

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Tuesday, June 17, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room SH-216, to conduct a markup on budget reconciliation.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask Unanimous Consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Tuesday, June 17, at 10 a.m. for a markup on the following agenda items:

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing on: "Baseball Antitrust Reform."

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety be authorized to meet for a Hearing on "Ethics and Theology: A Continuation of the National Discussion on Human Cloning" during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS/FOREIGN COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Consumer Affairs/Foreign Commerce and Tourism Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, June 17, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. on Liability Reform for Charitable Organizations.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing Opportunities and Community Development, of the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 17, 1997, to conduct a hearing on S. 513, the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DECLARATION BY THE TRUST FOR THE FUTURE OF THE U.S. SENATE

• Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to submit this

declaration by the Trust for the Future to the U.S. Senate to honor the work of the trust and its founder and president, Charles A. Howell III:

Be it known by all present, that, from this day forward, the last Sunday of June is to be known as Descendants Day. Henceforth, this shall be the day in each year when all the world's citizens assess the impact of their activities during the preceding year on their neighbors and their descendants across time.

Be it further proclaimed, that the ultimate goal of this endeavor is to reach the day when we can celebrate a year in which the consequences of our activities had no measurable negative impact on our neighbors or our descendants and instead see clearly that the impact of our actions on posterity is decidedly beneficial and sustainable.

Each generation of Americans has an unspoken bond and commitment with the previous and next generations to leave the world better than we found it. In many ways, today we are not keeping that commitment. We aspire to encourage others around the world to join in this yearly celebration of courageous accountability in the sure knowledge that we will be followed by billions of persons who will either condemn us or praise us for efforts we may or may not expend on their behalf.

On this the Seventeenth Day of the Sixth Month in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Seven, we affirm our desire to pursue this course with all diligence. •

RETIREMENT TRIBUTE TO JIMMIE RUTH JOHNSON

• Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Mrs. Jimmie Johnson. Mrs. Johnson retires after 36 years of dedicated service to Milwaukee Public Schools. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her hard work and commitment to the students of Milwaukee.

Throughout her 36 years as an education professional, she has earned the respect and admiration of her students and colleagues by upholding educational standards, while maintaining a loving and caring relationship with all who encountered her. She is known to her coworkers and students as a counselor, a problem solver, and consummate friend.

As socioeconomic and family issues changed over the years for the students within the school system, she maintained the same love for making a difference. Her dedication shines through in her desire to feed, clothe, and counsel her students.

Her commitment to education transcended the school system, as she taught Sunday school faithfully for more than 25 years. She also taught vacation Bible school out of her home to the children in her neighborhood. This same commitment is also exemplified by her ability to obtain a masters degree in education, while working fulltime and raising a family.

A success not only in the classroom, but in her personal life as well—Mrs. Johnson is a devout Christian who lends her time to the development of other Christians. She is also the faithful wife to Oscar Sr., a world class

mother to Oscar Jr. and Derrick, and a loving grandmother to Janae and Dilon. Throughout the process of fulfilling these responsibilities, she has managed to balance her professional career with her family life. Her kind spirit has made her the unofficial adopted mother of countless peers, acquaintances and extended family members.

Mrs. Jimmie Ruth Johnson has left a mark on the countless students that she has taught and deserves this recognition. She has played an integral part of the development of excellence through educating the city of Milwaukee's youth with optimism, patience and love. •

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS OF GORHAM HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate the students of Gorham High School of Gorham, NH, who participated in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" national finals. I commend these exceptional young people in their impressive performance against 50 other classes from around the Nation. These students demonstrated great knowledge of the principles of American constitutional development.

The distinguished members of the team representing New Hampshire are: David Arsenault, Jan Bindas-Tenney, Melissa Borowski, Alyssa Breton, Mike Burrill, Kevin Carpenter, Todd Davis, Rebecca Evans, Brad Fillion, Cyndy Gibson, Patrick Gilligan, Sean Griffith, Reid Hartman, Sarah King, Michelle Leveille, Monica McKenzie, Ashley Thompson, Michael Toth, Julie Washburn, Tuuli Winter, and Melanie Wolf. I also would like to recognize their teacher Mike Brosnan, their district coordinator Ray Kneeland, and their state coordinator Holly Belson. These three people dedicated much time and effort to help the team make it to the national finals.

This competition, which is organized by the Center for Civic Education, attracts over 1,200 students and tests their comprehension of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Also, the students must be able to relate these ideals to contemporary issues before simulated congressional committees composed of constitutional lawyers, journalists, and scholars. The students of Gorham did an exceptional job demonstrating all of these important skills. Their dedication to our Nation's founding ideals is impressive and should serve as an example to any young person who is interested in the U.S. Government and its laws.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" Program provides an excellent educational experience for students. These young people gain extensive knowledge of the Constitution and the active role it plays in all of our lives. I wish the best of luck to the students of Gorham High School in their future endeavors. •

STEVEN J. SHIMBERG'S DEPARTURE

• Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, this Friday, June 20, marks the last day Steven J. Shimberg will work here in the Senate as staff director and chief counsel of the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Next month, he will begin a new career with the National Wildlife Federation.

Steve Shimberg is a New York native and a magna cum laude graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Upon graduating from Duke University School of Law, Steve spent 3 years as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice's Land and Natural Resources Division before joining the staff of the Committee on Environment and Public Works in 1981.

