

Fourth, the service sector is growing at its fastest pace, not just in 1 year or 2 years or 3 years or 5 years, but the fastest pace in 7 years.

Finally, in terms of great news, the Congressional Budget Office estimated, yesterday, that revenues are running \$30 billion to \$40 billion higher than anticipated for the year. Of course, that goes right to the bottom line in terms of reducing the Federal deficit.

All this is good news, but we have so much more to do. So I say, it is good news, but we cannot rest until we make sure everybody who is looking for a job can get a job. It really ties into our previous discussion on the importance of bringing to closure passing this FSC/ETI JOBS legislation. But it has been a remarkable past 8 months.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. FRIST. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am not much for giving advice to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee, but here is some advice I would like to give you.

In the morning, when you get up, just as I do—I grab the newspaper, but I go immediately to the sports page. That way, there is good news. I feel pretty good then. And then I work my way to the front page. I would suggest you do that because there is always good news on the sports page.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, is that in the first section or the back section?

Mr. REID. I go right to the front page of section C. Usually all of it is the sports.

Mr. FRIST. I will take that counsel, and consider the previous counsel on working harder and later and more days, but I am not sure I will take that.

STAR PRINT—S. 2376

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2376 be star printed with the changes that are at the desk.

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2771 AND H.R. 4227

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk and due for a second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the clerk read the titles of the bills for a second time en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2771) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize the New York City Watershed Protection Program.

A bill (H.R. 4227) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend to 2005 the alternative minimum tax relief available in 2003 and 2004 and to index such relief for inflation.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

NORTHERN UGANDA CRISIS RESPONSE ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 488, S. 2264.

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

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2264) to require a report on the conflict in Uganda, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 2264) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2264

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States and the Republic of Uganda enjoy a strong bilateral relationship and continue to work closely together in fighting the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (“HIV/AIDS”) pandemic and combating international terrorism.

(2) For more than 17 years, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in a conflict with the Lord’s Resistance Army that has inflicted hardship and suffering on the people of northern and eastern Uganda.

(3) The members of the Lord’s Resistance Army have used brutal tactics during this conflict, including abducting and forcing individuals into sexual servitude, and forcing a large number of children, estimated to be between 16,000 and 26,000 children, in Uganda to serve in such Army’s military forces.

(4) The Secretary of State has designated the Lord’s Resistance Army as a terrorist organization and placed the Lord’s Resistance Army on the Terrorist Exclusion list pursuant to section 212(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)).

(5) According to Human Rights Watch, since the mid-1990s the only known sponsor of the Lord’s Resistance Army has been the Government of Sudan, though such Government denies providing assistance to the Lord’s Resistance Army.

(6) More than 1,000,000 people have been displaced from their homes in Uganda as a result of the conflict.

(7) The conflict has resulted in a lack of security for the people of Uganda, and as a result of such lack, each night more than 18,000 children leave their homes and flee to the relative safety of town centers, creating a massive “night commuter” phenomenon that leaves already vulnerable children subject to exploitation and abuse.

(8) Individuals who have been displaced by the conflict in Uganda often suffer from acute malnutrition and the mortality rate for children in northern Uganda who have been displaced is very high.

(9) In the latter part of 2003, humanitarian and human rights organizations operating in northern Uganda reported an increase in violence directed at their efforts and at civilians, including a sharp increase in child abductions.

(10) The Government of Uganda’s military efforts to resolve this conflict, including the arming and training of local militia forces, have not ensured the security of civilian populations in the region to date.

(11) The continued instability and lack of security in Uganda has severely hindered the ability of any organization or governmental entity to deliver regular humanitarian assistance and services to individuals who have been displaced or otherwise negatively affected by the conflict.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Government of the United States should—

(1) work vigorously to support ongoing efforts to explore the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda;

(2) work with the Government of Uganda and the international community to make available sufficient resources to meet the immediate relief and development needs of the towns and cities in Uganda that are supporting large numbers of people who have been displaced by the conflict;

(3) urge the Government of Uganda and the international community to assume greater responsibility for the protection of civilians and economic development in regions in Uganda affected by the conflict, and to place a high priority on providing security, economic development, and humanitarian assistance to the people of Uganda;

(4) work with the international community, the Government of Uganda, and civil society in northern and eastern Uganda to develop a plan whereby those now displaced may return to their homes or to other locations where they may become economically productive;

(5) urge the leaders and members of the Lord’s Resistance Army to stop the abduction of children, and urge all armed forces in Uganda to stop the use of child soldiers, and seek the release of all individuals who have been abducted;

(6) make available increased resources for assistance to individuals who were abducted during the conflict, child soldiers, and other children affected by the conflict;

(7) work with the Government of Uganda, other countries, and international organizations to ensure that sufficient resources and technical support are devoted to the demobilization and reintegration of rebel combatants and abductees forced by their captors to serve in non-combatant support roles;

(8) cooperate with the international community to support civil society organizations and leaders in Uganda, including Acholi religious leaders, who are working toward a just and lasting resolution to the conflict;

(9) urge the Government of Uganda to improve the professionalism of Ugandan military personnel currently stationed in northern and eastern Uganda, with an emphasis on respect for human rights, accountability for abuses, and effective civilian protection;

(10) work with the international community to assist institutions of civil society in Uganda to increase the capacity of such institutions to monitor the human rights situation in northern Uganda and to raise awareness of abuses of human rights that occur in that area;