

only way to put a decisive end to the suffering of the population of Sierra Leone.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a full committee hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Thursday, March 4, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of Robert W. Gee to be an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy for Fossil Energy.

For further information, please contact David Dye of the Committee staff at (202) 224-0624.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Thursday, February 25, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on U.S. policy regarding Kosovo.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 25, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements in review of the fiscal year 2000 defense authorized request and future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Ms. COLLINS. 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, February 25, 1999, to conduct a hearing on financial services legislation.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to consider the President's proposed budget for FY2000 for the Department of En-

ergy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to consider the President's proposed budget for FY2000 for the U.S. Forest Service.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Public Health, be authorized to meet for a hearing on Antimicrobial Resistance: Solutions to a Growing Public Health Threat during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. COLLINS. 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, February 25, 1999, at 10:00 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. COLLINS. 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, February 25, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct its organizational meeting for the 106th Congress.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, of the Senate Judiciary Committee, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building, on: "The Third Anniversary of the Telecom Act: A Competition and Antitrust Review."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 25, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MEAT LABELING ACT OF 1999

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the subject of the Meat Labeling Act of 1999. This measure, introduced earlier this year by South Dakota Senator, TIM JOHNSON, would require the country-of-origin labeling of beef, lamb, and pork prior to their sale at a retail level in the United States.

This bill will protect the consumers—who right now have no way of telling what country their meat is coming from—and come to the aid of an industry which has had to face severe competition from foreign countries in recent years.

Mr. President, last year, the U.S. agriculture industry faced devastating losses. Bad weather, pest infestation, decreased demand stemming from the Asian financial crisis, and increased imports, especially from Canada, all contributed to the record low prices in nearly every sector.

In Wisconsin, the hog industry took a big hit as cash prices dropped an average of 55%. Incomes were slashed, farms were sold for pennies on the dollar, and over 600 producers left the business.

This year, the Asian crisis continues, as well as the financial problems in Russia, in Brazil and other countries. The truth is that the market for U.S. agriculture products is bleak and it does not appear to be changing anytime soon.

America's meat producers face not only tough global competition from abroad, but a big disadvantage here at home, because their products aren't marked "made in the USA."

That means consumers can't distinguish a U.S.-grown pork chop from a Mexican one. This raises health and safety concerns, since meat-handling standards in other countries may not be as stringent as our own, and it means that consumers can't choose to put their buying power behind American farmers in the check-out aisle.

Right now the only guidance consumers do have is misleading at best—since many of us would assume that a steak that carries a USDA inspection and grade label is U.S. produced. But in many cases, this couldn't be farther from the truth. That steak could be from Mexico, Canada, or Nicaragua. And for a variety of reasons, I think Wisconsinites want to know if the pork chop they are buying is from Marquette or Mexico.

Recent scares over food imported from foreign countries make this issue more important than ever to consumers. Cases of disease and numerous

problems with the quality of some foreign products make it all the more vital that we provide our consumers with as much information as possible so that they may make informed decisions about the food they purchase for themselves and their families.

Mr. President, this measure is supported by the Administration and prominent agriculture groups like the National Farmers Union, the American Farm Bureau, and the National Cattlemen's Association to name a few. Most importantly, this measure is supported by American consumers. In January, a survey conducted by Wirthlin Worldwide showed an overwhelming percentage of Americans, 78%, want to know more about the origin of the meat they purchase.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure. I urge you to give your constituents the right to know more about the origin of the food they buy and to allow them the opportunity to make choices that support their nation's agriculture industry.●

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

● Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to bring my colleagues' attention to the celebration of National TRIO Day on February 27th. The 99th Congress designated the last Saturday in February as the day to celebrate these very important and successful federal programs designed to raise the educational aspirations of students by providing services that help them overcome social, cultural, and other barriers to success in higher education.

Currently, two thousand colleges, universities, and community agencies sponsor TRIO programs. More than 780,000 lower-income middle school, high school, and adult students benefit from the services of such TRIO programs as Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Student Support Services. Not only do students personally benefit from their participation in higher education, but also our nation benefits from a better-educated population motivated to serve their communities and their country.

My home state of Maine has one of the country's lowest rates of participation in postsecondary education. The fifteen TRIO programs operating in Maine are working successfully to increase this number. Each year, these programs serve 6,000 students, building their aspirations for higher education and providing them the counseling, confidence, and academic support they need to pursue higher education.

Father James Nadeau, a native of my hometown in Aroostook County, is a graduate of the Bowdoin College Upward Bound program. His story tells why the TRIO programs are so important. His parents did not have the opportunity to pursue an education beyond the eighth grade. Father Jim's participation in Upward Bound changed his life and opened up a world of opportunity to him.

