

A resolution (S. Res. 588) honoring Dr. Feng Shan Ho, a man of great courage and humanity, who saved the lives of thousands of Austrian Jews between 1938 and 1940.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 588) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 588

Whereas, at great personal risk and sacrifice, Dr. Feng Shan Ho authorized the issuance of Chinese visas to Jewish persons so they could emigrate from Austria and escape the horrors of the Holocaust;

Whereas it is necessary to honor Dr. Ho posthumously because, in the ultimate demonstration of selfless humanitarianism, Dr. Ho never sought recognition for his courageous actions;

Whereas 70 years ago, Adolf Hitler's troops crossed into Austria and announced the Anschluss (the annexation of Austria to Germany), thereby applying all anti-Semitic decrees to Austrian Jews;

Whereas the Nazis brutally persecuted more than 200,000 Austrian Jews, by forcibly segregating them, depriving them of their citizenship and livelihoods, and interning them in concentration camps;

Whereas the fierceness of the persecution in Austria became the model for the future persecution of Jews in other Nazi-conquered territories;

Whereas the Nazis initially assumed a policy of coerced expulsion, with the goal of eventually removing all Jewish persons from Europe;

Whereas most other foreign consulates, although besieged by desperate Jews, offered no help;

Whereas a young Chinese diplomat in Vienna, Dr. Feng Shan Ho, refused to stand by and witness the destruction of innocent human beings, and authorized the issuance of visas for all Jews who asked;

Whereas word spread quickly and Jewish persons formed long lines in front of the Chinese Consulate to obtain the lifesaving visas;

Whereas the Chinese ambassador in Berlin ordered Dr. Ho to stop authorizing visas for Jews, but Dr. Ho nevertheless continued, at risk to his career, to prepare the visas;

Whereas in 1939, the Nazis confiscated the Chinese Consulate building, on the grounds that it was a Jewish-owned building;

Whereas, when the Chinese government refused funds to relocate the Consulate, Dr. Ho reopened the Consulate in another building and personally paid all the expenses;

Whereas in May 1940, Dr. Ho left Vienna, having authorized visas for thousands of Austrian Jews;

Whereas after 4 decades in diplomatic service to China, in 1973, Dr. Ho moved to the United States to join his children;

Whereas Dr. Ho became a United States citizen and lived in San Francisco until September 28, 1997, when he passed away at the age of 96;

Whereas, the world only knows of Dr. Ho's courageous actions because of a chance discovery among his diplomatic papers after his death, and the full extent of Dr. Ho's heroism is still being uncovered; and

Whereas, in 2000, the State of Israel posthumously made Dr. Ho an honorary citizen

of Israel and granted him one of Israel's highest honors, the title of Righteous Among the Nations, "for his humanitarian courage in issuing Chinese visas to Jews in Vienna in spite of orders from his superior to the contrary": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and salutes the great courage and humanity of Dr. Feng Shan Ho for acting at great personal risk to issue Chinese visas to Jews in Vienna between 1938 and 1940; and

(2) recognizes his heroic deeds in saving the lives of thousands of Jewish persons by allowing them to escape the Holocaust.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.J. Res. 92

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I understand H.J. Res. 92 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 92) increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceedings at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3098

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I understand that S. 3098 introduced earlier today by Senator MCCONNELL is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3098) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONSUMER-FIRST ENERGY ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the price of oil is \$132 a barrel. I do not know how the stock market is going to wind up, but with the slap in the face the economy got today with the unemployment rate skyrocketing and the price of oil \$132 a barrel, the stock mar-

ket is down about 300 points. How it is going to wind up today, I do not know.

Mr. President, on the global warming bill we just completed—and I say "completed"—we were unable to offer amendments, we were unable to legislate on this most important piece of legislation. The Republicans said what they wanted to do is anytime we mention "global warming," they would mention "gas prices."

Well, today, we do not have to guess what we are going to do next because I am going to file cloture on the most important piece of legislation dealing with gas prices we have done in some time.

So, Mr. President, we, as I have indicated, heard the Republicans speak at length about the problem of high gas prices. In doing so, they follow the lead of the majority who have been not just speaking about high gas prices for months but now working to find some solutions. We introduced something called the Consumer-First Energy Act. It was blocked by the Republicans. But now maybe, with gas prices even higher than they were a month ago, our Republican friends are finally ready to join our pursuit of solutions. Perhaps now, after taking their gas prices on the floor of the Senate for a week and talking about it and talking about it, they are ready to back their words with action. So next week they will have a chance—it will be Tuesday morning—to vote on gas prices. We are going to return to that legislation that will relieve the burden of record gas prices for American consumers, both in the long term and the short term.

What is in this bill? The President will remember, one of the things in the bill previously—we had five sections of the bill—one of them said: Mr. President, with the gas prices as high as they are, why do you continue to take this oil, the best oil there is—the sweet crude—and pump it into the Petroleum Reserve when it is almost filled anyway? So we did that, and that now is not happening anymore. He is not pumping that because we peeled part of that off and passed it individually.

So what is left in our legislation? First, it ends in billions of dollars in tax breaks for oil companies—oil companies whose executives have been hauling in record profits while we pay record prices for gasoline. I don't know what it is in Virginia, but in Nevada the price of gas is now more than \$4 a gallon.

As I sat on the floor of the Senate earlier this week, a friend of mine whom I went to high school with—his name is Ted Sandival and I have done legal work for him over the years when I practiced law and we have maintained a relationship—called me. I was wondering what was wrong. In the whole conversation, the only thing he expressed to me that he was concerned about was that he always wanted to buy a diesel vehicle because they last so much longer. So he bought a diesel vehicle and he said: HARRY, I can't afford to put fuel in it anymore. I am