

UNITED STATES



OF AMERICA

U.S. Congress

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 94th CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

VOLUME 121—PART 2

JANUARY 27, 1975 TO FEBRUARY 5, 1975

(PAGES 1285 TO 2628)

leave the motion to proceed before the Senate, and that would be debatable, and debate on it could be cut off only by following the Senate rules.

That certainly should not be an onerous requirement, that the Senate follow the Senate rules in amending the Senate rules. So I offer those suggestions in view of the fact that the Senator from Alabama does not intend to discuss the matter off the Senate floor with the Presiding Officer of the Senate because he has too much respect for him.

I yield the floor at this time.

QUORUM CALL

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there further morning business?

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 43, a resolution designating a National Child Abuse Awareness Week, and that the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Will the Senator please send the resolution to the desk? The resolution will be stated by title.

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that its reading be suspended.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection?

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I do not know that I shall object, I would like to establish that this resolution designating a week as National Child Abuse Awareness Week has been approved and cleared by the ranking minority member of the Judiciary Committee (Mr. Hruska).

Mr. MONDALE. Yes; I talked personally with Mr. HRUSKA and he has no objection. It has been cleared by the Judiciary Committee leadership, I do not think there is any controversy involved, and I am seeking prompt action because it is next week.

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, the Senator knows that I support his resolution, but I do not think we ought to get into the practice of calling up resolutions for immediate consideration and then dispense with the reading of the resolution.

This is a very short one and I would ask that the clerk read it.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The resolution will be stated by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. Res. 43, a resolution designating the period February 9 through February 15, 1975, as "National Child Abuse Awareness Week."

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there objection to the present consideration of the resolution?

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

Mr. MONDALE. Mr. President, the dates, February 9 through February 15, have been selected to coincide with the National Conference on Child Abuse which will take place in California February 13 through 15. The conference is sponsored by Parents Anonymous, the Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, Calif., and the Center for Health Education of the University of California, Irvine.

I am very pleased that these organizations and institutions have chosen to focus on the need for public awareness of child abuse. In the hearings of my Subcommittee on Children and Youth during 1973, we learned that without public recognition of the problem we can never hope to prevent or treat it successfully. The law passed as a result of our hearings, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, will provide much needed assistance to families affected by child abuse. But, it cannot alone possibly do the job of helping the some 60,000 children who we believe are abused in this country each year. The only thing that will truly help all of these children is public awareness and willingness to address the problem.

I ask that the resolution be agreed to by the Senate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 43) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

Whereas each year some sixty thousand children in the United States are reported to have been abused, some to the point of permanent injury and death; and

Whereas experts believe that child abuse in our country is more prevalent than is revealed by current statistics; and

Whereas child abuse is a national problem found in all types of families and communities; and

Whereas although every State in the Union has a law requiring the reporting of child abuse or suspected child abuse, child abuse still is often undetected and untreated; and

Whereas the National Conference on Child Abuse sponsored by the parents anonymous organization, the Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach, California, and the Center for Health Education of the University of California, Irvine, California, will take place February 13 through February 15; and

Whereas awareness of the problem of child abuse is the first critical step in the identification, prevention and treatment of child abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that in order to help the Congress and the Nation to gain a better understanding of what must be done to insure the safety and well-being of our children, the period February 9 through February 15, 1975, be designated as "National Child Abuse Awareness Week".

QUORUM CALL

Mr. ROBERT C. BYRD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The second assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARY W. HART). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORRECTING A WRONG IMPRESSION

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, a recent story by one of this Nation's most able reporters correctly reported what I had to say to that reporter. Unfortunately, I believe that the reporter had an impression before the interview, which was not dispelled in the course of the interview, which drew him to a conclusion different from mine. I believe that I should state my position for the record so that it would be clearly understood.

The person who writes the story usually is not the same who writes the headline. Moreover, often the headline writer, trying to make a certain number of words fit within a certain number of spaces, composes a headline that might be somewhat at variance even with the reporter's intention.

I believe the story said something to the effect that the Senator from Louisiana was piqued by Democratic idiocy.

Mr. President, I believe I should make it clear that I am not angry or even irritated with anybody, nor do I feel that I have been shunned in any respect. Just as every other Senator has had the opportunity, I have had the opportunity to make my views amply available to all of my Democratic colleagues during numerous Democratic Caucuses, and during a number of meetings held by the Democratic leadership with the committee chairmen. If I complained of anything, it would be that I have had too much opportunity to make my views available.

Second, I know there is no way humanly possible to avoid the contradictions and apparent confusion that occurs when a large number of legislators throw a multitude of ideas into a legislative kettle. That is the only democratic way that a legislative body can function.

I only hope that the public will not look upon any "Democratic program" as what it is likely to be after it has been subjected to the careful study and analysis that is expected in a committee hearing, as well as the analysis of Members in public in deliberations by the House and Senate.

Fortunately, the Executive can speak with a single voice, and the executive branch reflects one point of view. The legislative branch has many voices, and there are as many voices as there are Members. Sometimes, it has that many points of view.

For these reasons, I hope the public will be tolerant of us Democrats in the Senate as we try to move toward consensus which cannot possibly express the unanimous nor even the final conclusion of the Democrats in this body or in the House.