

for engaging in free speech under Law 88, the Law for the Protection of National Independence and the Economy of Cuba, which is a notorious law passed 3 years ago by the communist county;

Whereas the imprisoned political opponents of Castro include librarians, journalists, and others who have supported the Varela Project, which seeks to bring free speech, open elections, and democracy to the island nation;

Whereas Fidel Castro has seized the opportunity to expand his brutal oppression of the Cuban people while the attention of the United States and other nations around the world is focused on the war in Iraq; and

Whereas the failure to condemn the Cuban Government's renewed political repression of democracy activists will undermine the opportunity for freedom on the Island: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the recent arrests and other intimidation tactics against democracy activists by the Castro regime;

(2) calls on the Cuban Government to immediately release those imprisoned and held during this most recent crackdown for activities the government wrongly deems "subversive, counter-revolutionary, and provocative";

(3) reaffirms Senate Resolution 272, 107th Congress, agreed to June 10, 2002, which was agreed to without opposition and which called for, among other things, amnesty for all political prisoners;

(4) praises the bravery of those Cubans who, because they practiced free speech and signed the Varela Project petition, have been targeted in this most recent government crackdown; and

(5) urges the President to demand the immediate release of these prisoners and to take all appropriate steps to secure their immediate release.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 105, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 105) to authorize testimony and legal representation in State of New Hampshire versus Macy E. Morse, et al.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 105) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 105

Whereas, in the case of State of New Hampshire v. Macy E. Morse, et al., pending in Portsmouth District Court for the State of New Hampshire, testimony has been re-

quested from Joel Maiola, a staff member in the office of Senator Judd Gregg;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Joel Maiola is authorized to provide testimony in the case of State of New Hampshire v. Macy E. Morse, et al., except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Joel Maiola in connection with any testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 106, which was submitted earlier today by Senator COCHRAN.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 106) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the 50th anniversary of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the Department of Agriculture.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. 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 matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 106) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 106

Whereas during the term of President Dwight David Eisenhower and the era of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, it became apparent that the development of external markets was needed to ensure the financial viability of the agricultural sector of the United States;

Whereas the Foreign Agricultural Service was established on March 10, 1953, to develop and expand markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

Whereas the Foreign Agricultural Service has represented agricultural interests of the United States during a period of expansion of United States agricultural exports from less

than \$3,000,000,000 in 1953 to more than \$50,000,000,000 in 2002; and

Whereas the number of organizations engaged in the public and private partnership established by the Foreign Agricultural Service to promote United States agricultural exports has grown from 1 organization in 1955 to more than 80 organizations in 2003, with market development and expansion occurring in nearly every global marketplace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Foreign Agricultural Service on March 10, 1953, recognizes the Service for—

(A) cooperating with, and leading, the United States agricultural community in developing and expanding export markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

(B) identifying the private partners capable of carrying out the mission of the Service;

(C) identifying and expanding markets for United States agricultural commodities and products;

(D) introducing innovative and creative ways of expanding the markets;

(E) providing international food assistance to feed the hungry worldwide;

(F) addressing unfair barriers to United States agricultural exports;

(G) implementing strict procedures governing the use and evaluation of programs and funds of the Service; and

(H) overseeing the use of taxpayers dollars to carry out programs of the Service; and

(2) declares that March 10, 2003, is a day recognizing—

(A) the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Foreign Agricultural Service; and

(B) the contributions of the Foreign Agricultural Service and employees and partners of the Service to agriculture in the United States.

NOMINATION OF PRISCILLA OWEN TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I believe the majority leader will be in the Chamber in a moment. While we wait, I will take this opportunity to share a few thoughts about an extraordinary nominee to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, Priscilla Owen.

She is, from my observation of hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee, an excellent, superb, truly magnificent nominee for the court of appeals. Justice Owen went to Baylor Law School, a very fine law school, and as I recall, finished second or third in her class, then took the bar exam. Every person who wants to be admitted to the bar in Texas has to take it. They study as they can and take the test. It is reported she made the highest single score on the Texas bar exam when she graduated from Baylor Law School. She was on the Law Review at Baylor law school.

She went to work at one of the finest law firms in Texas, did very well, achieved a very nice level of compensation as would be commensurate with that position, and many considered her to be perhaps the finest litigator in the State of Texas, a very high honor. The State of Texas Supreme Court had