

Pussyfooting With The Genocide Convention

For 36 years, the United States Congress has failed to ratify the United Nations Convention against Genocide. The 98th Congress, which adjourned last week, unfortunately succeeded in keeping this dismal record intact, at least until January when the 99th Congress is sworn into office. Many expect the Convention to be ratified at that time.

Conservatives have traditionally resisted efforts to ratify the convention saying that it could threaten U.S. sovereignty and independence. Supporters, meanwhile, most prominently Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin, have suffered at the hands of a select group of Senate detractors who have successfully prevented ratification over the years.

President Reagan announced his support for the treaty on the eve of a speech last September to B'nai B'rith International. He had previously been silent on the issue. Since President Truman announced support for the treaty, every president, barring Eisenhower, has supported it.

Suddenly, this year, the Senate was faced with the serious prospect of a clear decision; ratify or reject the convention. The Foreign Relations Committee endorsed it unanimously and sent it to the floor for ratification. But Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina, a long time foe of the treaty, held up any action on the measure, successfully stalling it until the next Congress.

The Senate, for its part, adopted a measure by a 87-2 vote noting support for the "principle" of

the treaty and asserting that it declares "its intention to act expeditiously" to seek ratification in the 99th Congress. Unfortunately, the resolution is not binding.

Detractors say the convention is merely a symbol. But as Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut pointed out, symbols tend to be useful and the convention would "symbolize a commitment to the significance of human life, to a just world order, and to the role of the law."

For 36 years, or double Chai, the Senate has been pussyfooting around on the ratification of the convention. It had its chance this year and it failed. Let's hope that the 99th Congress will have considerably more resolve and act without haste.

Giant Sandcastle To Be Built In Las Vegas

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — Two San Diego area hotels have cooperated to bring the flavor of Southern California beaches to Las Vegas for the upcoming annual convention of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), being held at the Convention Center from November 4th to the 6th.

The Inn By The Sea at La Jolla and the Bay Club Hotel & Marina of San Diego will be working together to mold 10,000 pounds of sand into Las Vegas' first sand sculpture, which will be an enormous panoramic view of San Diego highlights.

According to Nancy Slipek, Marketing Coordinator for Trigild Corporation, the firm which handles marketing for both hotels, "we couldn't bring all these thousands of travel agents to San Diego, so we are bringing a bit of San Diego to Las Vegas."

The sand sculpture will be built during the 3-day run of the convention and attendees will be able to watch its progress.

Valley Bank Receives Award



(L-R) Bonnie Bryan and Bill Hull.

Valley Bank of Nevada has been named the recipient of the first Employer of the Handicapped Award presented by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Executive Vice President Bill Hull accepted the award on behalf of the bank at the annual Governor's Awards Dinner honoring Nevada's Handicapped Employees of the Year on October 12 in Reno.

"Valley Bank has discovered that people with lesser abilities in an area of "handicap" usually have much greater skills and talents in other areas," Hull said. "It makes good business sense to hire and promote talented people, so we have."

Cathy Olson, executive director of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, said Valley Bank received the award because of its strong commitment to hiring the handicapped, as well as reaching out to the community at large.

Olson cited Valley Bank's Green Valley Branch as a model for easy accessibility for the handicapped. In addition, Valley Bank has attempted to remove many of the architectural barriers to the handicapped in its other branches throughout the state.

Special sign language classes have been made available to employees of the bank wishing to make a banking career more accessible to the hearing impaired. Valley Bank has also installed telecommunication machines in some of its offices so that employees with hearing impairments can make telephone calls from their offices.

Many of Valley Bank's handicapped employees have also been featured in the bank's employee publication, which pays tribute to their accomplishments in art, sculpture or other hobbies in spite of their disabilities.

Valley Bank is Nevada's largest state-chartered bank with more than a billion dollars in assets.


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