

The hearing will take place Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine energy supply and demand issues relating to crude oil, heating oil, and transportation fuels in light of the rise in price of these fuels.

Those who wish to submit written testimony should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Presentation of oral testimony is by committee invitation only.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold two days of hearing entitled "Day Trading: Everyone Gambles But The House." This subcommittee hearing will focus on the practices and operations of the securities day trading industry.

The hearings will take place on Thursday, February 24, 2000, and Friday, February 25, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. each day in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the President's proposed fiscal year 2001 budget for the Bureau of Reclamation (Department of the Interior); and the Bonneville Power Administration, the Southeastern Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Western Area Power Administration (Department of Energy). The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2000, beginning at 2:30., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those who wish to submit written statements, should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on Medical Errors: Administrative Response and Other Perspectives during the session of the Senate on Tuesday February 22, 2000, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, at 10:00 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. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, February 22, 2000, at 3:00 p.m., in SD226.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 22 at 2:30 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing.

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

CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control and the Subcommittee on International Trade of the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 22, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. to hear testimony regarding U.S. Assistance Options for the Andes.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask unanimous consent that Jill Hickson, who is a fellow in our office, be allowed to be on the floor during the duration of this debate.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Mike Daly, a fellow in the office of Senator ABRAHAM, be granted the privilege of the floor for the period of the consideration of H.R. 1883, the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO "PEANUTS" CREATOR CHARLES M. SCHULZ

• **Mr. GRAMS.** Mr. President, I rise today to honor a man who spent the

first 36 years of his life as a Minnesotan, an artist who through his work—and his work ethic—illustrated the values cherished by the people of my state, and the dreams, ambitions, and even aggravations of nearly everybody else.

Today, I pay tribute to Charles M. Schulz.

The "Peanuts" comic strip that ran in newspapers worldwide on February 13 was meant as a good-bye from the cartoonist to his creation and a thank-you to its legions of fans. Instead, it turned out to be a fitting farewell to the cartoonist himself when Charles Schulz passed away the day before its publication.

Mr. President, I regret that I never had the privilege of meeting Charles Schulz, but I felt like I knew him anyway. That is a sentiment the artist understood. "If you want to know me, ready my comic strip," he would say to inquiring journalists. So, the journalists did, along with much of the rest of the planet.

At its peak popularity, "Peanuts" was published in more than 2,600 newspapers in 20 languages in 75 countries, and had 350 million daily readers.

The artist's observations on life from a child's point of view were internationally acclaimed. Charles Schulz twice won comic art's highest honor. He was named International Cartoonist of the Year. Adaptations of his work garnered Emmy and Tonay Awards, even the prestigious Peabody Award.

Today, Charlie Brown and his companions can be found everywhere * * * populating Camp Snoopy at the Mall of America, starring in books, TV shows, movies, and on the Broadway stage, and gracing everything from pencils and backpacks to sheets, shoelaces, and greeting cards.

All this from a private man who was most content in letting his art speak for itself.

Charles Schulz was quite simply the best, most honored, and most beloved cartoonist of the entire 20th century. Success, however, never diminished the enthusiasm he brought to his work or his passion for doing it right; up until the day he retired, he insisted on drawing, lettering, and coloring every frame of every cartoon panel himself.

"Why do musicians compose symphonies and poets write poems?" he once asked. "The do it because life wouldn't have any meaning for them if they did not. That is why I draw cartoons."

What most "Peanuts" fans—at least those outside of Minnesota—probably do not know is how Charles Schulz came to be a cartoonist. Well, that story begins in the Twin Cities.

Charles Monroe Schulz was born in Minneapolis on November 26, 1922, although he spent the majority of his youth across the river in St. Paul. An only child, he grew up in an apartment on the corner of Selby and Snelling Avenues, above the Family Barbershop owned and operated by his father.

Charles Schulz went by the nickname "Sparky," a tribute from his comic-loving father to another popular comic strip character of the day. The young boy's interest in cartooning first took hold about the time Charles was six, and was spurred after his graduation from St. Paul Central High by a correspondence course ad that read "Do you like to draw?" His parents paid the \$170 tuition in installments, although they may have questioned their investment when the class on drawing children netted Charles a grade of just C-plus.

After serving as an army tailgunner in Europe, Charles Schulz returned to Minnesota and earned his first paycheck as a cartoonist by working on a Catholic magazine feature. He also taught art, and sold 15 cartoons to the Saturday Evening Post. He created his first feature for the St. Paul Pioneer Press in 1947. "L'il Folks" was brought in 1950 by United Feature Syndicate, christened with a new name, and Charlie Brown and "Peanuts" debuted on October 2 in seven newspapers. Two days later, Snoopy was introduced to the world.

A phenomenon was born.

More than a few books, college theses, and critical essays have tried to dissect the popularity of "Peanuts." Maybe Charles Schultz himself had the best answer when in a 1994 speech he said, "There is still a market for things that are clean and decent."

I have always thought that the "Peanuts" gang endured because the characters were so strongly developed and so genuine that we saw something we could identify with in each of them.

Snoopy was the dreamer, persistently straddling his doghouse in pursuit of the Red Baron.

Lucy, dispensing nickel doses of pop psychology, took great pride in her crabbiness.