Beginning in 1977, Father Jim spent three summers enrolled in Upward Bound and then attended Dartmouth College and studied in France and Scotland. Subsequently, he studied for five years at the Gregorian University in Rome and received two graduate degrees in theology. His ministry has spanned from Mother Teresa in Calcutta to school children in Portland, Maine and continues to affect lives all over the world. He is an excellent role model for the youth of Maine and remains a terrific example of the success of the TRIO programs. There are many similar stories of TRIO graduates in all professions and walks of life. These are stories of successful, educated individuals who were introduced by a TRIO program to the endless possibilities that become attainable through education.

I encourage all of my colleagues to visit TRIO programs in their states as I have done in Maine. You will see for yourselves why these programs are vital to our efforts to promote equal educational opportunity for all our citizens.●

MONTANA IS PROUD OF THE BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL BAND

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to recognize an outstanding group of Montana students. Recently, the Bozeman High School Marching Band and Color Guard earned the opportunity to perform in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA. By the sounds of the crowd of onlookers, it is safe to say that they stole the show. It was a beautiful day for a parade, and the Bozeman High School Marching Band and Color Guard took advantage of the opportunity to make a name for themselves. Over the past few years, Montana students have truly become competitive in academics, athletics, and the arts. The Bozeman High School band is just one of the many examples where Montana students are gaining national recognition. There are few appearances by Montana High Schools at events of this caliber, but rest assured, there are many more to come.

Under the direction of Russ and Lorelee Newbury, these students worked extremely hard to prepare for this prestigious event. They represented their school, city, county, and state with great enthusiasm and talent. I know that I speak for the people of Bozeman and the State of Montana when I say that I am very proud of these students. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate every one of these students on a job well done.

Mr. President, I ask that articles from the Bozeman Daily Chronicle of December 29, 1998, and January 2, 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The articles follow:

[From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Dec. 29, 1998]

CALIFORNIA, HERE THEY COME (By Gail Schontzler)

Three hundred Bozeman High Marching Band members boarded charter planes in the wee hours Monday morning to fly to Los Angeles in advance of Friday's big Tournament of Roses Parade.

Two hundred lucky friends and family members flew down with them and will be able to see the New Year's Day parade in person. The rest of us will just have to try to catch the band on TV.

Two television networks, CBS and NBC, and one available only by satellite, Home & Garden TV, plan to carry the 110th Tournament of Roses Parade.

The parade itself begins at 9 a.m. MST and that's when NBC plans to begin its 90-minute coverage. CBS will start at 8 a.m. MST with an hour-long pre-parade show. Home & Garden TV is the only station that will carry the entire parade live and uninterrupted, but you have to be a satellite subscriber to receive its programming.

So when's the best time to try to see the Bozeman band? According to the official parade program, Bozeman is scheduled to march in spot No. 71 out of the 103 parade entries, right after a group of fezzwearing Shriners on horseback. All together there will be 56 floats, 22 marching bands and 25 equestrian teams.

There's no way to know how many seconds of fame Bozeman's band will get from CBS or NBC—there's no guarantee some jovial commentator or commercial break won't blot the Bozeman band out entirely. But the band's boosters did their best to make Bozeman sound colorful.

In the advance publicity sent to the parade organizers and the Home & Garden channel, Bozeman listed its famous alumni as actor Gary Cooper and New York Giants middle linebacker Corey Widmer, "who played trumpet in the band"; reported that Bozeman High was named one of the nation's top 10 schools by Redbook magazine; and said it snows every month in Bozeman.

The marching band has practiced in weather as low as 10 degrees with 40-mph gusts of wind blowing snow down the sousaphones," the school reported. "Airplane hangers are preferred practice sites in such weather."

It also boasted that Bozeman is the fly-fishing capital of the world and that Bozeman led the state in National Merit Scholars in 1997 and 1998.

Bozeman will be competing for air time with the likes of the Los Angeles Unified All District High School Honor Band, which reported logging 100 miles around Dodger Stadium to get in shape for the parade, and the Lincoln High School Band from Stockton, Calif., one of the nation's asparagus-growing leaders.

To hear the bands and see the flower-covered floats, one million people will line the five-and-a-half-mile parade route, according to the Pasadena Police Department. Many will bring sleeping bags and camp overnight.

In honor of the end of the century, this year's Rose parade will have four grand marshals, actress and diplomat Shirley Temple Black, David Wolper, who produced "Roots," a friend representing the late baseball great Jackie Robinson and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who walked on the moon.

[From the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Jan. 2, 1999]

BOZEMAN HIGH BAND TAKES ITS PLACE IN ROSE PARADE HISTORY (By Ann Arbor Miller)

PASADENA, Calif.—Instruments in hand, shoelaces double-knotted and hair tucked inside hats topped with red and black plumes,