

Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on March 2, 1999 at 8:30 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION/
MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation/Merchant Marine be allowed to meet on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at 9:30 am on reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Board.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE,
PEACE CORPS, NARCOTICS AND TERRORISM

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps, Narcotics and Terrorism of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, at 3:00 pm to hold a hearing.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IMPEACHMENT VOTE OF SENATOR ARLEN SPECTER

• Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, between the time I made my statement in the closed Senate deliberations on February 11th and the time I cast my vote on February 12th, I consulted with the Parliamentarian and examined the Senate precedents and found that if I voted simply "not proven," that I would be marked on the voting roles as "present." I also found that a response of "present," and inferentially the equivalent of "present," could be challenged and that I could be forced to cast a vote of "yea" or "nay."

I noted the precedent on June 28, 1951, recorded on pages 7403 and 7404 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, when Senator Benton of Connecticut and Senator Lehman of New York voted "present" during a roll call vote. Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa challenged these votes and argued that a senator must vote either "yea" or "nay" unless the Senate votes to excuse the senator from voting. Senator Hickenlooper's challenge was upheld, and the Senate voted against excusing these Senators from voting by a vote of 39 to 35 in the case of Senator Lehman and a vote of 41 to 34 in the case of Senator Benton.

I also noted the precedent on August 3, 1954, on page 13086 of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, when Senator Mansfield of Montana voted "present" during a roll call vote. Senator Cordon of Oregon objected and asked that the Senate vote on whether Senator Mansfield should be excused from voting. By voice vote, the Senate voted against excusing Senator Mansfield from voting.

In order to avoid the possibility that some Senator might challenge my

vote, I decided to state on the Senate floor, "not proven, therefore not guilty," when my name was called on the roll call votes on Article I and Article II of the Articles of Impeachment. That avoided the possibility of a challenge and also more accurately recorded my vote as "not guilty" since I did not wish to be recorded as merely "present." •

COMMENDING THE NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 24TH MEDICAL COMPANY ON THEIR DEPLOYMENT TO BOSNIA

• Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, now that the Senate has passed the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999, I would like to take a few moments to express my appreciation for a group of dedicated Nebraskans who have chosen to serve their country in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Most of the fifty-nine members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 24th Medical Company left Lincoln on February 21st, for Fort Benning, Georgia. This week, having completed some additional training, these soldiers from the Nebraska Guard are traveling, along with five of the unit's UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, to participate in Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, where they are scheduled to serve up to 270 days overseas. The 24th Medical Company will be only the second air medical evacuation unit deployed to Bosnia, where their mission will be to care for casualties as they are flown from the front lines to hospitals.

Earlier this month, I visited with members of the medical unit in their hangar in Lincoln, Nebraska. Mr. President, I am very impressed by the dedication and training of these fine individuals. We are increasingly calling upon our nation's Reserve units to provide support for missions such as Bosnia, as part of America's down-sized military. Unlike the active duty forces, the citizen soldier puts a uniform on, serves his or her country, takes the uniform off, and goes back to work. We Americans should not take this dedication for granted. This current deployment may last for nine months, and that is nine months of time away from their families, their jobs, their education, and their lives. They realize the importance of their mission, and they are willing to make the sacrifices such a mission entails.

Mr. President, I am encouraged by last week's vote in this chamber to increase base pay and benefits for our military forces. The men and women who dedicate their lives to keeping our nation safe need and deserve a pay raise. The decision to join the military is extraordinary, and those who do so need to be properly compensated. However, money has never been and never will be the motivating factor for people who wish to join the Armed Services. We must ensure that the soldiers in our military are not driven away from

service by a poor quality-of-life standard. We can accomplish this by making sure that our military have adequate housing, a good, responsive medical care system, proper training and equipment, and support for their families. Even more importantly, we who are not actively involved in military service must continue to hold up individuals such as the 24th Company as exemplars of service and sacrifice in our country. Theirs are the stories that need to be told.