Woodstock was the accident prone one.

Peppermint Patty struggled in the classroom, but never struggled on the baseball field.

Linus made it all right for us to need a security blanket from time to time.

Sally, the loveable younger sister, wanted to believe in Santa Claus and the Great Pumpkin.

Schroeder was the unapologetic artist who loved his music.

Pig Pen* * * well, I think we all know a Pig Pen.

And Charlie Brown, "the little round-headed kid," was Everyman. We relate to him because at some point in our lives, we all pined for a little red-haired girl * * * were menaced by a kite-Eating Tree * * * and faced down a football we were certain would be snatched away at the last moment. Charlie Brown's perpetually upbeat search for happiness was our search, too.

"As a youngster, I didn't realize how many Charlie Browns there were in the world," Charles Schulz said. "I thought I was the only one. Now I realize that

Charlie Brown's goofs are familiar to everybody, children and adults alike." No wonder he considered Charlie Brown his alter ego. "There is a lot of myself in his character, too," he said.

In his art, Charles Schulz could be tender, insightful, sometimes sarcastic, heartbreaking, hilarious, and occasionally sentimental. Always, his work was centered in a deep spirituality. Though it occasionally drove his fans mad, there was a practical reason why his comics were frequently tinged with pathos. In his 1980 book, "Charlie Brown, Snoopy and Me," the artist wrote, "You can't create humor out of happiness. I'm astonished at the number of people who write to me saying, 'Why can't you create happy stories for us? Why does Charlie Brown always have to lose? Why can't you let him kick the football?' Well, there is nothing funny about the person who gets to kick the football."

Mr. President, I am proud to co-sponsor legislation offered by my colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, to award Charles Schulz the Congressional Gold Medal. I am pleased our colleagues in the House have already adopted this resolution. While I wish we had accorded the cartoonist this great honor in his lifetime, I know that Charles Schulz did not need the endorsement of this Congress to be fulfilled in his work, for how can a congressional honor compare with the love shown to him by his millions of faithful fans?

Minnesotans have always considered Charles Schulz one of us, even though he eventually moved to Santa Rosa, California, where he made his home with his wife Jeannie. He was blessed with five children, two stepchildren, and several grandchildren, and our prayers are with them all.

Mr. President, Charles Schulz fretted that his work as a cartoonist would never be considered great art and would certainly not stand the test of time.

With all due respect to the cartoonist I honor today, my two-word response to that is "Good grief!" Charlie Brown will undoubtedly live on long after the rest of us are forgotten. And that, I would argue, is exactly the way things are supposed to be. •

A HEROIC GIFT OF LIFE

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to inform my colleagues of a recent act of great charity by one of my constituents, Ms. Debbie Laakso of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In an astonishing act of kindness, the single mother of four donated a kidney to her friend and former boss, Verle Jucht. The odd twist is that Debbie and Verle met at John Morrell and Company where Verle was Debbie's supervisor. Though they separated as colleagues in 1993, they surprisingly remained friends for the last six years. When Verle's kidney began to fail last year, Debbie gave him hers. Knowing

her jovial nature, Verle and his wife, Colleen, thought their old friend was kidding when she first offered to donate.

Luckily, Debbie and Verle were a match, and after surgery last November, both are doing well. This story, Mr. President, is a great testament to the truly good and giving nature of people. I rise today to thank Debbie Laakso for her good nature and good humor and to congratulate her and Verle Jucht on their bravery and courage. Debbie serves as a model of goodness and friendship for all Americans, and their story is an account for all of the importance of the "Gift of Life." •

RELEASE OF SONG YONGYI

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the safe return of Song Yongyi to his home and family in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mr. Song, Librarian at Dickinson College, was recently freed from a Chinese detention center after a detainment of 172 days.

Mr. Song was born on December 15, 1949 in Shanghai where he attended elementary and middle school. During the Chinese Cultural Revolution, his education was interrupted and Mr. Song became a dockworker. In 1971 he was detained and labeled a "counter-revolutionary" for organizing a book club with four other young people interested in discussing political ideas. Mr. Song spent five years in detention under harsh conditions, where he was severely beaten, resulting in permanent damage to his health. After the Cultural Revolution, he was completely exonerated of all criminal charges.

In 1977 Mr. Song was part of an elite group of students who entered university as a result of a competitive, nationwide examination. He graduated from Shanghai Normal University in 1981. He taught Chinese literature for Shanghai educational television until 1987, at which time he became a full-time literary critic and widely recognized researcher. Mr. Song moved to the United States in 1989 and enrolled in graduate school at the University of Colorado, where his wife Helen (Xiaohua) and daughter Michelle (Xiaoxiao) joined him in 1990. After obtaining a second masters degree in library information science from Indiana University, the Song family moved to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where Song Yongyi is employed as Librarian at Dickinson College.

Mr. Song's deep interest in the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution and growing prominence as an expert in the field led him to make research trips to China in the summers of 1998 and 1999. As part of his research, Mr. Song collected documents concerning the Cultural Revolution, which are widely available in markets and curio shops. It was during this most recent visit to China that state security officials detained Mr. and Mrs. Song in Beijing on August 7. For about one month, Yongyi and