

supplemental appropriations bill that would have an additional \$600 million to go for emergency food assistance. That will then be able to get to Africa with all of its famine that is ravaging the land.

It is my hope, as the Appropriations Committees are meeting in conference right now on the emergency supplemental to determine the final outcome, that they will honor all those images they have seen on television of starving children and they will not reduce that \$600 million very much.

It is with this spirit of thanks, of humility, and thanksgiving that I come to speak on behalf of this legislation and to thank the Senate and the many participants here who have worked out all the kinks in this legislation so we could pass it in a unanimous fashion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— NOMINATION OF PRISCILLA OWEN

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that there be an additional 6 hours for debate on the Owen nomination, provided further that the time be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, or their designees, and that following the conclusion of that time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, we on this side are perplexed. We have indicated to the majority leader that there are at least three circuit judges who, with just a little bit of work, could be approved this week. The average during the Clinton 8 years was eight circuit judges a year. If the three were approved, that would be five already by Easter.

One of those is Edward C. Prado of the Fifth Circuit. They could go to that tomorrow—tonight. So we believe there is more here than meets the eye. There are three circuit judges who are available with just a little bit of work. This has all been discussed with the majority leader.

So for these and many other reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I modify the request to 10 additional hours.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Yes. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have approved, during the time President Bush has been President, 116 judges. Two have been turned down—116 to 2. One of those who was turned down is back. Owen is back. This would be the first time in the history of this country that a judge who has been turned down is back and would be approved.

The hours that have been suggested by my friend from Utah I appreciate very much, but there are productive things that could be done during those 10 hours, including the approval of more judges. There could be at the end of this week 120 judges instead of 116.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask if any number of hours would be sufficient for the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Speaking for the Senator from Nevada, there is not a number in the universe that would be sufficient.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business.

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

CUBAN OPPRESSION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to call the attention of the Senate to the important events happening right now in the island nation of Cuba. Over the past several weeks, Fidel Castro has been rounding up democracy activists, independent journalists, librarians, and signers of the Varela Project and throwing them in jail.

Fidel Castro has used the world's focus on the war in Iraq to divert attention in order for him to brutally crack down and further oppress Cubans who yearn for freedom. It has been difficult to get the exact number, but we think it is approximately 80 Cubans who have been arrested. Yesterday, a number of those activists who had been arrested were sentenced to terms of 15 to 25 years—if you can believe that—on charges of “undermining the socialist state.” It is reported that at least 11 of those could get life sentences, and at least one could get the death penalty.

I take the floor of the Senate to call to its attention that last night the Senate passed S. Res. 97, a resolution introduced by this Senator from Florida and cosponsored by the junior Senator from Virginia, Mr. ALLEN. The resolution passed the Senate unanimously. It condemns these actions, and it calls for the release of the prisoners of conscience in Cuba.

Why did the Senate want to take a stand, and why do we want to bring further attention to this other than has already been in the Nation's newspapers, pointing out that under the cloak of the world's attention being diverted to Iraq, Fidel Castro has started this crackdown and these arrests and these sentences, even possibly a death sentence? Well, it goes back to the fact that the Cuban Government does not like the world's attention that has been brought to the courageous 11,000 people who signed the petition under the Cuban law—the Cuban Constitu-

tion—which said that if at least 10,000 people sign a petition, the issues in that petition are then brought to the national assembly for action. Not only did 10,000 brave, courageous Cuban souls sign that petition, but over 11,000 did. It called for actions that you and I take for granted.

It called for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, release of political prisoners, and a free enterprise economy. It called for them to be brought before the Cuban National Assembly.

The Varela Project embodies the principles upon which all the world agrees: the right of the Cuban people to petition their government for civil and human rights, including free and fair elections.

The leader of this project, Oswaldo Paya, has continued to advance this important project at great risk to himself, his family, and his associates.

In May of 2002, Oswaldo Paya led a group of Cuban citizens who delivered exactly 11,020 verified signatures to the Cuban National Assembly supporting that referendum on civil liberties and all of the issues I have mentioned.

These are basic rights to which anyone is entitled. Recent reports indicate that the Varela network has been especially targeted in this crackdown by Fidel Castro. I take us back to last year, realizing the courageous effort by Senor Paya and the signers of that petition.

I sponsored and this Senate adopted the resolution 87 to 0, with the help of other supporters of the resolution, Senator DODD and Senator Helms. That resolution commended the Varela Project and Oswaldo Paya. It was an early step to providing international attention and support to Mr. Paya and those who signed on to the Varela Project.

The resolution that was adopted last year 87 to 0 was obviously bipartisan, and the resolution that was just adopted last night is similarly bipartisan and builds on that previous consensus and highlights that upon which we can all agree. What is that?

The resolution that was adopted last night condemns the recent arrest and other intimidation tactics against democracy activists by the Castro regime, and it calls on the Cuban Government to immediately release those imprisoned during the most recent crackdown for the acts that the Government of Cuba wrongly deems “subversive, counter revolutionary, and provocative.”

The resolution adopted last night also reaffirms S. Res. 272, the Varela Project resolution, that the Senate unanimously agreed upon last year, which calls for, among other things, amnesty for all political prisoners. The resolution we adopted last night praises the bravery of those Cubans who, because they had simply practiced free speech and signed the Varela Project petition, have now been targeted in this most recent government crackdown.

