

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 16, 1995 at 9:30 a.m., in SR-332, to discuss rural development and credit.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Tuesday, May 16, 1995 session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting an oversight hearing on NASA's space shuttle and reusable launch vehicle program at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to review Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing activities with regard to the Department of Energy's civilian nuclear waste disposal program and other matters within the jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be permitted to meet on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-215, to conduct a hearing on Medicare solvency.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY POLICY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Disability Policy of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 16, 1995 at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, in open session, to receive testimony on Department of Defense Financial Management in Review of S. 727, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 16, 1995, in open session, to receive testimony on the requirements for continued production of nuclear submarines, submarine industrial base issues, procurement strategy, and associated funding in review of S. 727, the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, May 16, 1995 at 2 p.m. in closed/open session to receive testimony on the Department of Energy weapons activities, non-proliferation and national security programs in review of S. 727, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 and the future years defense program.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

KOREA—BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE

• Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues and all Americans a poem, "Korea—Both Sides of the Line," written by Mr. Ernst E. Banfield, a former sergeant in the United States Marine Corps who served in the Korean conflict. I believe Mr. Banfield's poem poignantly depicts our Nation's commitment to this conflict, and ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The poem follows:

KOREA—BOTH SIDES OF THE LINE

It's over now or so some may say.

Will silence prevail while some turn to prayer?

Some will cheer, others a disbelief will share.

Is it true no bugles will sound this day?

We had our differences, Army . . . Navy . . . Marines

But we stood or fell together blood red,
All feeling anger, pain and warm tears when
our brothers bled,

Knowing for them this day there would be
no future dreams.

We made the landing and headed north,

Most with our inner thoughts and a touch
of fear.

Some will swagger while their hearts ache
for loved ones dear,

But now's the time to put it aside and
prove our worth.

We were all of one purpose that brief space in
time,

And I'll always remember my brothers and
sisters.

Yes, you heard right when I said, "Sisters",
For the women were there too, doing their
share to hold the line.

It's long past time to mourn our fallen comrades I say,

But praise is overdue for the sacrifice they made.

Forgive me, my friends, for the long delay,
and may a wreath in honor of you be laid,

And finally a lasting tribute is dedicated
to all this day.

For freedoms sake, let this valiant band

Remember how we prevailed, . . . Both
sides of the line.●

HONORING MAJ. GEN. RONALD E. BROOKS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Maj. Gen. Ronald E. Brooks. General Brooks' patriotism and service to our country have been impressive. America should be proud of his dedication and hard work around the world. I would like to elaborate a moment on General Brooks' tremendous career, which he will complete this fall.

General Brooks grew up in Tennessee and began his military service in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at East Tennessee State University. In 1961, he earned the bachelor of science degree in business administration from that institution and was commissioned in the U.S. Army. He later earned the master of business administration degree from Butler University. General Brooks has also studied at the Army War College and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

General Brooks has a military record of distinction. Beginning as a platoon leader in the 2d Infantry Division, General Brooks rose steadily in a number of administrative positions. In addition to service throughout the United States, he has served as commander of the transfer and reception station in Puerto Rico, and as an adjutant general in Vietnam and in Europe. The culmination of his distinguished work came in 1990, when he assumed command of the U.S. Army Soldier Support Center at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana.

Mr. President, I am pleased today to pay tribute to a great American. General Brooks stands as a symbol of American military achievement, and it is my privilege to salute his life and work.●

CHILDREN ARE THE VICTIMS OF NATIONAL POLICIES

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Abigail Trafford of the Washington Post wrote a commentary recently that I ask be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks. She writes that we as a Nation care immensely when tragedies involving individual children come to our attention, but we fail to care enough for children who are hurt by our national policies.

A recent example of this is our national sense of outrage and compassion regarding the children killed in the

Oklahoma City bombing. We were all rightfully outraged that innocent children were killed in this senseless act of violence. But we cannot and should not accept the fact that millions of innocent children do not have adequate health care, which results in the premature death and disability of many, many children. Perhaps if we were able to put a face on every single child who suffers from lack of access to health care, we would have a national policy that ensures all children would have their health care needs met.

There are important reasons why we need to act soon. A report released a few months ago by the Employee Benefit Research Institute shows that between 1992 and 1993, the number of uninsured people increased 17.8 percent to 40.9 million. The most alarming finding, however, is that children account for the largest proportion of the increase in the number of the uninsured. In 1993, 11.1 million children did not have health care coverage.

In addition, if the enormous cuts in the Medicaid Program that have been proposed by some of my colleagues are enacted, there will be a tremendous increase in the number of uninsured children. That is because Medicaid currently provides health care coverage to approximately 13.5 million children whose families could not otherwise afford to take their children to a doctor.

To address this problem, I will introduce legislation next month to ensure that all children, beginning with children under 7, and pregnant women have affordable coverage for comprehensive, high-quality health care. My proposed maximizes State flexibility while ensuring full accountability for results, and relies on the private sector to deliver the highest quality care at the lowest price.

If you agree that we need to protect our children, I welcome your interest and urge you to help me develop a proposal that all of us can support. Dr. Birt Harvey of the Stanford University Medical School states in Ms. Trafford's article, "We care about children as individuals. We don't care about them as a nation." I hope we can work together to change that.

