
John H. Chafee
Claiborne Pell
Arlen Spencer

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Colloquy between Senators
John H. Chafee, Claiborne Pell and Arlen Specter
In the United State Senate
Saturday, September 28, 1996

"Funding for the Institute for International Sport"

Senator Specter  “Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a colloquy between myself and Senators Chafee and Pell be entered in the Record as if read. As we approve the Omnibus Spending Bill which includes appropriations for the Department of Education, it is important to mention that the Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education intends $800,000 from the Fund for the Improvement of Education to be used for scholar athlete games. The Committee Report to accompany the appropriations bill says, “Within the funds provided, the Committee has included $800,000 to award grants to non-profit organizations for the cost of conducting scholar-athlete games.” This small sum is to support the scholar-athlete games held by such groups as the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island.”

Senator Pell  “That’s correct Mr. Chairman. In 1994, Senator Chafee and I were able to include a similarly modest sum in the Fund for the Improvement of Education for the Rhode Island Scholar Athlete Games. These games -- which brought together young people in our State of varied backgrounds to participate in educational and cultural competitions and demonstrations, as well as in athletic competitions -- were an enormous success. This year, the funds will be used for the second World-Scholar Athlete Games which will bring together young people from around the world.”

Senator Chafee  “I would just like to emphasize that this is the second World Scholar Athlete Games that have been held by the Institute of International Sport at URI. The first games were held in 1993, the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island conducted the World Scholar Athlete Games with 1,600 students from 108 countries and all fifty states participating. Through these games, friendships were formed and understanding was developed between boys and girls who would otherwise never have crossed paths. I believe, and I am
Senator Pell agrees, that through this form of interaction bridges between diverse populations are built.”

“I would say to my colleague, yes, that is exactly correct. This sort of enterprise, which has been developed by Dan Doyle at URI, is a way to build bridges between nations, just as the Rhode Island Games were meant to build bridges between neighborhoods and towns.”

“The second World Scholar Athlete Games will be held during the summer of 1997. Through a partnership between the “Sister Cities International” and the Institute for International Sport along with others, 2,200 students from 125 countries are expected to participate.”