The resolution we adopted last night urges the President to demand the immediate release of all the prisoners and to take all appropriate steps to secure their immediate release.

I wish to say this to those with whom we have contact from time to time representing the Cuban Government: We in the Senate are watching. We are not going to let Fidel Castro get away with these kinds of actions. And we are going to keep the glare of the public spotlight and the glare of world view in the international community on this kind of thuggery. We are going to call him to account in the name of human dignity and freedom because even in Cuba people are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I specifically thank our Foreign Relations Committee which absolutely whizzed this resolution through the committee, our committee chairman, Senator LUGAR, and our ranking member, Senator BIDEN. I thank the subcommittee chairman, Senator COLEMAN. I thank my cosponsor, Senator ALLEN. I thank our ranking member of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, Senator DODD. All of them gave the green light and speeded this process.

I am going to continue to seek common ground with my colleagues as we seek to support the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom. I hope with this resolution having just been adopted that the administration will pursue a similar resolution of condemnation in the United Nations, and that the administration will seek immediate international support to secure the release of these and all freedom-loving Cubans who have been wrongly jailed because it is only through the constant and sustained recognition of this issue that our chances will be improved of creating forces of change on that long-suffering island.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senator from Florida is still in the Chamber, I wish to thank him for his impassioned comments. I am going to be speaking later this week on this same subject. I am one who, for a number of reasons—geopolitically, strategically, and economically—have not supported the current embargo on Cuba. I am, however—and I feel proud—as Vermonters say, I bow to nobody on the question of human rights on this floor.

I met with Mr. Castro in Havana a couple years ago at a time when there was another crackdown of dissidents. I told him specifically what I felt about that in very strong words. He obviously disagreed with me, but I felt as an American in Cuba, it would be wrong for me not to express such a view.

I will follow with a speech later this week on Cuba, but I hope my good friend from Florida, who has been such

an extraordinary leader in this area over the years, when he was in State government in Florida, when he was in the House of Representatives, and as a Senator—he has been such an extraordinary leader. I hope he knows, no matter how one might feel about our overall relations with Cuba, no American should find justifiable the silence of those who simply wish to speak to basic human freedoms, basic human rights—the right of speech, the right of religion. These are issues that, from the time of Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and George Washington, we have enunciated in this country, but I do not know any country that can claim any form of democracy and freedom that would feel that way. I commend my friend. I hope others will listen to him. I hope 90 miles from his home State that it will be heard as strongly as it was heard on the floor of the Senate. I commend him.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LEAHY. Of course.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I wish to say how much I appreciate the comments of the Senator. Here is a great example of two Senators representing two different parts of the country, at the end of the day, we have the same conclusion—what we want is freedom for that island. That island is the jewel of the Caribbean. Once freedom comes to that island, it will economically blossom and prosper. That island has so much rich history and such a beautiful culture.

The Senator has pointed out that although we might have a difference of opinion about topics such as an economic embargo, at the end of the day what we earnestly want is change. We want the winds of change to blow, and blow very hard and rapidly so that freedom can come to Cuba.

I thank the Senator for yielding.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 16, in New York, NY. An Arab-American man was attacked in the bathroom of a supermarket by one of the store's employees. The teenage attacker called the man an "Arab terrorist" before slamming his head into the steel door of the men's room. The victim was knocked unconscious for a brief time and, when he left the lavatory, his assailant and several other employees laughed at him and refused him any aid.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend

them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

WORLD HEALTH DAY

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, since 1948 the nations of the world have celebrated April 7 as World Health Day. Yesterday marked this day, which serves two important and related purposes. It focuses world attention on a specific international health issue that in the judgment of the World Health Organization, WHO, poses immediate and urgent problems. Further, it is a platform for marshaling resources to address this issue, through programs that will continue long after the day ends.

In years past World Health Day has focused on such crucial matters as the global eradication of polio and emerging infectious diseases. This year's theme is broad: "Healthy Environments for Children," and it has never been more timely. While we have made great progress in the treatment of infant diarrhea, typhoid, typhus, cholera, yellow fever, malaria, dengue fever, and other environment-based diseases, access to treatment is limited or nonexistent in many parts of the world. As a result, every year more than 5 million children—the most vulnerable members of society—die before reaching the age of 14. When war or civil conflict disrupts life, the danger of infection rises, as it does among those living in refugee camps. But there is no escaping the risk anywhere that water is contaminated, food unsafe, air polluted, and sanitation systems unreliable. Children fall ill in the very places where they live.

From our experience in treating infant diarrhea we know that treatment can be effective and efficient. Every year, 1.3 million children die of diarrhea often resulting from lack of access to safe drinking water or consuming dirty food. These deaths are preventable. If a child has diarrhea, a simple and effective sugar-and-salt solution called oral rehydration can treat severe loss of fluids in the body. The cost is minimal: just under 30 cents per child—this low-technology solution can save these children's lives. This year's World Health Day is a call to redouble our efforts not only to treat environment-based diseases where they occur, but especially to eliminate the conditions where they are bred. It can be done.

As the grave respiratory infection known as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, appears to be spreading rapidly, World Health Day is also an appropriate time to consider the vital role that the World Health Organization plays in our interconnected world, where mobility literally gives wings to life-threatening diseases. Today's New York Times documents the