I have been a member of the Committee since I entered the Senate in 1977. I served as the chairman or ranking minority member of the Water Resources Subcommittee from the 96th Congress through the 103d Congress, and I served as full committee chairman from September 1992 through January 1993. So, over the years, I have seen Steve shepherd through the committee enormously complicated and thoroughly bipartisan legislation to protect our natural resources. I can attest to Steve's personableness, his sense of humor and good cheer, his comity, and his utter competence. Consummately professional, always courteous, and always calm.

Environmental policy, to be supportable, must be based on sound science. And so I have argued that the committee needs more scientists and fewer lawyers on the staff. Steve certainly is an exception; he has been indispensable. While I applaud Federation officials for their astuteness in hiring Steve, I lament the loss his departure means to the committee, and to the Senate. We will miss him.

Sir Christopher Wren's tombstone reads, "Lector, si monumentum requiris circumspecte." With regard to Steve's work over the past 17 years on the committee, the products are around us all: cleaner air, cleaner water, a greatly redeemed physical and human environment.●

EXPLANATION OF VOTES ON THE NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on Wednesday, April 10, the Senate once again turned to consideration of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. This legislation, Senate bill 104, is the latest attempt to force action on the long overdue construction of a Federal, spent nuclear waste depository. A centralized waste storage facility must be located soon if the Department of Energy [DOE] is to have any hope of fulfilling its contractual obligation to collect the spent fuel stored at over 100 facilities around the country in the next decade.

Michigan needs the DOE to fulfill this obligation. My State has four nu-

clear plants: Big Rock in Charlevoix, Fermi in Monroe, Palisades in Southaven, with 2 reactors, and DC Cook in Southaven. All four of these plants were designed with some small storage capacity, but a couple of years ago, Palisades ran out of spent fuel pool storage space. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act will mandate the removal and storage of this spent fuel at a safe, central facility.

The first amendment to S. 104 was a Reid amendment stipulating that no waste may be transported through a State without the prior written consent of that State's Governor. In effect, this amendment would have permitted any Governor to block the implementation of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and impede the safe storage of nuclear waste. I supported, therefore, the tabling motion which passed by a 72 to 24 margin.

The Thompson amendment which was considered next sought to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from being considered as an interim waste site should the President search for a location other than Yucca Mountain. In general, I do not like the idea of deleting from consideration particular sites without a debate on the matter. This site, however, lies in a geological zone comprised primarily of limestone bedrock that is frequently riven by shallow underground rivers. As such, the risk of contaminated waste leaking into the area's water table is too great for this site to be a reasonable replacement for the Yucca Mountain site. For that reason, I supported the Thompson amendment and it passed on a 60 to 33 vote.

The Bumpers amendment that followed was a sense of the Senate resolution stating that the Department of Energy had an unavoidable delay in its contractual obligations to begin taking possession of spent fuel in 1998. If passed, this resolution could have undermined the current lawsuit which has been filed by Michigan and 34 other States against the DOE for not taking this waste in the agreed to time. For that reason, I opposed this resolution. The great majority of my colleagues agreed with me, and the resolution failed on a 24 to 69 vote.

The next amendment, a Bingaman effort to eliminate the language to exempt Oak Ridge, TN, from consideration as an interim site, failed by a 36 to 56 margin. As I have noted, this site is not a suitable interim storage site, and I voted against the Bingaman measure.

The second Bingaman amendment which was considered sought to eliminate the default provision for designating an interim storage site. The legislation as passed gives the President the authority to declare whether Yucca Mountain is a suitable interim storage site. If the President says it is not, he has 18 months to identify a new interim site. If, however, the President does not designate another facility within that time, then Yucca Mountain becomes the interim site by default.

The Bingaman amendment would have changed this. Had it passed, the President could have rejected Yucca Mountain and then simply refused to identify another interim site. The end result would be years of lost time, millions of wasted taxpayer dollars, and a return to the present, untenable situation. I opposed the Bingaman amendment for this reason and supported the motion to table which passed 59 to 39.

The final amendments to be considered were a Domenici amendment and a Murkowski second degree amendment. The bill as written could have been considered to allow a waiver on a budget point of order. The Domenici amendment clarified and reinstated existing law, which does not permit waiving a point of order prospectively.

The Murkowski second degree to the Domenici amendment was a technical fix that capped the annual fee for each civilian nuclear powerplant at 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour. The original provisions limiting user fees to 1.0 mill per kilowatt-hour were poorly worded. With the budgetary fix provided by the Domenici amendment, this provision was restored.

I supported the Murkowski amendment and it was adopted by a 66 to 32 vote. Shortly after, the Senate passed the Domenici amendment as modified by a voice vote.

Upon the disposition of these amendments, the Senate turned to final passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Once again, I voted in favor of this important act and was pleased to see it pass by a 65 to 34 margin.●

RACE FOR THE CURE

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my admiration for the thousands of Americans who spent last Saturday morning running to help bring attention to breast cancer and to raise money to aid in finding a cure for this terrible disease—the leading cause of death among women ages 35 to 54. In Washington alone, more than 35,000 runners and walkers, including several members of my own staff, joined the Vice President and his wife to raise more than \$1 million for breast cancer research in the Race for the Cure. This effort is even more impressive when you consider that this race took place in 77 cities across the country. Since its inception in 1982, the Race for the Cure has raised \$45 million and funded 230 grants in basic science and clinical research, as well as education and screening projects. The incredible turnout for this event displays the widespread concern over the devastation of breast cancer.

Every 3 minutes another woman is diagnosed with breast cancer. This year alone, more than 180,000 women will struggle with this disease, and more than 44,000 women will die as a result of it. One in eight women will develop breast cancer within their lifetime, making it likely that every American will be touched in some way by this disease.