

voluntarily surrendering their licenses for auction by the FCC would be allowed to keep 50 percent of the proceeds. The remainder would go to the U.S. Treasury. Under the bill, stations would now be allowed to accept compensation for broadcasting programs produced by, at the expense of, or furnished by persons other than the station licensee. This would allow partnerships with commercial entities. Finally, the bill expands the definition of underwriting.

Second, the bill has as one of its key purposes the elimination of redundancies within the entire public broadcasting system, including duplicative stations and burdensome bureaucracies. Consequently, CPB is prohibited from issuing more than one grant per market to television licensees, but is allowed more discretion for radio grants.

Third, it relieves the Corporation for Public Broadcasting of most of the congressionally imposed mandates that have limited CPB's ability to function in a sound, business-like manner. The bill eliminates most of the congressionally imposed mandates on CPB, including set-asides and unnecessary reporting requirements. The intent is to allow CPB to use good business judgment in its decision-making process and to prepare for its eventual privatization. Even after the transition to private non-profit corporation, CPB would still be required to report to Congress annually on the status of the trust fund.

The bill also changes the way that members of the board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting would be selected. Presently, the President appoints the members. The bill establishes a selection committee composed of the Speaker and minority leader of the House and the majority and minority leaders in the Senate to nominate individuals, after consultation with the public broadcasting industry, with expertise in investment management, corporate finance, telecommunications, education, and public broadcasting. The President would appoint from this list. Afterward, the board would be appointed in accordance with the bylaws of the Corporation.

Finally, it establishes a public broadcasting national trust fund, using revenue to be derived from a now fallow resource, thereby ensuring that Government funding will cease. The bill directs the Federal Communications Commission to auction vacant noncommercial channels and to transfer the proceeds to the trust fund. The bill also directs the FCC to ensure that the auction brings in as much revenue as possible by moving the cities of licenses, if necessary, while avoiding harmful

interference. Before transferring auction proceeds to the trust fund, the Secretary of the Treasury is required to verify that the fund has been established in accordance with the law. CPB would manage the trust fund and distribute the income from the corpus. If CPB substantially violates the purposes of the law, the corpus would revert to the United States. The bill authorizes \$250 million in fiscal years 1998, 1999, and 2000, after which the trust fund would begin to dispense income from the corpus to fund public broadcasting.

This legislation would get the Federal Government out of the business of financing public television, but that goal cannot be achieved overnight without adversely affecting public radio and television. In view of the decades of Federal tax dollars that have been spent to ensure a public broadcasting system, the Government has a stake in ensuring that public broadcasting survives. I, for one, would not like to see decades of Federal funding for public broadcasting go to waste.

One thing is clear: reforming public broadcasting is a daunting task. First, it is a controversial and very emotional issue. Second, it is complex. Public broadcasting is composed of different and unique components and the solution for one may not necessarily be appropriate for the other. Third, the public and those of us in Congress have differing views about how to change the current system.

Despite the difficulty of the job that lies before us, and regardless of our views on public radio and television, we can all agree that Government money is scarce. The American people expect us to be fiscally responsible and examine all federally funded programs. They expect us to make the difficult choices about where to cut Federal spending. That is what good Government is all about. The American public deserves to have the highest quality television and radio programs. The approach taken in this bill will allow that fine tradition to continue, but this time, without Government funds.

RETIREMENT OF DAVID R. LAMBERT, AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, David R. Lambert was appointed as executive vice presi-

dent of the American Seed Trade Association [ASTA] on June 29, 1990, by the board of directors. ASTA, one of the Nation's oldest trade associations, will acknowledge the achievements of its executive vice president on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at a retirement celebration. As a long-time member and supporter of the ASTA, I am pleased to add my personal congratulations and hearty wishes for a happy and fruitful retirement.

During the course of Dave's tenure, many noteworthy accomplishments come to mind. One, though, that is particularly significant is his leadership when Congress considered and ultimately approved the Plant Variety Protection Act Amendments of 1994. An important intellectual property rights issue for seedsmen and farmers, these amendments went a long way in providing the real protection and ready assurance American farmers have come to know and expect from the seed industry. In shepherding these amendments, Dave effectively brought together the agricultural community and united the Congress in an issue that will surely affect America's agriculture for decades to come.

To list Dave's good deeds and successes would likely take several volumes. It would be more expedient perhaps to just itemize issues and areas like crop insurance reform, biotechnology, international trade, and export opportunities. The list would continue just like Dave's tenacity and dedication to the American seed industry.

Dave will no doubt continue to play a role in America's agriculture. Undoubtedly, after a distinguished 16-year career at the ASTA, Dave's 23 years of experience and service in Washington, DC, will be remembered by many. His work prior to joining the ASTA included a 7-year association with the National Grange. Prior to working in agricultural organizations, Dave was with the U.S. Army and retired as a lieutenant colonel.

ASTA will long remember Dave's outstanding leadership and vision. I will always recall how the ASTA helped position and support America's foundation to agriculture—the seed. I will also recall, with great fondness, how a small seed company in Iowa, Latham Seed Co., benefited from his dedication and insight.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 29, 1996, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 5

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on the nominations of Thomas Paul Grumbly, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, Alvin L. Alm, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management), and Charles William Burton, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States Enrichment Corporation.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1376, to terminate unnecessary and inequitable Federal corporate subsidies.

SD-342

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

344 Cannon Building

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold oversight hearings on the implementation of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act.

SD-226

MARCH 6

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold oversight hearings on issues relating to competitive change in the electric power industry.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Government Reform Committee to examine the implementation of the Government Performance and Results Act.
2154 Rayburn Building

Select on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the role and mission of U.S. intelligence.

SD-106

Special on Aging

To hold hearings to examine telemarketing scams that target the elderly.

SD-562

10:00 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the interstate transportation of human pathogens.

SD-2226

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings on the Chechen conflict and Russian democratic development.

2200 Rayburn Building

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation Subcommittee

To hold hearings on S. 745, to require the National Park Service to eradicate brucellosis afflicting the bison in Yellowstone National Park, S. 796 and H.R. 238, bills to provide for the protection of wild horses within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, Missouri, and prohibit the removal of such horses, and S. 1451, to authorize an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and a State providing for the continued operation by State employees of national parks in the State during any period in which the National Park Service is unable to maintain the normal level of park operations.

SD-366

Governmental Affairs

To resume hearings on S. 356, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

SD-342

MARCH 8

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management and The District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the oversight of government-wide travel management.

SD-342

MARCH 13

10:00 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the reform of health care priorities.

SR-418

MARCH 14

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Jewish War Veterans, the Retired Officers Association, the Association of the U.S. Army, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, and the Blinded Veterans Association.

345 Cannon Building

MARCH 19

10:00 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine the asset forfeiture program, focusing on issues relating to the Bicycle Club Casino.

SD-342

MARCH 20

10:00 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To resume hearings to examine the reform of health care priorities.

SR-418

MARCH 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of World War I, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

345 Cannon Building

SEPTEMBER 17

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

335 Cannon Building