

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. in closed session to mark up the Personnel Programs and Provisions contained in the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 at 3:30 p.m. in closed session to mark up the Seapower Programs and Provisions contained in the Department of Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Peter Winokus, a Fellow on my staff, be permitted on the floor during the consideration of today's energy bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I further ask unanimous consent that when it comes up again be also be given that consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Jonathan Epstein, a legislative fellow in my office, and Ms. Poonum Agrawal, who is a Presidential management intern with the Energy Committee, both be given floor privileges during the pendency of S. 14 and any votes thereon.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jerry Hinkle and Cami Dodge have floor privileges during this debate.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
CALENDAR NO. 53

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar No. 53, the bio-shield bill. I further ask consent that the only amendments, other than the committee amendment, be the following: a Gregg-Kennedy substitute,

and a Byrd amendment regarding mandatory spending. I further ask consent that there be 2 hours for general debate and 1 hour on each amendment to be equally divided in the usual form. I further ask consent that following the disposition of the above amendments and the use or yielding back of debate time, the bill be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to a vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I will object to this in just a minute, but I do want to spread across the record of the Senate that Senator BYRD and other Members of the Senate of the majority believe this sets up an entitlement.

Senator BYRD believes there should be an annual appropriation for this matter, this should not be an entitlement. As I have indicated, there are people on the other side of the aisle who also acknowledge this is the way things should be done.

We hope there can be some agreement. In the interim, until something is worked out, I object on behalf of Senator BYRD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. I must say, Mr. President, on this side of the aisle we have cleared this request, so there are no longer any problems over here. I know the senior Senator from West Virginia was hoping to work out some language on the mandatory spending provision. The chairman and the ranking member, I believe, are prepared to allow a vote on Senator BYRD's amendment, and that vote has been incorporated into this request. Therefore, I hope we can get this consent request worked out in the next day or so.

This bill is absolutely vital in that it provides for biomedical counter-measure research and development. We need to move forward on this bill. We really encourage the other side to understand the seriousness of this legislation, the importance of moving it forward.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER GOH
CHOK TONG

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 42 which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 42) welcoming the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, on the occasion of his visit to the United States, expressing gratitude to the Government of Singapore for its strong cooperation with the United States in the campaign against terrorism, and reaffirming the commitment of

Congress to the continued expansion of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Singapore.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. 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 any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 42) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 42

Whereas Congress is pleased to welcome the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, on his visit to the United States;

Whereas the United States and Singapore have a strong and enduring friendship;

Whereas the United States and Singapore share a common vision in ensuring the continued peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region;

Whereas Singapore is the 11th largest trading partner of the United States;

Whereas the Government of Singapore reacted with outrage and deep sympathy for the people of the United States in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Singapore has joined with the United States in the global struggle against terrorism, offering political, diplomatic, intelligence, and humanitarian support;

Whereas the Government of Singapore stood with the United States as a member of the Coalition for the Immediate Disarmament of Iraq;

Whereas Singapore, which has one of the busiest ports in the world, was the first Asian country to join the Container Security Initiative (CSI), a key United States Customs Service initiative designed to prevent terrorist attacks against the United States and other nations using global sea cargo;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Singapore extends beyond the current campaign against terrorism and is reinforced by strong ties of culture, commerce, and scientific and technical cooperation; and

Whereas this relationship touches on almost every field of international cooperation, including a common commitment to foster a stronger and more open international trading system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) welcomes the Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong, to the United States;

(2) expresses its profound gratitude to the Government of Singapore for its expressions of sympathy and support after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and its demonstrated willingness to fully cooperate with the United States in the global campaign against terrorism; and

(3) reaffirms its commitment to the continued expansion of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Singapore.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.