In closing, I would like to give a personal "Thank you" to each and every one of the fifty-nine members of the Nebraska Army National Guard's 24th Medical Company. I wish you success in your journey and look forward to your return from what is the noblest mission in the Army, the mission to save lives. •

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, the month of February has been designated as African-American History Month, however, African-American history is American history. The contributions of African-Americans to America encompass almost every area of American life. African-Americans are recorded in America as early as 1619, one year before the Mayflower landed at Plymouth Rock. The oldest established African-American family are descendants of William Tucker, born in Jamestown, Virginia in 1624.

Unfortunately for many of our youth, African-American role models are limited to those known for their achievements in the world of sports and entertainment. Although their accomplishments in this field are substantial and important, few of our youth know, for instance, about the many African-Americans who, throughout history, displayed tremendous courage and honor in times of war. Crispus Attuk, an African-American, was killed in the Boston Massacre in 1770, becoming the first casualty of the American Revolution. Most of the 5,000 blacks that fought in the Revolutionary War were slaves that fought in place of their owners. After the war had been won, they were immediately put back to work on their plantations, still slaves. More than 200,000 African-Americans served in the Civil War. After the Civil War, many of these trained soldiers were sent west and were reorganized as the 9th & 10th Cavalries, where they were called the "Buffalo Soldier" by the Indians they were fighting. The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II, an air squadron, had the most impressive war record in their theater of action, never losing a bomber they were assigned to escort. Against almost insurmountable odds and racial discrimination, African-Americans have faithfully served America.

Significant in another aspect of America's history are the African-Americans whose endeavors helped fuel

the industrial revolution, contributing to the economic prosperity and standard of life all Americans enjoy today. George Washington Carver discovered over 500 products with the peanut, the sweet potato, and corn. Many important inventions were made by African-Americans with thousands of patents made that have benefitted not only America, but the world. Jan Matzeliger invented the first shoe making machine. Elijah McCoy had forty-two patents, most for lubricating different types of steam engines and machines, as well as the first graphite lubricating device. Garrett A. Morgan invented the three-way traffic light which he sold to General Electric. Frederick McKinley Jones invented a workable way to refrigerate trucks and railroad cars, as well as manufactured movie sound equipment. George R. Curruthers invented image converters for detecting electromagnetic radiation. He was also one of the two people responsible for the development of the lunar service ultraviolet camera/specter graph. Dr. Charles R. Drew is credited with the discovery of blood plasma which supplants blood in transfusions, as was the first person to set up and establish blood banks. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams is the first doctor to successfully perform open heart surgery.

Some of the people mentioned played an important role in America's past wars. Many African-Americans I encounter today, however, are the unsung heroes of a different kind of war. They battle for the hearts and minds of our inner city youth. For example in Philadelphia, The Reverend Herb Lusk, and "People for People," are providing welfare to work training, after school tutoring for grade school children, as well as GED and computer training for the poor and disadvantaged. The Reverend Dr. Ben Smith's Deliverance Church, which owns and operates a shopping mall and sixty-five outreach ministries, has long served the greater community. C. Delores Tucker currently organizes the largest Martin Luther King Center for Non-violence in the nation. One of the many things she does for the community is to arrange for many to gather and celebrate our great Civil Rights leader on his birthday at an annual luncheon.

It is fitting that all Americans salute the invaluable services and contributions of African-Americans and the role that they have played and continue to play in American History.●

SOLDIERS', SAILORS', AIRMEN'S AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I support giving our troops a pay raise, and I support improving the retirement package of career military personnel. However, the bill the Senate has considered, S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's and Marines' Bill of Rights, is not only too expensive, it was also brought to the floor too hastily, without holding hearings on its provisions,

and before we considered how the bill might affect the rest of the budget. Even though I want to see a pay raise and retirement reform, I had to vote against this excessively costly bill.

