

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, June 27 at 10 a.m. for a hearing on "Improving Management and Organization in Federal Natural Resources and Environmental Functions."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., to hold an executive business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 1996, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on "Church Burnings."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing Opportunity and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 27, 1996, to conduct a hearing on restructuring the Federal Housing Administration's Insured and Assisted Multifamily Housing Portfolio.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 27, at 2 pm to hold hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CHURCH BURNINGS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, the attacks on the churches, predominantly in the Southeast, are far more than attacks on these institutions—they are attacks on the very foundation of the United States. This country was formed to protect people's religious liberty. Burning a place of worship assaults this principle. The American people, who cherish religious freedom, do not look kindly on the destruction of houses of worship.

I think the American people are particularly concerned—I know I am—that a disproportionate number of these attacks have occurred at African-American churches. Of the 56 church burnings in the past 18 months, approximately 40 were predominantly African-American houses of worship. Many of these institutions are more than places of prayer—they are the center of the community.

According to the Justice Department, racial hatred is behind at least some of the burnings. Authorities will need to continue to investigate whether the fires prove to be part of a conspiracy or the work of individual miscreants.

It is important to note that church burnings have occurred outside of the Southeast, including in Arizona. This February, the 65-year-old First Southern Baptist Church in Tucson was badly damaged by a fire that is now under Federal investigation. The Pastor, Ron Hart, said words with universal appeal: "The First Southern Baptist Church did not burn down—just the building. The church is scattered all over Tucson. People are the church. We can rebuild."

While it took too long for the church burnings to bother America's conscience, now that the issue is in the open, there is action on many fronts to put an end to the fires, capture those responsible, and help rebuild destroyed institutions.

Federal and State law-enforcement agencies are working together to solve these crimes against the people of America. Over 200 Federal law-enforcement agents are on the case, and many more State and local officials are investigating the fires.

A laudable example of Federal-State cooperation will soon occur in my State of Arizona. Next week, in Phoenix, the FBI and the Phoenix Police Department will host a forum on the church burnings with African-American pastors.

In responding to the burnings, the Congress has acted in a most appropriate bipartisan fashion to get to the bottom of these terrorist incidents. Hearings have already been held in the House. And today the Senate Judiciary Committee learned the latest on the criminal investigation.

Senators FAIRCLOTH and KENNEDY and Representatives HYDE and CONYERS have drafted church arson legislation that will soon reach the President. Both chambers have passed it unanimously. The measure will sharpen federal penalties for the burning of churches and enhance the resources available to law enforcement to investigate and prevent such acts of arson in the future.

Another key element of the legislation provides Federal loan guarantees to help rebuild the razed churches. Senator KENNEDY describes this section as an "important provision granting the Department of Housing and Urban Development the authority to make loan

guarantees to lenders who provide loans to places of worship that have been victimized by arson." This section is important for the comfort it will provide to churches that lack the resources to rebuild, assuming that it does not violate the wall of separation between church and State.

Private efforts are at least equally impressive. Organizations both religious and nonreligious have pledged millions in grants and loans to help rebuild the churches.

The reaction of the religious community is particularly commendable and welcome. During the civil rights struggle, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. lamented the religious community's lack of support for those engaged in efforts to end segregation and promote equality:

Called to be the moral guardian of the community, the Church at times has preserved that which is immoral and unethical. Called to combat social evils, it has remained silent behind stained-glass windows.

I think Dr. King would be very happy to learn that America has grown, and this indifference is no longer the case. Before the church burnings received national attention, the Christian Coalition posted a \$25,000 award for information leading to the conviction of any church arsonist, and recently, the group announced a major fundraising drive to repair and reconstruct the houses of worship. The Southern Baptist Convention, at its annual meeting this month, passed a resolution condemning the arsons, and initiated an offering to help rebuild the churches. Other notable organizations have offered assistance, including the National Council of Churches and the Anti-Defamation League.

I applaud all those who have undertaken these efforts. We must all continue to work together as one people—the American people—to douse the flames, punish those responsible, and rebuild what pernicious bigotry and hatred have sought to destroy.

HEDGESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate Hedgesville High School on their outstanding achievement in We the People * * * the Citizen and the Constitution national finals. This competition promotes an understanding of the key objectives and significance of American constitutional democracy.

The 17 students from Hedgesville, WV, who competed in the national finals in Washington, DC, April 27–29, were Erin Ambrester, Kelly Buck, Robert Deters, Dwain Donaldson, Alisha Harper, Jessica Hedrick, Jennifer Huftless, Janice Kelly, Travis Kline, Rebecca Maslauskas, Aaron Moats, Janelle Myers, Jennifer Powers, Heidi Silver, Christopher Twigg, Stephanie Whitford, and Melissa Zombro. This group competed against 49 other classes from around the country.

I would also like to recognize their teacher, Harriett Kopp, who deserves

acknowledgment for the success of the team. Other individuals who contributed to the team were district coordinator, Sharon Flack, and State coordinator, Ernest Dotson.

This program is conducted by the Center for Civic Education. The program itself reaches more than 22 million students between elementary and high school levels. The national finals are similar to a congressional hearing whereby students testify as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

This nationally acclaimed program helps students understand the history and principles of our constitutional government. The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights are the focus of this civic competition among students in public and private schools.

