

the President may delay the imposition of the tariffs described in paragraph (1) for an additional 180 days. If at the end of the 180-day period the President determines that China has developed and started actual implementation of a plan to revalue its currency, the President may delay imposition of the tariffs for an additional 12 months, so that the People's Republic of China shall have time to implement the plan.

(4) NEGOTIATIONS.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall begin negotiations with the People's Republic of China to ensure that the People's Republic of China adopts a process that leads to a substantial upward currency revaluation within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Because various Asian governments have also been acquiring substantial foreign exchange reserves in an effort to prevent appreciation of their currencies for purposes of gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade, and because the People's Republic of China has concerns about the value of those currencies, the Secretary shall also seek to convene a multilateral summit to discuss exchange rates with representatives of various Asian governments and other interested parties, including representatives of other G-7 nations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., in open and closed session to receive testimony on current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., on pending Committee business.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding water supply issues in the arid west.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on "The Administration's International Trade Agenda."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a Members Briefing on Iraq Post Conflict Reconstruction.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled "Postal Reform: Sustaining the 9 Million Jobs in the \$900 Billion Mailing Industry (Day One)."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSION

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on A Year Round College Calendar: Advantages and Impediments during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, for a hearing on S. 1509, the "Eric and Brian Simon Act of 2003", to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a gratuity to veterans, their spouses, and children who contract HIV or AIDS as a result of a blood transfusion relating to a service-connected disability, and for other purposes.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Tuesday, March 9, 2004 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 at 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: H.R. 1446 and S. 1306, to support the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the Spanish colonial and mission-era missions in the State of California and to preserve the artworks and artifacts of these missions, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1521, to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on military readiness programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Trenton Norman, Jarret Heil, and Jill Gotts from Senator GRASSLEY's office be allowed on the floor for the duration of the debate on S. Con. Res. 95.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent Vin Moscardelli, a fellow on my staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this debate and for the 108th Congress.

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

HONORING PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 314, submitted by Senator VOINOVICH today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 314) commemorating and honoring President Boris Trajkovski.

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

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, on Thursday, February 26, 2004, President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia, whom I have known for many years, was tragically killed when a plane carrying him and eight others crashed in southern

Bosnia. His death is a tragic loss not only for his family and those who knew him well, but for the people of Macedonia, the broader region of Southeast Europe, and, I believe the world at large.

I rise today to express my condolences and deep sympathy to the people of Macedonia, the family of President Trajkovski, and the families of the eight others who were killed. I submit a resolution, cosponsored by Senator LUGAR and Senator BIDEN, which honors the memory of President Boris Trajkovski and recognizes the significant contributions he made as President of Macedonia.

President Trajkovski was a principled man, a courageous leader, and someone that I have come to call a friend since I first met him during a visit to Stankovic refugee camp in Macedonia in 1999. His leadership was instrumental following the crisis in Kosovo in 1999, as Macedonia worked with the international community to meet the needs of thousands of refugees fleeing the neighboring province. President Trajkovski's deep respect for human rights and commitment to the rule of law played a significant role in the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001, which successfully secured peace in the country following an outbreak of violence earlier that year. Following the signing of the peace accord, he remained committed to the implementation of the agreement—a process that continues today.

I have had the privilege of visiting with President Trajkovski regularly during the last several years, when I traveled to Macedonia in May 1999, February 2000, and again in May 2002, and on several occasions when he traveled to Washington, DC—often in conjunction with the National Prayer Breakfast. An ordained minister in the Methodist Church, President Trajkovski was a man of faith, principle, and character, and his leadership will be greatly missed as Macedonia continues to move toward membership in Europe's democratic institutions.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to President Trajkovski's wife, Vilma, his children, Sara and Stefan, and the people of Macedonia. While Boris Trajkovski will be sorely missed, he leaves a legacy of courageous and principled leadership, progress, and commitment to democratic reform that put Macedonia on a path toward membership in NATO and the European Union. That legacy lives on.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, which honors the life of a man deeply committed to working toward a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Macedonia and Southeast Europe.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 314

Whereas President Boris Trajkovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia played a vital role in efforts to promote peace, stability, and democratic reform in his country and throughout Southeast Europe;

Whereas President Trajkovski was tragically killed on Thursday, February 26, 2004, when a plane carrying the President and 8 others crashed in southern Bosnia;

Whereas the people elected Boris Trajkovski to serve as President in November 1999, and inaugurated him as the second Macedonian President on December 15, 1999;

Whereas President Trajkovski led the country during a tumultuous period in Southeast Europe, working with the international community to accommodate refugees following the crisis in neighboring Kosovo in 1999, and playing a significant role in the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement in 2001;

Whereas President Trajkovski promoted the rule of law and respect for human rights, and encouraged economic, judicial, and military reforms necessary to move the country toward membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union; and

Whereas the Macedonian government continues to work to join Europe's democratic institutions, and peace and stability in the country is critical to the broader region of Southeast Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) offers its condolences and deepest sympathy to the people of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the family of President Boris Trajkovski, and the families of the other crash victims during this difficult period;

(2) recognizes the courageous leadership and the significant role that President Trajkovski played in efforts to promote peace, stability, and reform, including his work to secure the 2001 Ohrid Framework Agreement; and

(3) encourages the Macedonian government to continue efforts to implement the Ohrid Peace Agreement, and to move forward with reforms necessary to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 315, submitted earlier in the day by Senators BIDEN, LUGAR, and others.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 315) designating March 8, 2004, as "International Women's Day."

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I support this resolution commemorating an extraordinary holiday, International Women's Day; a day that is celebrated around the globe to mark women's

achievements and to recognize pressing gender inequities still to be erased.

There is no doubt that women have made tremendous strides toward equality and justice in the last century. International Women's Day provides an important chance to acknowledge women who have pioneered change and paved the way for millions of women and girls to access equal education, employment and opportunity. On the other side of the coin, International Women's Day provides an opportunity for us to make a new "to-do" list and highlight what remains to be done, both at home and abroad.

Women's rights, or lack thereof, in the Middle East and South Asia assumed special prominence in the days and weeks after the tragic events of September 11. Americans became familiar with the Taliban's horrendous repression of Afghan women and girls. Two years after the United States removed the Taliban from power, Americans watched as the Afghan *loya jirga*, or grand council, met to adopt a new constitution—an opportunity to debate and create enforceable women's rights. Yet it remains to be seen whether the country's constitution establishes tangible improvements to the plight of Afghan women. In a similar vein, the fall of Saddam Hussein has given Iraqi women an opportunity to engage in public life and seek equal rights. Indeed, the interim Iraqi constitution sets aside 25 percent female participation in the interim government. But the challenges to women's rights in that region of the world abound, ranging from engrained religious and cultural norms to poverty from years of strife. I am convinced, however, that lasting stability and representational government depends upon the emancipation and full participation of women in the Middle East and South Asia. International Women's Day is a chance for us to reiterate that message, in those regions and around the world, that empowering women is the key to lasting peace and prosperity. And to that end, the United States should provide critical resources to help support and empower women and girls around the globe—an articulated priority to this administration, but as of yet an unmet goal.

A fitting tribute to International Women's Day would be ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, also known as the International Women's Rights treaty. It sets out basic women's rights—such as the right to an equal education and the right to own and inherit property. These rights are well settled in the United States, but unfortunately, they are not the norm in too many places around the globe. The treaty is stalled because of the administration's interminable treaty "review." After first telling the Committee on Foreign Relations that it supported the treaty, it has commenced a review of the treaty that has now lasted nearly 2 years. To