

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 7, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the regulation of products of biotechnology and new challenges faced by farmers and food businesses.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 7, 1999, in open and closed sessions, to receive testimony on the ability of the Stockpile Stewardship Program to adequately verify the safety and reliability of the U.S. nuclear deterrent under a comprehensive test ban treaty.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, October 7, 10:00 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406), on water infrastructure legislation, including the following three bills: S. 968, Alternative Water Sources Act of 1999; S. 914, Combined Sewer Overflow Control and Partnership Act of 1999; and the Clean Water Infrastructure Financing Act of 1999, a bill to be introduced by Senator VOINOVICH.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 7, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to hold two hearings.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the Committee on the Judiciary requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, October 7, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Dirksen Room 226.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the Committee on the Judiciary requests unanimous consent to conduct a markup on Thursday, October 7, 1999 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Dirksen Room 226.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the Committee on the Judiciary requests

unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, October 7, 1999 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Dirksen Room 226.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on October 7, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 7, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND REGULATION

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy Research, Development, Production and Regulation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 7, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing, which is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1183, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to convey to the city of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, the former site of the NIPER facility of the Department of Energy; and S. 397, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multiagency program in support of the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative to promote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along the border with Mexico through the research, development, and use of new materials.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, PROLIFERATION AND FEDERAL SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services be permitted to meet on Thursday, October 7, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. for a hearing on Guidelines for the Relocation, Closing, Consolidation or Construction of Post Offices.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance, Subcommittee on International Trade be permitted to meet on Thursday, October 7, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. to hear testimony on the United States Agricultural Negotiating Objectives for the Seattle WTO Ministerial Conference.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

1999 REUNION OF MEMBERS OF FOX DIVISION, USS "ROCHESTER"

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the fighting men of the Fox Division, United States Navy, USS *Rochester* (CA-124), who bravely served our country in the Korean Conflict from June, 1950 to March, 1953. Aboard the USS *Rochester*—the flagship of the Commander Seventh Fleet—the men of the Fox Division participated in nearly every major naval engagement along the Korean Peninsula. The Fox Division's three teams: the Main Plot, the Sky Plot, and the Mark 56 directors, shared the critical responsibility of operating, repairing, and maintaining the complex equipment which ensured the accuracy of the *Rochester*'s weapons systems. They accomplished these tasks with outstanding success.

The Fox Division recently celebrated their 1999 reunion in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Some of these reunited shipmates had not seen each other in over 45 years. Included among their ranks were:

Jerry Barca; John Brothers; Robert Cadden; Russell Daniels; Farrell Ferguson; Sheri Holman, representing her late husband Bob Holman; Bill Hontz; Marv Hufford; Larry Kobia; Tony Kontowicz; Leo Lane; Charles Newsham; Bobby Page; Carl Ray; Ronald Richards; Pete Russell; Roland Schneider; Donald Spencer; and Joe West.

Today I join my colleagues in thanking the men of the Fox Division for defending the cause of democracy, and for preserving our country's national security. I am proud to say that these veterans are an inspiration to all of us. By dedicating a portion of their lives to the service of their country, they have helped guarantee the freedom we Americans hold so dear. Our nation is grateful to each and every member of the Fox Division, USS *Rochester*, for their outstanding dedication and commitment to the United States of America.●

VIOLENCE IN MICHIGAN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week, students at Erickson Elementary School and Willow Run High School are mourning the deaths of their peers. On Sunday afternoon, gun fire cut short the lives of two young boys in Ypsilanti Township. Sixteen year old Ernest Earl Lemons was shot in plain daylight, after a fight broke out between young people. Nine year old Cullen Ethington, who was a half a block away, was also killed by a stray bullet from that fight.

Both young people are now being remembered by their classmates and teachers. The tree where Lemons fell,

after he was shot, is now decorated with teddy bears. Students at Erickson are planning to plant a tree or flowers in honor of the short life of fourth grader Cullen Ethington, who will be memorialized by his classmates as a peer mediator who helped students resolve their disputes without violence.

School children are too often the victims of senseless gun violence. Gun violence results in injury and death, destroys families, and causes lasting psychological and emotional harm. In Michigan, each school is now forced to handle the trauma of children losing other children to gunfire. As many other school districts now know, violence and the fear of violence is not only tragic for individuals and families involved, it also interferes tremendously with the educational process. Students at Erickson, for example, are now spending time at school with trauma teams learning how to cope with death while their peers at other schools are learning about the pilgrims and practicing for the school play.

Congress must act now to end the proliferation of gun violence. Like young Cullen, we must not only make a pledge to live our lives without violence, but must also send a message to others that violence is never the answer.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the both the Ethington and the Lemons families.●

WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS

- Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, given the recent creation of the Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus and the ongoing debate on public land management, I think that all views on this complicated and emotional issue are vital to the discussion. Therefore, I ask that a brief statement from the Wilderness Act Reform Coalition, a group from my home State of Idaho be printed in the RECORD for all Senators to read and consider.

The article follows:

THE WILDERNESS ACT REFORM COALITION

WHY WE ARE ORGANIZING

September 3, 1999 marks the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. During those 35 years, it has never been substantively amended. Yet, the history of the application of the Wilderness Act to the public's lands and resources provides overwhelming evidence that it must be significantly reformed if the public interest is to be served.

September 3, 1999 also marks the launch of the Wilderness Act Reform Coalition (WARC), the first serious effort to reform this antiquated and poorly-conceived law. Much has changed since the Wilderness Act became law in 1964. Dozens of other laws have been passed since then to protect and responsibly-manage all of the public's lands and resources. Underpinning all of these laws—and guaranteeing their enforcement—is a public sensitivity and commitment to wise resource management which was not present two generations ago when the Wilderness Act was enacted.

