Adams National Historical Park in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and for other purposes; S. 2241, a bill to provide for the acquisition of lands formerly occupied by the Franklin D. Roosevelt family at Hyde Park, New York, and for other purposes; S. 2246, a bill to amend the Act which established the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by modifying the

boundary, and for other purposes; S. 2247, a bill to permit the payment of medical expenses incurred by the United States Park Police in the performance of duty to be made directly by the National Park Service, and for other purposes; S. 2248, a bill to allow for waiver and indemnification in mutual law enforcement agreements between the National Park Service and a State or political subdivision, when required by State law, and for other purposes; S. 2285, the Women's Progress Commemoration Act; S. 2297, a bill to provide for the distribution of certain publication in units of the National Park System under a sales agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a private contractor; S. 2309, the Gateway Visitor Center Authorization Act of 1998; S. 2401, a bill to authorize the addition of the Paoli Battlefield site in Malvern, Pennsylvania, to Valley Forge National Historical Park, and H.R. 2411, a bill to provide for a land exchange involving the Cape Cod National Seashore and to extend the authority for the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

211TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SIGNING OF THE CONSTITUTION

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this is a great date in the history not only of the United States, but of all free people, and of all people who would be free. On September 17, 1787, a small group of truly remarkable Americans gathered to sign one of the greatest documents in all of human history, the Constitution of the United States.

George Washington signed it as the President of the Constitutional Convention and deputy from Virginia. The names of other signers are familiar to all Americans: Benjamin Franklin, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton. Other names should be more familiar than they are, names like Morris and Pinkney and Dickinson and Rutledge.

We owe them a great debt. They have given us a firm foundation on which has been built our great and abiding stability. Even when this Nation was torn by a terrible fight over the institution of slavery, the Constitution allowed us to recover with amazing speed, become one Nation again, and avoid the generations of smoldering conflict that afflict so many other countries.

Our Constitution is at once solid and flexible. It can and has been amended from time to time to improve the machinery of government and to expand the rights that citizens enjoy. Throughout our history we have sought to follow Madison's wise advice to limit amendments to "certain great and extraordinary occasions."

In Federalist No. 43, James Madison wrote that the Constitution establishes

a balanced system for amendment, guarding "equally against that extreme facility, which would render the Constitution too mutable, and that extreme difficulty, which might perpetuate its discovered faults." The Constitution is profoundly conservative, in the best sense of that word. As Madison expressed in Federalist No. 49:

[A]s every appeal to the people would carry an implication of some defect in government, frequent appeals would, in great measure, deprive the government of that veneration which time bestows on everything and without which perhaps the wisest and freest governments would not possess the requisite stability.

It is remarkable that although some 11,000 constitutional amendments have been offered in our history, and more than 100 in the 105th Congress alone, the elected representatives in Congress and in the States have adopted only 17 since the original Bill of Rights. We have rejected many amendments that seemed to be good ideas at the time, but which on further reflection proved to be unnecessary. We have found that we could achieve the same results by statute, or have on sober reflection recognized that the amendments would have been mere symbolic gestures. We have avoided turning the Constitution into a mere bulletin board on which we "send a message." We have respected it and, most importantly, we have resisted the temptation to limit the fundamental freedoms of Americans. We have rejected the temptation to erode the Bill of Rights.

I cannot ignore the fact that Congress and the States did succumb once to what looked like a good idea without carefully considering the consequences of their action. The eighteenth amendment imposed prohibition and conjured up a swarm of gangsters, bootlegging, and wholesale disobedience of the law. It was a bad idea that had to be undone by another constitutional amendment. We should regard the eighteenth amendment as a reminder that we should go slow, and stop and consider carefully all of the implications of any change before we put it in the Constitution.

I submit that the Constitution of the United States is a good document—not a sacred text—but as good a law as has been written. That is why it has survived as the supreme law of the land with so few alterations throughout the last 200 years.

It has contributed to our success as a Nation by binding us together, rather than tearing us apart. It contains the Great Compromise that allowed small States and large States to join together in a spirit of mutual accommodation and respect. It embodies the protections that make real the pronouncements in our historic Declaration of Independence and give meaning to our inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Constitution requires due process and guarantees equal protection of