

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the benefit of Members and the public that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has scheduled a hearing to receive testimony on S. 417, reauthorizing EPCA through 2002; S. 416, administration bill reauthorizing EPCA through 1998; and S. 186, providing priority for purchases of SPR oil for Hawaii; and the energy security of the United States. In addition to these bills the committee will also consider S. 698, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Replenishment Act.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 13, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Those wishing to testify or submit written statements for the record should contact Karen Hunsicker, counsel to the committee at (202) 224-3543 or Betty Nevitt, staff assistant, at (202) 224-0765.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 5 p.m. in executive session, to consider certain pending military nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN
AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, to conduct a mark-up on S. 462, the Public Housing Reform and Responsibility Act of 1997.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the Government's Impact on Television Programming.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on: S. 43, Criminal Use of Guns.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 8, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. to consider revisions of Title 44/GPO.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on May 8, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. on the Hazardous Materials Transportation Reauthorization.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

AMENDMENT ON WZLS RADIO
STATION

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I have agreed not to offer an amendment to the supplemental appropriations bill regarding a radio station in my State, because I am told that a point of order may be raised against it. But, Mr. President, I will continue to probe this matter further. I intend to request documents from the FCC on this issue. Further, I think that the Commerce Committee should hold a hearing to investigate the irregularities concerning this case.

Mr. President, in 1987, Zeb Lee and his family attempted to get a new FM station license in Asheville, NC. At the time, Mr. Lee had owned and operated a successful AM station in the area for 40 years.

By all accounts, Mr. Lee has been a model citizen and a model radio station operator, this is in stark contrast to a lot of what is taking place on radio today.

In 1993, a full 6 years later, Mr. Lee was awarded the station on a temporary basis, beating out 12 other applicants. Several of his competitors were found to be unqualified. In fact, one lied about his ability to operate a station. Another lied about his heritage in order to obtain a minority preference.

Pending final approval, Mr. Lee was required by the FCC to sell his AM sta-

tion and to begin constructing a new FM tower. In reliance on the Government, he did both. A week after Zeb Lee was on the air, the FCC issued a public notice freezing all licensing proceedings affected by the Bechtel versus FCC case.

In an unusual move, in 1996, the full FCC Board reversed all previous decisions and awarded temporary operating authority to the four opponents of Zeb Lee in the original application process. The four opponents were acting as a group by this time.

Mr. President, here we are, 10 years later—and Mr. Lee is still fighting his case with the FCC. He was on the air for 3 years—only to be told by the FCC that he would now be taken off the air, once his opponents could go on.

Mr. President, this is a highly unusual case. This was the only station, affected by the Bechtel case, where the initial decision was reserved. Furthermore, the FCC has never issued final regulations pursuant to the Bechtel case.

And what did the four opponents who got the radio station do with the new license—they have shopped for another buyer.

The four opponents have now turned over their temporary license to a large out of state radio company.

The fact of the matter is that the opponents in the licensing process had no intention of running a radio station. They only hope was that Zeb Lee would buy them off—in other words pay “blackmail.” If that did not work—and they did win the radio station—they would transfer those rights for a big profit.

Mr. President, this process is wrong. It is deeply flawed.

Any bureaucratic process that takes 10 years, by itself is an outrage.

But the process that bankrupts an 80 year old man is truly wrong.

If he loses the station, the end result will be that a family owned radio business, located in Asheville area for 40 years, will have lost the radio license in a deeply flawed process.

His four opponents never had any intention of operating a radio station, they only wanted to flip the license to a larger company.

This is wrong, and it must stop.

Mr. President, my amendment would have provided that Zeb Lee could continue to operate his station for a period of 6 more months. This would allow the Congress to review this matter. It would allow us to get to the bottom of what the FCC is doing.

We have to make certain that this process has been fair and even handed, but quite frankly, judging from the facts, there have been serious problems with this entire issue.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I can assure all the citizens in Asheville that I will continue to pursue this matter with vigor. •

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, as I am sure many of my colleagues are

aware, this week—May 4–May 10—is Arson Awareness Week. All over the Nation, people are coming together to combat arson and take back their communities. One such place where this has been happening is Utica, a city of about 70,000 people in upstate New York. Utica is a pilot city in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's [FEMA] Partnership for Arson Awareness and Prevention. FEMA Director James Lee Witt is heading up the National Arson Prevention Initiative [NAPI], a combined effort of FEMA and the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and the Treasury. President Clinton asked Director Witt to create the NAPI in response to the many church fires which recently occurred in the South.

In March, Utica Mayor Edward Hanna and Oneida County Executive Ralph Eannace formed a local arson prevention coalition and have been working with FEMA officials. Throughout this week and in the future, the people of Utica will band together to take back their city from scourge of arson fires which it has recently seen.

On Tuesday, students at the Martin Luther King School heard a public education program on arson from officers of the Utica Fire Department and the New York State Office of Fire Prevention. On Wednesday, risk assessments were conducted at senior citizen's centers, and on Friday, the Utica National Insurance Co.'s. are presenting a fire prevention grant to residents of the neighborhood near the intersections of South and Steuben Streets.

On Saturday, Director Witt will cap off the week with a visit to Utica. The day's activities will include boarding up abandoned structures to make them less susceptible to arson and conducting fire drills at several churches in the morning and having a parade and arson prevention rally in the afternoon. I would like to thank Director Witt for making Utica a pilot city in this program and for visiting Utica. Working together, the people of Utica will reclaim their city from arson.