This particular class from Hedgesville High School participated at the congressional district, State, and national levels. The panel of judges score students on the basis of their ability to comprehend the constitutional principles of America's historical and contemporary issues. Again, Mr. President, I am so proud of these young men and women from Hedgesville High School.●

TRIBUTE TO BANDO MANUFACTURING OF AMERICA

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Bando Manufacturing of America [BMA], located in Bowling Green, KY, on receiving a supplier quality award from Honda of American Manufacturing. The associates of BMA were presented with a supplier award for outstanding achievement in quality by Honda officials.

Bando was 1 of 60 of Honda's 353 North American suppliers to receive an award at the company's 14th annual Supplier Conference in April. Bando makes power transmission belts for the Honda Accord and Civic which are both manufactured at the Marysville, OH, Honda plant.

Dave Nelson, senior vice-president of Honda of American Manufacturing Purchasing and Corporate Affairs, commented, "The quality level, competitiveness, and development capability of suppliers is an essential part of Honda's growth in North America. That's why we honor companies like Bando Manufacturing of America. Their commitment and quality focus is absolutely critical to our future success together." He added, "As we develop and manufacture new products for new markets, we plan for our suppliers to play an ever-increasing role in their development."

In addition to automotive transmission belts, Bando Manufacturing of America also produces power transmission belts for industrial and agricultural applications. With a production capacity of 850,000 pieces per month, Bando currently has 159 employees.

Mr. President, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating

Bando Manufacturing of America on receiving this distinguished award.●

ILLITERACY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to call to the Senate's attention the serious problem of illiteracy and its effects on our citizens and our Nation.

Despite living in one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world, far too many Americans are illiterate. Over 27 million of our fellow citizens cannot read, and an additional 35 million read below the level necessary to function in our society. What is particularly alarming is that the ranks of the illiterate are annually swelling by over 2 million adults. In our current age, information is power, but for too many Americans, information is simply inaccessible.

The personal costs of adult illiteracy are indeed high; however, the costs are borne not only by these individuals, but by our Nation as a whole. Illiteracy robs an individual of dignity, and it robs a community of their potential contributions. In fact, the cost, in terms of wasted human resources, is estimated at over \$225 billion.

Mr. President, I want to commend those who are dedicating their lives to eradicating illiteracy. I want to thank the teachers, volunteers, parents, and others across America who are freely giving of their time and talent to help those who cannot read. In my own State of New Jersey, "Focus on Literacy, Inc." is a group that is undertaking heroic efforts in the battle against illiteracy; I extend my thanks to everyone involved.

We must focus attention on illiteracy. All of us need to understand the extent of the problem and its far-reaching effects. We must also ensure that our citizens who need help know where services are available. But most importantly, more of us need to enlist in the battle to close the book on illiteracy.●

TRIBUTE TO THE TOWN OF JEFFERSON, NH, AS IT CELEBRATES ITS BICENTENNIAL

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the town of Jefferson, NH, on their 200th Anniversary. Jefferson is celebrating their 200th birthday all throughout the year, and the town's citizens will highlight these festivities with a Grand Parade and numerous other activities on July 6. This small New Hampshire town has a significant heritage to celebrate on their bicentennial.

The history of Jefferson began in 1765 with a land grant from George III to John Goffe and 75 others. Although Goffe and his friends failed to meet the conditions of the grant and retain the land, they left the area with the name Dartmouth, which would eventually become Jefferson. The land was eventually granted to Col. Joseph Whipple, a man of great vision who saw the poten-

tial and appreciated the beauty of the Singrawac Valley. Located midway along the slopes of Mount Starr King in the Pliny Range, Jefferson has breathtaking views of both the Presidential Range and Cherry Mountain.

Colonel Whipple was instrumental in Jefferson's development, as the man responsible for giving the town its distinguished name. He was both a personal friend to Thomas Jefferson and an ardent Jeffersonian Democrat. In addition, he was the brother of William Whipple, one of New Hampshire's three signers of the Declaration of Independence. In honor of this great man the town received the name Jefferson in 1796, 4 years before Thomas Jefferson was elected President of the United States. Later in 1796 an act of the New Hampshire legislature incorporated the town of Jefferson, beginning its proud history.

The early settlers of this untamed country were independent and self-sufficient folk, characteristics that have endured in the people of this region. They began as a farming community working for the town's founder Colonel Whipple. They were paid with half of a hundred acre lot and had the option to buy the other half. With their independent spirit and determination they built a strong and lasting community that makes their descendants proud. When the town was first settled, the nearest mill was forty miles away, yet the town residents made the trip with bushels of corn in tow.

Thomas Starr King was an important figure in the town's history and lent his name to the mountain Jefferson proudly rests upon. It was he who encouraged Benjamin Plaisted to build a hotel for tourists in this northern region. He wanted to see a place created where people could contemplate the ever changing beauty of the majestic mountains. The Waumbeck, meaning White Rock, was built in 1860 with its name and location chosen by Mr. King. At the height of the late 1800's, the area around Jefferson boasted a large community of inns and hotels. Deborah Vicker was also an important figure in Jefferson's history. She was originally a housemaid of Col. Whipple who, with typical Jefferson independence, later became a well respected doctor in the region.

Today, the town of Jefferson prides itself on its quality of life and community spirit, a tradition that has manifested itself throughout the town's history. In 1885, a disastrous rock slide on the mountain destroyed a nearly completed home and in 1928, fire destroyed the Waumbeck Hotel. Although the era of the grand hotels of the 19th century is gone, the people of Jefferson continue to enjoy their majestic view of the Singrawac Valley and the surrounding mountains. The great Jefferson community spirit manifested itself again in 1988, when a series of fires in the area threatened the town and drew national attention as the community pulled together. This town of nearly