Over this same time period our knowledge and understanding of how to accomplish this

kind of wise and responsible resource management has increased exponentially. The demand side of the public's interest in their lands and resources has also increased exponentially. Recreation demand, for example, has increased far beyond what anyone could have anticipated 35 years ago and it has done so in directions which could not have been foreseen in 1964. Demand for water, energy and minerals, timber and other resources continues to go up as well.

All of this means that as the 21st Century dawns we find ourselves facing more complex natural resources realities and challenges than ever before in our history. Meeting these challenges while at the same time serving the broad public interest will require careful and thoughtful balancing of all resource values with other social goals. It will also require integrating them all into a comprehensive management approach which will provide the greatest good for the greatest number of Americans over the longest period of time.

These lands and resources, after all, belong to all of the American people. They deserve to enjoy the maximum benefits from them. Yet, the Wilderness Act, with its outdated, inflexible, and anti-management requirements, presently locks away over 100 million acres of the public's lands and resources from this kind of intelligent and integrated resource management. The inevitable result is the numerous negative impacts and damage to other resource values which are becoming increasingly apparent on the public's lands. The Wilderness Act remains frozen in another era. Due to the exponential changes which have occurred since it was passed, that era lies much further in the past than a mere 35 year linear time line would suggest.

OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Wilderness Act Reform Coalition is being organized by members of citizen's groups and local government officials who have experienced firsthand the limitations and problems the Wilderness Act has caused. It has a simple mission: to reform the Wilderness Act. In carrying out that mission, the Coalition has identified two primary goals towards which it will initially work.

The first goal is to make those changes in the wilderness law which are essential to mitigate the most serious resource and related problems it is causing. These problems range from prohibiting the application of sound resource management practices where needed to hampering important scientific research and jeopardizing our national defense.

The second goal of the coalition is to use the failings of the Wilderness Act to help educate the public, the media and policy makers on the fundamentals of natural resource management. Most of the "conventional wisdom" about natural resource management to which most of them presently subscribe is simply wrong. It is essential that the public be better educated on the facts, the realities, the challenges and the options before there can be any responsible or useful policy debate on the most fundamental problems with the Wilderness Act or, for that matter, any of the other federal management laws and policies which also need to be reformed. That is why the Coalition has chosen a comparatively limited reform agenda for this opening round in what we recognize ultimately must be a broader and more comprehensive national policy debate.

OUR REFORM AGENDA

The Coalition currently advocates the following reforms of the Wilderness Act:

1. Developing a mechanism to permit active resource management in wilderness areas to achieve a wide range of public benefits and to respond to local needs. The inabil-

ity or unwillingness of managers to intervene actively within wilderness areas to deal with local resource management problems or goals has resulted in economic harm to local communities and damage to other important natural resource and related values and objectives. The Coalition supports the creation of committees composed of locally-based federal and state resource managers, local governments, local economic interests and local citizens which will initiate a process to override the basic non-management directive of the Wilderness Act on a case-by-case basis.

2. Establishing a mechanism for appeal and override of local managers for scientific research. Wilderness advocates often tout the importance of wilderness designation to science. The reality, however, is that agency regulations make it difficult or impossible to conduct many scientific experiments in wilderness, particularly with modern and cost-effective scientific tools. Important scientific experiments have been opposed simply because they would take place within wilderness areas. A simple, quick and cheap appeal process must be created for scientists turned down by wilderness land managers.

3. Making it clear that such things as use of mechanized equipment and aircraft landings can occur in wilderness areas for search and rescue or law enforcement purposes. There have been incidents where these have been prevented by federal wilderness managers.

4. Requiring that federal managers use the most cost-effective management tools and technologies. These managers have largely imposed upon themselves a requirement that they use the "least tool" or the "minimum tool" to accomplish tasks such as noxious weed control, wildfire control or stabilization of historic sites. In practice, this means that hand tools are often used instead of power tools, horses are employed instead of helicopters and similar practices which waste tax dollars.

5. Clarifying that the prohibition on the use of mechanized transportation in wilderness areas refers only to intentional infractions. This would be, in effect, the "Bobby Unser Amendment" designed to prevent in the future the current situation in which he is being prosecuted by the federal government for possibly driving a snowmobile into a wilderness area in Colorado while lost in a life-threatening blizzard.

6. Pulling the boundaries of wilderness areas and wilderness study areas (WSA's) back from roads and prohibiting "cherrystemming." In many cases, the boundaries of wilderness areas and WSA's come right to the very edge of a road. Lawsuits have been filed or threatened against counties for going literally only a few feet into a WSA when doing necessary road maintenance work. It is clearly impossible to have a wilderness recreational experience in close proximity of a road. When formal wilderness areas are designated, the current practice is to pull the boundaries back a short distance from roads, depending on how the roads are categorized. That distance should be standardized and extended, probably to at least a quarter of a mile. The practice of "cherrystemming," or drawing wilderness boundaries right along both sides of a road to its end, sometimes for many miles, is a clear violation of the intent of the Wilderness Act that wilderness areas must first and foremost be roadless. It must be eliminated.

7. Permitting certain human-powered but non-motorized mechanized transport devices in wilderness areas. This would include mountain bikes and wheeled "game carriers" and similar devices. The explosion of mountain biking was not envisioned by the Congress when the Wilderness Act was passed.