January 25, 1988

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S 23

Aliens, Vktor Pulmans, Mark and Ada Lvorosky, Michael Kasanevich, Gerach Palkin, Alla Plitasovsky, Lev Purman, Yakov Pulmansky, Michael Polotskoy, Alexander Zhukovsky and Pokotilova family; therefore be it:

"Resolved, That the Massachusetts House of Representatives hereby urges the Government of the Soviet Union to allow refuseniks to emigrate, and be it further:

Whereas, workers often lose major pension benefits when such terminations occur which can wreck a worker's retirement security; and

Whereas, the object of employers in these terminations is to drain the so-called "excess assets" from these pension plans so that they can use the funds for other corporate purposes benefitting themselves; and

Whereas, since 1980, some 1,300 pension plans covering more than 1.5 million participants have been terminated so that companies could appropriate $16 billion of so-called "excess assets" from these plans; and

Whereas, the funds being siphoned off by companies really belong to their workers, since a pension plan is not a conditional or discretionary gift by the employer but represents current wages withheld to pay a benefit on retirement; and

Whereas, all responsible experts in the private pension field agree that action is necessary to curb the abuses that are occurring with pension plan terminations and the resolutions herein; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to enact legislation enabling the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to increase its staff of inspectors and investigators in order to reduce the incidence of tragic and senseless industrial accidents in this Nation; and be it further:

"Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation enabling the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to increase its staff of inspectors and investigators in order to reduce the incidence of tragic and senseless industrial accidents in this Nation; and be it further:

"Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to Secretary Michael H. Mukasey, the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of each House of Congress and to the Members thereof from this Commonwealth."

POM-393. A resolution adopted by the County of Hawaii, Hawaii, recognizing the retirement security of millions of American workers is being undermined by the practice among employers of terminating financially sound employee pension plans; and

POM-394. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"RESOLUTION

"Whereas, the retirement security of millions of American workers is being undermined by the practice among employers of terminating financially sound employee pension plans; and

"Whereas, workers often lose major pension benefits when such terminations occur which can wreck a worker's retirement security; and

"Whereas, the object of employers in these terminations is to drain the so-called "excess assets" from these pension plans so that they can use the funds for other corporate purposes benefitting themselves; and

"Whereas, since 1980, some 1,300 pension plans covering more than 1.5 million participants have been terminated so that companies could appropriate $16 billion of so-called "excess assets" from these plans; and

"Whereas, the funds being siphoned off by companies really belong to their workers, since a pension plan is not a conditional or discretionary gift by the employer but represents current wages withheld to pay a benefit on retirement; and

"Whereas, all responsible experts in the private pension field agree that action is necessary to curb the abuses that are occurring with pension plan terminations and the resolutions herein; therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania call upon the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to call for the enactment by the President and Congress of a law providing for the protection of pensions against termination, and that, therefore, employers have no right to appropriate such funds for other purposes; and be it further:

"Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the president officers of each house of Congress and to each Member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-396. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

"RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROTECT FOR ADDITIONAL OSHA INSPECTORS

"Whereas, there has been an alarming increase in fatal disabling accidents in the workplace and on construction sites throughout the country and

"Whereas, the rise in avoidable industrial accidents has been generally attributed to budgetary cutbacks to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration resulting in serious reductions in the agency's staff of investigators and inspectors which severely hampers the agency's ability to provide for all Americans a safe working environment; and

"Whereas, all citizens of this Nation ought to be able to perform their daily labors secure in the knowledge that all precautions have been taken to guarantee their physical and mental health within the workplace; now therefore be it

"Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate hereby respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to enact legislation enabling the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to increase its staff of inspectors and investigators in order to reduce the incidence of tragic and senseless industrial accidents in this Nation; and be it further:

"Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of each branch of Congress and to each Member thereof from this Commonwealth."

POM-393. A resolution adopted by the County of Hawaii, Hawaii, recognizing the retirement security of millions of American workers is being undermined by the practice among employers of terminating financially sound employee pension plans; and

POM-394. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES SUBMITTED DURING SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of December 22, 1987, the following reports of committees were submitted on January 22, 1988, during the sine die adjournment of the Senate:

By Mr. PELL, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 96. An original concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress and to each Member therefrom of the Congress and to each Member thereof from this Commonwealth.

"Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the Clerk of the House of Representatives to Secretary Michael H. Mukasey, the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of each House of Congress and to the Members thereof from this Commonwealth."

S. Res. 354. Resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is established; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 355. Resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRANSTON, Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill that would direct the Attorney General to collect data on the incidence of crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, affectional or sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Data would be collected on such crimes as homicide, assault, robbery, burglary, theft, arson, vandalism, trespass, threat, and other crimes as the Attorney General considers appropriate. I am pleased to be joined in introducing this bill by the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY).

Mr. President, I am aware that other legislation is pending in the Senate which mandates the collection of data regarding crimes against racial, ethnic, and religious groups. However, these bills do not require that data be collected on crimes against gay and lesbian individuals. I am introducing this bill today because I believe that crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, affectional or sexual orientation, or ethnicity, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELIAS:

S. 2003. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from tax diesel fuel used for farming purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RITCHIE (for himself and Mr. TURNER):

S. J. Res. 240. Joint resolution to designate the week beginning on May 15, 1988, and ending on May 22, 1988, as "National Safe Kids Week."

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BYRD:

S. Res. 354. Resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is established; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 355. Resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRANSTON (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

A. 1999. A bill to extend until January 1, 1989, the waiver granted by the Federal Communications Commission to the New York Post in connection with the Federal Communications Commission's rule relating to the common ownership of a daily newspaper and certain television stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRANSTON (for himself, Mr. KAASY, Mr. SIMON, and Mr. INOUYE):

S. 2000. A bill to provide for the acquisition and publication of data about crimes that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, affectional or sexual orientation, or ethnicity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HELIAS:

S. 2001. A bill to restore the right of voluntary prayer in public schools and to promote the separation of powers; read the first time.

By Mr. CRANSTON:

S. 2002. A bill to extend the period during which a special agricultural worker may apply for adjustment of status of that of an alien lawfully admitted for temporary residence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 2003. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from tax diesel fuel used for farming purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RITCHIE (for himself and Mr. TURNER):

S. J. Res. 240. Joint resolution to designate the week beginning on May 15, 1988, and ending on May 22, 1988, as "National Safe Kids Week."