

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2003, at 10 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting to consider S. 1529, the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act amendments of 2003; S. 1721, the American Indian Probate Reform Act of 2003; and S. Res. 248, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the Individual Indian Money Account Trust Funds lawsuit.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Carol Madonna, a legislative fellow at my personal office, be permitted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1588, the Defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2004.

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

Mr. DAYTON. I ask unanimous consent that LTC Gregg Blanchard, a military fellow in my office, be given floor privileges for the rest of this debate.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 267, H.R. 2861, VA-HUD appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2861) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask unanimous consent that Senate resume consideration of the bill at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 12, 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. on

Wednesday there be 20 minutes equally divided for debate prior to a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense authorization bill; provided further that immediately following that vote, the Senate proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 2559, the Military Construction appropriations bill.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.R. 7

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7, the Charitable Giving bill. I further ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken; that the Snowe amendment and the Grassley-Baucus amendment which are at the desk be agreed to en bloc; that the substitute amendment which is the text of S. 476, the Senate-passed version of the Charitable Giving bill as amended by the Snowe and Grassley and Baucus amendments, be agreed to; that the bill as amended be read a third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that the Senate insist upon its amendments and request a conference with the House; and lastly, that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees with the ratio of 3 to 2; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, we have heard a lot on our side about the CARE Act. Let me say we are strongly committed to it. We have worked with the majority on a bipartisan basis to avoid the policy disagreements and pass a bill that increases the resources desperately needed by the charitable community.

We strongly support the vital funding for the Social Services Block Grant. The Senate bill restores the Social Services Block Grant to full funding of \$2.8 billion. However, the House provides no such provision.

These grants are used to fund a range of social services, with recipients ranging from children in need of day care or protective services, to elderly or disabled individuals in need of home-delivered meals.

These funds today are urgently needed. We have heard from organizations across the country and across the political spectrum that tell us how important this money is, including: America needs a powerful mobilization of civic energies and a substantial increase in resources, public and private, to confront widespread poverty and social problems. We also need closer and more effective collaboration between the Government and this country's community organizations.

It is because of our strong commitment to this funding and our concern

about what has been happening in conferences that we are here today. Democrats believe that through prompt passage of the reconciled CARE and Charitable Giving Acts, Congress will provide the leadership to translate these concerns to action.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask consent that the leader would modify his request to provide for all the provisions of his request, except the portion on going to conference. We stand ready now to pass this bill and send it to the House, just as we have done on several bills in the past week—for example, the military tax bill. Just today we amended and passed the Syrian Accountability Act. It is not unusual for the Senate to send a measure to the House with an amendment, just as we are now suggesting with respect to H.R. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the majority leader modify his request?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I object to the proposed modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard with respect to the proposed modification.

Mr. REID. I object to the leader's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the unanimous consent request.

VETERANS DAY 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 264, a sense-of-the-Senate resolution regarding Veterans Day, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 264) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Veterans Day 2003.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, November 11 was originally known as Armistice Day to celebrate the end of World War I. In 1938, Congress declared November 11 a national holiday in the hopes that the world would never ever again see a battle so fierce and so devastating as that First World War, but that was not to be.

Only a few years later, World War II broke out in Europe. America would lose 407,000 servicemen in battle. Henceforth, the movement began to recognize our heroes in uniform.

In 1954, President Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 Veterans Day. He told the Nation at that time that it was his "earnest hope that all veterans, their organizations, and the entire citizenry will join hands to ensure proper and widespread observance of this day."

Today, nearly 50 years later, we join hands to pay tribute to that very special group of people who have brought our country such honor, whose courage and whose sacrifice have secured our