When S. 4 was reported out of committee, it already cost \$12 billion more than the President requested over the next five years. The bill as passed by the Senate is estimated to cost \$17 billion more than the President asked for. That is just for the next five years. Using Congressional Budget Office (CBO) figures, S. 4 would consume one-quarter of the projected non-Social Security surplus in the next fiscal year. Once personnel start to retire under its provisions, costs will skyrocket. CBO estimates that the retirement changes in S. 4 will eventually raise the costs of military pensions by a whopping 18 percent. These increased costs will come due at the same time the baby boom generation retires, with the attendant strain on Social Security and Medicare.

It is impossible to justify these steep increases in costs, particularly since not one hearing was held on S. 4. We all agree there are problems with recruitment and retention in the military, but we did not get the benefit of expert testimony—or any testimony at all—as to why, nor did we get input on how best to address these problems before passing this very expensive solution. Last year Congress asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to do a detailed study of recruitment and retention problems. GAO has been conducting surveys and interviewing troops in the field to find out why they may plan to leave the service. GAO's preliminary findings show that "money has been overstated as a retention factor." GAO's report is due in just a few months. Similar studies by CBO and the Pentagon are due out shortly. Some experts have said that dissatisfaction over military health care and the operations tempo were more important issues for those leaving the military.

I find it most troubling that this bill was brought to the floor before we passed a budget resolution, and outside of the normal Defense Authorization bill. With no budget caps, and no other defense priorities to consider, the bill brought us into a never, never land of wishful thinking. The bill sets out the most generous package of benefits, but does not consider what might happen to the rest of the defense budget if these cost increases go into effect. Will we have to cut readiness, operations and maintenance, or procurement accounts? Will we be able to fund steps that could reduce the operations tempo or make it more predictable? Will we be able to fund improvements in military health care?

The so-called firewalls between defense and domestic discretionary spending are down. That means that, rather than cutting other parts of the defense budget to pay for these increases, we may have to cut domestic

programs instead, like education, the environment, or transportation. According to the Concord Coalition, 57 percent of the budget was devoted to entitlements in 1998, but we are now on track to devote 73 percent of the budget to entitlements by 2009. This bill will worsen the entitlement picture, and mean that more and more discretionary spending will have to be cut to cover growing entitlements.

This was a very sad first bill for the Senate to consider after we finally turned the corner on deficits. We cannot go back to pre-1974 Budget Act spending patterns. We must not abandon fiscal discipline and spend the surplus before we even see a penny of it. I hope and expect that fiscal sanity will be restored and that, when the bill returns from conference or as part of a larger measure, I will be able to vote for a well-deserved pay raise for our military personnel and a reasonable retirement package, but a package that fits within the budget framework and discipline we have all embraced.●

FUTURE LEADERS OF THE BIG SKY STATE

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, in my view, public service is the most noble human endeavor. Today, more than ever, we must look to the younger generation as leaders for tomorrow. For their commitment to community service, I am pleased to recognize two of Montana's young leaders.

Their community work demonstrates an ability to make a difference in the lives of others. The work of these two young Montanans sets an impressive standard for their peers.

I would like to congratulate and honor two young Montana students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Mindi Kimp of Corvallis, Montana, and Jill Lombardi of Helena, Montana, have been named State Honorees in The 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school and one middle school student in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Ms. Kimp is being recognized for her work in coordinating a "senior citizen prom" for seniors living in Missoula and Ravalli counties. Mindi, a 4-H member and junior class president, enjoys a close relationship with her grandparents. In helping to plan her own Hamilton High School prom, she conceived the idea of a senior citizen prom. She believed that this would be a great way to honor grandparents and help restore faith in today's younger generation. Mindi worked closely with the Council on Aging in planning the event. She solicited donations to make the event free to all seniors. She also used it to provide prizes, decorations, and a rose for every lady. The event was so successful that she will speak at the State Student Council Convention on how to plan a senior citizen prom.