

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

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Committee on Printing be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, beginning at 2 p.m. until business is completed, to hold an organizational meeting of the Joint Committee on Printing and an oversight hearing on the Government Printing Office.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, March 13, at 9:20 a.m., hearing room SD-406, on the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA] and program eligibility.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Operations of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine be authorized to meet on March 13, 1997, at 2 p.m. on the future of intercity passenger rail service.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMITMENT TO INVEST IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, as a nation we have a deep commitment to a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family. Housing is the cornerstone for healthy communities, a vibrant economy, and a competitive nation. Although we have significantly improved housing conditions in the last 60 years, we still have a long way to go. The latest figures in HUD's Report to Congress on the worst case housing needs estimate that 5.3 million very low-income renter households pay more than half of their income in rent or live in poor-quality housing. They receive no help. Many of those people are elderly or people with disabilities.

Today, four of the leading non-profit affordable housing producers—The Enterprise Foundation, LISC—the Local

Initiatives Support Corp.—Habitat for Humanity International, and the National Neighborworks Network—are committing to a \$13 billion investment in low-income communities across the country over the next 4 years. Each have built successful partnerships, leveraging both public and private resources. These partnerships have been critical in supporting local nonprofits to not only build affordable housing but also provide services and encourage economic development to revitalize these neighborhoods. The success of these organizations reverberates in low- and moderate-income communities across the country as they address our widespread affordable housing needs. Their work is supported by Federal programs such as HOME, the Community Development Block Grant, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

The Enterprise Foundation, based in Columbia, MD, is a true success story in the affordable housing industry. Founded by Jim Rouse in 1982, Enterprise has raised and committed more than \$1.8 billion in grants, loans, and equity to finance the development of 61,000 affordable homes. They have a number of initiatives including the Enterprise Social Investment Corp. [EISC] which works with 176 major American corporations to help them find new ways to invest in affordable housing. Much of this activity has been made possible by the low-income housing tax credit. In addition, Enterprise, along with Fannie Mae, has created the Cornerstone Housing Corp., a nonprofit that buys and preserves large blocks of multifamily rental housing for low-income families. Enterprise also runs an intensive training program to assist nonprofit organizations in increasing their technical and management abilities.

Habitat for Humanity International, since 1976, has provided approximately 55,000 homes through 1,336 local affiliates across the country. Using volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations, Habitat builds new homes and rehabilitates existing homes. An average three-bedroom Habitat home costs approximately \$38,300, making homeownership for many low-income families a reality.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation, established in 1979, supports 1,400 community development corporations throughout the country. This partnership has created over 64,000 homes and 9.6 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

Neighborworks is a network of local resident-led partnerships supported by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, a public nonprofit chartered by Congress in 1978. The Neighborworks Network has produced 38,831 units of affordable housing since its inception and in the last 5 years has leveraged \$1.5 billion in investment within communities.

In Maryland, I have seen these partnerships work. The Enterprise Founda-

tion, along with its subsidiaries, have developed more than 3,700 units of affordable housing and have committed more than \$12.3 million in loans and \$90.3 million in equity. In Sandtown-Winchester, Enterprise's Neighborhood Transformation Program has rebuilt more than 700 abandoned homes through a comprehensive community revitalization effort that works in partnership with local residents and the city of Baltimore. Neighborworks has three neighborhood housing services affiliates in Maryland—in Baltimore, Salisbury, and Cumberland. Between 1994 and 1996 alone these three Neighborworks affiliates produced over 600 units of affordable housing and leveraged over \$24 million in investments within these Maryland communities. Habitat for Humanity has 16 affiliates in Maryland which have built 89 new homes and rehabilitated another 227 homes.

Today these four organizations are challenging themselves and challenging us to continue our successful partnerships through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. These are programs I have supported and programs which have been critical in the production of affordable housing. The HOME Investment Partnership, for example, is an initiative I championed. HOME provides flexible grants to States and units of general government to implement local housing strategies designed to increase homeownership for low-income people. By requiring a 25 percent match, HOME encourages the public-private partnerships that have proven so successful in the production of affordable housing.

Mr. President, I commend the work of these organizations and applaud Enterprise, LISC, Habitat, and Neighborworks for their commitment to invest \$13 billion in our low-income communities. I fully support our continued role in this effective and successful partnership through Federal programs like HOME, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and the Community Development Block Grant and urge my colleagues to do the same. This is an excellent step in the right direction, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to highlight the work of these organizations and the Federal programs that support them. •

A PROMISING DAY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND OUR NATION'S COMMUNITIES

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today four of this Nation's most remarkable nonprofit organizations are announcing the largest private sector investment in our Nation's affordable housing of all time. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Habitat for Humanity, the Enterprise Foundation and the National NeighborWorks Network have joined together and pledged to create 13 billion dollars' worth of housing over the next 4 years. This investment in

our Nation's most economically challenged areas is testament to the dedication and commitment of these organizations to our inner cities and impoverished rural areas. There is a visionary and comprehensive plan to leverage renewal—this unprecedented investment not only will create nearly 200,000 affordable homes but also rebuild entire communities once left to waste.

As the ranking Democrat on the Housing Subcommittee, I am often privy to some of the most distressing cases of deprivation experienced by some of our fellow citizens. Joblessness, homelessness, lack of medical care, crumbling schools, rising cases of AIDS and other infectious diseases, and crime-riddled streets—those are too often the touchstones in the mosaic of urban America. However, today, the news is quite different as this pledge will stimulate tens of billions of dollars in additional private investment which in turn will create tens of thousands of jobs and new businesses in nearly 2,500 communities across the Nation.