The article follows:

[Washington Post, May 9, 1995]

WE LOVE THE CHILD, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

(By Abigail Trafford)

It was the baby in the firefighter's arms—little Baylee Almon covered with dust and blood—who became the symbol of the nation's agony in the Oklahoma City bombing. Long after rubble from the bombing is cleared, we remember Baylee and the others in the doomed day-care center.

Suffer the children.

We are a nation that loves children. Obsesses about children. The child in pain, the child in triumph—we hang on every detail. We open our hearts—and our pocket-books—to help a high-profile child in need. Children are our conscience.

Or are they?

You would certainly think so from the way we respond to children in the news. We have a track record for turning the child in the

public spotlight into a metaphor of what kind of people we are and who we care about most.

We held our breath when Jessica, the 18-month-old toddler of Midland, Tex., was buried for 2½ days in an abandoned well in 1987. And cheered when she was hauled out by a crane into the glare of television lights and cameras.

We agonized over David, the boy in the bubble. Born with a rare immune disease, he died in 1984 after spending most of his 12 years of life inside a sterile plastic cage that kept him away from common germs—and away from human touch.

And last year, we grieved for Michael, 3, and Alexander, 14 months, the two boys of Susan Smith, the young South Carolina mother who confessed to sending her sons to a water grave.

Suffer the children.

Every child who makes the news taps into the public's huge reservoir of concern for children in trouble, for children who are victims. But this outpouring of anguish and generosity usually stops with the high-profile case.

The fact is that as a nation we neglect our children, particularly the ones who are sick and poor. That was the conclusion of a 1991 bipartisan national commission on children.

"... at every age, among all races and income groups, and in communities nationwide, many children are in jeopardy," stated the commission in its executive summary. "If we measure success not just by how well most children do, but by how poorly some fare, America falls far short."

Advocates for children like to point out that the United States is the only industrialized country that doesn't have a national policy to support children. While a patchwork of government and private programs help certain groups of children, there is no comprehensive commitment to the young the way there is to the elderly. As Sara Rosenbaum, co-director of the George Washington University Center for Health Policy Research, explains: "Children are the most vulnerable segment of society. They don't have the clout that other population groups have. If children are falling apart, it has tremendous consequences for the nation."

To be sure, the prime responsibility for the health and safety of children rests with the family. But some families cannot provide the basic supports. The needs, according to the bipartisan report, involve many aspects of children's lives including housing, education and protection from abuse.

One of the biggest needs is health insurance. An increasing number of children do not have health coverage from private or public sources. There is no national health plan for children that automatically covers them as the Medicare program does for the elderly.

"We care about children as individuals. We don't care about them as a nation," says Birt Harvey, professor emeritus at the Stanford University Medical School and past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

"It's a crisis of conscience and it's a crisis of consciousness," adds Susan S. Aronson, clinical professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University. "We've lost our perspective as a society that we are responsible for children."

Statistics tell the dismal story. Since 1991, the number of uninsured children has risen from 9.5 million to 11.1 million in 1993, according to an analysis by the Employee Benefit Research Institute. The percentage of uninsured children has also increased and of the additional 1.1 million Americans who have recently lost health coverage, more than 920,000 are children. This increase occurred despite expanded coverage of children under Medicaid.

What's more, private coverage of children has declined. The largest jump in uninsured children took place in families where the father was working for a small firm with fewer than 10 employees, researchers found.

Three basic options to cover all children and pregnant women have been circulating in the backwaters of the nation's capital for some years: provide subsidies for the uninsured to purchase health coverage, create a Medicare type program for children, and open up Medicaid to more families. While there is a general consensus that all children ought to have access to basic medical services, there is not a lot of agreement on how to get there. And right now there's very little apparent interest in Congress or the Clinton administration to do much of anything. As Harvey observes: "It doesn't seem like a high priority—it doesn't seem like a priority at all."

Suffer the children.●

RETIREMENT OF DEPUTY CHIEF JOHN F. MORIARTY

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Deputy Chief John F. Moriarty on his retirement from 50 years of service to the Stamford Police Department in Stamford, CT, where he was honored on April 29, 1995. Deputy Chief Moriarty was born and raised in Stamford, CT. Jack's career began as a special constable with the former town police department on June 15, 1944, and he served in this capacity until his appointment as a regular police officer 5 years later on November 17, 1949.

Jack Moriarty served during the consolidation of the city of Stamford and the town of Stamford Police Departments into what has now become the Stamford Police Department. During his long and honorable tenure, he served with 8 police chiefs, 13 mayors and 1 first selectman. His dedication, intelligence, and foresight to duty, all contributed to Jack's many promotions throughout the years, including sergeant, lieutenant, captain, and ultimately deputy chief in November 1981. His final assignment was as commanding officer, administration and support services, where he served with distinction until his retirement on December 30, 1994.

Jack continues to reside in Stamford, and is a life long member of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church where he is one of the two lay trustees and a member and past president of the church's Holy Name Society. He also has a membership to an assorted selection of groups including the Knights of Columbus, Saint Augustine Council No. 41, the board of directors of Saint Camillus Health Center, Stamford Police Association, Inc., and the Police Association of Connecticut. He and his beloved wife Jean, have four children and seven grandchildren, all with Irish first names. Jack's work and commitment to helping those in need has been an inspiration to those who know him. I salute Deputy Chief John Moriarty on his retirement for his never-ending energy and steadfast devotion to the Stamford Police Department.●