Mr. President, I ask that an article by Director Witt on Arson Awareness Week be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO TARGET ARSON IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

WASHINGTON.—IN THE WAKE OF THE CHURCH FIRES LAST SUMMER, THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO LEAD A NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE. HE WANTED TO FOCUS THE EFFORTS AND THE RESOURCES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT ARSON.

The initiative the President implemented was national in regional, and not focused on houses of worship exclusively. This effort represents the commitment by numerous Federal agencies, governments at all levels, the private sector, and the voluntary community to greatly reduce the 750 fatalities and over \$2 billion in losses caused by arson in this country every year.

National Arson Awareness Week, which begins Sunday (May 4) and runs through Saturday, May 10th, is the culmination of this ini-

tiative. In a very real sense, it marks the first anniversary of an unprecedented crusade to combat a national problem that far too often maims and kills and can destroy the fabric of our communities. The theme of this week is "Target Arson," and each community should ask themselves what they are doing in the fight against arson.

Arson is preventable. What is disturbing is that one out of every four fires is intentionally set. That means that someone—a fellow human being—consciously decides for whatever reason to destroy a home, a car, a house of worship, or a business. And in that moment they have attacked the lives, the livelihoods, and the spirit of a community. Arson is a national problem, but it is fundamentally a local problem. This war—like most wars—must be won in the trenches. Local fire and police departments are well-trained and ready to mount heroic efforts. But when the doors of the fire station go up to respond, you have already lost the battle to prevent that fire from happening. In the end, the real responsibility for stopping arson lies with the community—with students, teachers, business leaders, parents, the clergy, and civic organizations.

Arson does affect everyone—and every taxpayer should be vitally concerned about arson's destructive and deadly toll. Think of the cost of rolling out fire trucks to deal with a toilet paper fire at a school. Consider that teenagers account for more than 55 percent of all deliberately set blazes, and if you include youth 20 years and younger that figure climbs to 61.2 percent. Then think of the cost of teachers and students killed or scarred for the rest of their lives and a smoldering school that must be rebuilt. Think again of the houses and businesses that disappear from the tax rolls because of arson, and the services that suffer in a community as the result. Imagine what it's like to pull up outside your church or house of worship, and realize that it disappeared in flames the night before.

As we observe National Arson Awareness Week, three communities—Charlotte, NC; Macon, GA; and Utica, NY—will be launching grassroots arson prevention coalitions that could well become models for other American cities. These are communities that took firm hold of their arson problems and have put together a partnership from across their community to prevent future arson fires.

These communities will step forward as model arson prevention partnerships with a flurry of week-long activity, that includes boarding up abandoned buildings, cleaning up litter and debris from vacant properties, conducting arson prevention training programs in schools and community centers, and promoting arson awareness through public education campaigns and neighborhood watch rallies. Dozens of other cities across the country will also be hosting National Arson Awareness Week events.

The most effective way of combating any problem, including arson, is to prevent it from happening. That takes more than federal agencies and federal dollars. It takes you and your family and your friends. It takes your entire community.

So ask yourself this week—what you are doing to "target arson" in your community? Then get involved—organize a neighborhood watch, assess arson risks in your community, participate in prevention training programs, call your local fire department or call the National Arson Prevention Clearinghouse at 1-888-603-3100 for some arson prevention ideas. Remember fire stops with you.

CAPT. JAMES HUARD

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to pay my respects to Air Force

Capt. James Huard, buried on Thursday, May 1 with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. The day was long overdue; 25 years, in fact, since the Dearborn, MI native's plane disappeared in a mission over North Vietnam.

In July 1972, Captain Huard's death left behind a young wife, three small children, and countless other family and friends. His memory lives on today, however, evident in the attendance at Arlington of a number of members of the Vietnam Veterans of America James L. Huard Chapter 267, named in his honor.

As fitting and well deserved a tribute as last week's ceremony was, it also serves as a stirring reminder of those who still wait for return of the remains of their loved ones. For one quarter of a century, over 2,000 families have so far been denied the opportunity to properly bring closure to this difficult period in their lives.

As Paul Kane, one of Captain Huard's fellow veterans told the Detroit News, "This ends the Vietnam war for Dearborn, finally. Today, the good captain comes home to rest."

It is my sincere hope the other families and communities across this country waiting to honor those servicemen still missing in action will one day, if they have not already, find a similar peace themselves. Until then, we cannot and will not waver or rest in our solemn task of returning every American home for recognition as heroes by the country in whose service they made the ultimate sacrifice.●

NATIONAL SAFE KIDS WEEK 1997

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize May 10 through 18 as National Safe Kids Week 1997. The National Safe Kids Campaign is a joint effort of the Children's National Medical Center and its founding sponsor Johnson & Johnson to promote basic child safety precautions among America's parents.

To illustrate the importance of this cause, consider the following facts. Unintentional injury is the number one killer of children ages 14 and under. Every day, more than 39,000 children are injured seriously enough to require emergency medical treatment. That is more than 14 million each year. These statistics are all the more tragic because so many of these accidents could have been prevented with adequate basic child safety education.

Earlier today, the National Safe Kids Gear Up Games kicked off here in Washington. The Gear Up Games will move to New York tomorrow, Los Angeles on Saturday, and on to communities across the country in the days ahead. The primary awareness program of National Safe Kids Week 1997, the Gear Up Games are an interactive safety obstacle course with events centered around the childhood injury risk areas depicted in the Safe Kids Gear Up Guide.