And, Mr. President, some of those communities are located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This investment will further strengthen the efforts of the Urban Edge Community Development Corp. in Jamaica Plain and the Codman Square Community Development Corp., to name just two of the many renewal success stories in Massachusetts. Mr. President, my home State enjoys a well-deserved reputation as the incubator of the Nation's most sophisticated, mature and comprehensive approaches to development in which housing is the cornerstone but the provision of goods and services and jobs forms the foundation. For many years, local community-based development groups and affordable housing advocates have worked with corporations and philanthropies like Bank Boston, Polaroid, the Boston Foundation, and the Hyams Foundation to generate and dedicate millions of dollars to urban renewal.

Mr. President, I salute the commitment embodied in this pledge and I recognize that the challenge to match this dedication is ours. In these tough budgetary times, we must not allow important programs which stimulate economic and community renewal to wither in the sometimes blinding devotional light of the year 2002. I have stood in this Chamber on many occasions and discussed the importance of YouthBuild, CDBG's, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the Housing Preservation Program, and the Community Reinvestment Act. And today I stand resolute to bolster the Federal role in community-based development. Clearly, our national democracy is strengthened through this type of public-private partnership and I will redouble my efforts to assist community and local organizations which are making a vital and needed difference in towns and cities throughout our Nation.

This is a day of good news, hope, and promise, Mr. President. Let us respond

to the challenge with commensurate dedication to our Nation's communities.●

THE MEDICARE CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the Medicare Cancer Clinical Trial Act of 1997. This bill will provide important assistance to the national battle against cancer.

In so many ways, this disease brutally impacts the lives of millions of Americans and their families. In my State of Michigan, for example, over 50,000 residents were diagnosed with cancer last year alone. Half of all those diagnosed with cancer are Medicare beneficiaries, who also account for 60 percent of all cancer deaths.

One of the most effective weapons available in this war on cancer is research. Each year, scientists and medical clinicians provide valuable insights about the causes of various cancers as well as new therapies to treat them. The legislation I endorse today will provide cancer patients with greater access to clinical trials. One of the most important benefits of these particular trials is determining the effects of treatments on persons over the age of 65. Should these experimental therapies prove successful, this legislation will offer Federal agencies information to help them determine whether or not these treatments should be expanded to include all Medicare beneficiaries.

In my opinion, Michigan and the rest of the Nation can wait no longer to determine the applicability of these potentially groundbreaking treatments. I believe that America's elderly population should be given every means available to wage a war on cancer in which they can be the victors. In addition, this Nation should have the opportunity to utilize those treatments that are cost-effective and successful in treating the millions of Americans affected by cancer every year.

For these reasons, I am very proud to cosponsor this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.●

TRIBUTE TO CRUZ OLAGUE

● Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Nevada's leaders and activists, Cruz Olague. On March 15, 1997, the Los Amigos de Cruz Olague will honor former Mayor Cruz Olague—a fine Arizonan and Nevadan—at their first testimonial dinner. I have known Cruz for many years, and he is truly deserving of this honor.

Born February 26, 1934, in Winslow, AZ, Cruz later moved to Henderson, NV after serving 4 years in the U.S. Navy. Afterward, he worked as an office manager in a supermarket while completing his accounting studies at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

In 1971, Cruz was persuaded to run for the Henderson City Council. After receiving 53 percent of the popular vote

in the primary, a general election was deemed unnecessary and Cruz was declared the winner. This was the first and only time such an event has occurred in the history of Nevada local politics. Moreover, Cruz won this seat on the City Council with a campaign budget of a mere \$3,000. Following this tremendous feat, Mr. Olague went on to become a popular mayor of Henderson, and served in this capacity until 1975.

Cruz is a man with deep religious convictions and a remarkably calm demeanor. Even when driving home a contentious point, he always maintains a gentleman's dignity and an even temperament. With his kindness, Cruz easily won people over. Consequently, it came as no surprise when he was selected Mayor of the Year in 1974.

This prominent member of the Hispanic community has long believed that our racial and ethnic diversity is our Nation's greatest strength. Cruz Olague has spent his life tirelessly fighting on behalf of minorities, the elderly, and the poor. He has used his abilities for those who often lack a voice in our society. The work of this outstanding citizen has left a lasting impact on the lives of many Nevadans.

Across southern Nevada, Cruz Olague will always be known as an individual of great integrity and conviction with a passion for good government. For 27 years, it has been a privilege to call Cruz Olague a friend. It is my pleasure to speak today in tribute to Cruz, and congratulate him on this special honor.●

SECRETARY PEÑA'S NOMINATION

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to express my concern with the Department of Energy's handling of the appliance energy efficiency standards regulations. My concerns regarding this matter are well known. In the last Congress, I authored an amendment to impose a 1-year moratorium on new DOE appliance standards rulemaking activities. That action became necessary because it was clear that DOE's energy efficiency standards program was placing jobs and investment in the manufacturing industry at risk, not just in Kentucky, but in other States around the Nation.

DOE's response to the moratorium was an interpretive rule that was designed to institutionalize a variety of reforms. While I commend DOE for identifying and correcting their own shortcomings, DOE's first test is before us now in the form of new energy efficiency standards for refrigerators. In my estimation, DOE deserves a failing grade.

I have raised the refrigerator standards issue with Secretary Peña during his confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy Committee, but I have not received a satisfactory answer to my questions. While I realize Secretary Peña did not create this controversy,