

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

The bill (S. 231) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 231

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.

Section 508 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3758) is amended by striking "for fiscal year 2006" through the period and inserting "for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2012."

EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONCERN REGARDING TRANSGRESSION AGAINST FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION IN VENEZUELA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 178, S. Res. 211.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) expressing the profound concern of the Senate regarding the transgression against freedom of thought and expression that is being carried out in Venezuela, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 211

Whereas, for several months, the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, has been announcing over various media that he will not renew the current concession of the television station "Radio Caracas Televisión", also known as RCTV, which is set to expire on May 27, 2007, because of its adherence to an editorial stance different from his way of thinking;

Whereas President Chavez justifies this measure based on the alleged role RCTV played in the unsuccessful unconstitutional attempts in April 2002 to unseat President Chavez, under circumstances where there exists no filed complaint or judicial sentence that would sustain such a charge, nor any legal sanction against RCTV that would prevent the renewal of its concession, as provided for under Venezuelan law;

Whereas the refusal to renew the concession of any television or radio broadcasting station that complies with legal regulations in the matter of telecommunications constitutes a transgression against the freedom of thought and expression, which is prohibited by Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, signed at San Jose, Costa Rica, July 18, 1978, which has been signed by the United States;

Whereas that convention establishes that "the right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions";

Whereas the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, approved by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, states in Principle 13, "The exercise of power and the use of public funds by the state, the granting of customs duty privileges, the arbitrary and discriminatory placement of official advertising and government loans; the concession of radio and television broadcast frequencies, among others, with the intent to put pressure on and punish or reward and provide privileges to social communicators and communications media because of the opinions they express threaten freedom of expression, and must be explicitly prohibited by law. The means of communication have the right to carry out their role in an independent manner. Direct or indirect pressures exerted upon journalists or other social communicators to stifle the dissemination of information are incompatible with freedom of expression.;"

Whereas, according to the principles of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, to both of which Venezuela is a party, the decision not to renew the concession of the television station RCTV is an assault against freedom of thought and expression and cannot be accepted by democratic countries, especially by those in North America who are signatories to the American Convention on Human Rights;

Whereas the most paradoxical aspect of the decision by President Chavez is that it strongly conflicts with two principles from the Liberator Simón Bolívar's thinking, principles President Chavez says inspire him, which state that "[p]ublic opinion is the most sacred of objects, it needs the protection of an enlightened government which knows that opinion is the fountain of the most important of events," and that "[t]he right to express one's thoughts and opinions, by word, by writing or by any other means, is the first and most worthy asset mankind has in society. The law itself will never be able to prohibit it.;" and

Whereas the United States should raise its concerns about these and other serious restrictions on freedoms of thought and expression being imposed by the Government of Venezuela before the Organization of American States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about the transgression against freedom of thought and expression that is being attempted and committed in Venezuela by the refusal of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, to renew the concession of the television station "Radio Caracas Televisión" (RCTV) merely because of its adherence to an editorial and informational stance distinct from the thinking of the Government of Venezuela; and

(2) strongly encourages the Organization of American States to respond appropriately, with full consideration of the necessary institutional instruments, to such transgression.

HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF STAN HYWET HALL AND GARDENS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 32.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) honoring the 50th anniversary of Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 32) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 32

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall was built between 1912 and 1915 by Franklin "F.A." Augustus Seiberling and his wife, Gertrude;

Whereas Franklin Seiberling hired architect Charles S. Schneider of Cleveland to design the home, landscape architect Warren H. Manning of Boston to design the grounds, and Hugo F. Huber of New York City to decorate the interior;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall is one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in the United States;

Whereas Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization that continues to help millions of individuals worldwide recover from alcohol addiction, was founded on Mother's Day 1935 following a meeting between Mr. Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith and hosted by Henrietta Seiberling at Stan Hywet Hall;

Whereas, in 1957, in keeping with the Stan Hywet Hall crest motto of "Non Nobis Solum (Not for Us Alone)", the Seiberling family donated Stan Hywet Hall to a nonprofit organization, which came to be known as Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, so that the public could enjoy and experience part of a noteworthy chapter in the history of the United States;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is identified as a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior, the only location in Akron, Ohio, with such a designation and one of only 2,200 nationwide;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is one of Ohio's top 10 tourist attractions, is a Save America's Treasures project, and is accredited by the American Association of Museums;

Whereas more than 5,000,000 people from around the world have visited Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, with the number of visitors annually averaging between 150,000 and 200,000 since 1999;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens contributes over \$12,000,000 annually to the greater Akron economy;

Whereas Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is a recipient of the Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, only the fourth recipient of the Award after George Washington's Mount