

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, December 6, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. on corporate average fuel economy reform (CAFÉ).

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, December 6, 2001, at 2:30 p.m. on the nominations of Jeffrey Shane (DOT) and Emil Frankel to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation Policy (DOT).

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m. To conduct a hearing. The committee will receive testimony on the negotiations for renewing the Compact of Free Association.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing titled, 'The Future of Afghanistan'.

Agenda

WITNESSES

Panel 1: The Honorable Christina Rocca, Assistant Secretary for South Asia Affairs, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC; and the Honorable Richard Haass, Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.

Panel 2: Mr. Thomas E. Gouttierre, Dean of International Studies and Director of the Center for Afghanistan Studies, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska; and Ms. Fatima Gailani, Advisor, National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, Providence, RI.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 9 a.m. to hold a hearing entitled "Weak Links: Assessing the Vulnerability of U.S. Ports and Whether the Government is Adequately Structured to Safeguard Them."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. INOUYE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Department of Justice Oversight: Preserving Our Freedoms while Defending Against Terrorism" on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Room 106. Witness: The Honorable John Ashcroft, United States Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. INOUYE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Duane Seward of Senator KENNEDY's office, Douglas Jackson of my staff, and John Kem, an intern on the Appropriations Committee staff, be granted floor privileges during consideration of the Defense appropriations bill for the fiscal year 2002.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that John Kem, Kraig Siracuse, Sid Ashworth, Alycia Farrell, and Andrew Givens of the Appropriations Committee staff, and Mark Robbins of my staff, be granted floor privileges during consideration of H.R. 3338.

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

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MCCAIN's legislative fellow, Navy LCDR Dell Bull, be granted floor privileges during consideration of the National Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Winokur, a congressional fellow in my office, be allowed floor privileges during consideration of the National Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

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

Mr. INOUYE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that David Dorsey and David Bowen of Senator KENNEDY's office and Susan Seaman of Senator MIKULSKI's office be granted floor privileges during the consideration of this measure.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 570 and 571; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Mark W. Olson, of Minnesota, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 1996.

Susan Schmidt Bies, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 1998.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

AMENDING THE CHARTER OF SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 245, H.R. 2061.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2061) to amend the charter of Southeastern University of the District of Columbia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2061) was read the third time and passed.

HONORING DR. JAMES HARVEY EARLY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1714, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1714) to provide for the installation of a plaque to honor Dr. James Harvey Early in the Williamsburg, Kentucky Post Office Building.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to

reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 1714) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1714

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE TO HONOR DR. JAMES HARVEY EARLY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Postmaster General shall install a plaque to honor Dr. James Harvey Early in the Williamsburg, Kentucky Post Office Building located at 1000 North Highway 23 West, Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAQUE.—The plaque installed under subsection (a) shall contain the following text:

“Dr. James Harvey Early was born on June 14, 1808 in Knox County, Kentucky. He was appointed postmaster of the first United States Post Office that was opened in the town of Whitley Courthouse, now Williamsburg, Kentucky in 1829. In 1844 he served in the Kentucky Legislature. Dr. Early married twice, first to Frances Ann Hammond, died 1860; and then to Rebecca Cummins Sammons, died 1914. Dr. Early died at home in Rockhold, Kentucky on May 24, 1885 at the age of 77.”

HERB HARRIS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1761, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1761) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8588 Richmond Highway in Alexandria, Virginia, as the “Herb Harris Post Office Building.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to consider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1761) was read the third time and passed.

HOMELESS VETERANS COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 201, H.R. 2716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2716) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise, improve, and consolidate provisions of law providing benefits and services for homeless veterans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, I urge prompt Senate passage of H.R. 2716, the “Comprehensive Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001,” a bill that enhances VA’s efforts to combat homelessness among our Nation’s veterans. This bill represents a compromise between S. 739, as passed by the Senate on November 15, 2001; and H.R. 2716, which passed the House on October 16, 2001.

This bill sets a rather lofty—but, in my view, attainable—goal of ending chronic homelessness among veterans within a decade. Unless we aim high, we will never end the problem. The bill also encourages interagency cooperation to facilitate meeting that goal. With the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services administering most programs targeting homelessness, it seeks to revive the Interagency Council on the Homeless, of which all three agencies are members.

I will highlight some of the other key provisions in this important piece of legislation.

Proposed new section 2062 of title 38, United States Code, is intended to authorize VA to provide essential dental care services to those homeless veterans who demonstrate a commitment to rehabilitation and reintegration into society. In the course of developing this provision, the Committee members agreed that there is a unique and urgent need for basic dental care within the homeless population.

Consequently, the bill provides a one-time course of dental care to those homeless veterans who enroll and remain in a specified VA, grant or contract assistance, or specialized health program for 60 consecutive days. The treatment is limited to a “one-time” course of care that would allow VA to carry out a treatment plan as medically indicated by the veteran’s needs. The Committee members also recognized there may be a break in treatment services that could occur through no fault of the veteran. In those cases, the compromise agreement makes allowance for the Secretary to aggregate days of treatment, by disregarding these breaks in continuous treatment.

Section 8(a) of the compromise agreement contains a provision requiring that every VA facility develop a plan to treat patients who present themselves at the facility and are in need of mental health care. This can include referral to another facility that has the mental health treatment capability if the original facility does not. A similar provision was included in section 8(c) with regard to the availability of substance abuse treatment at every VA medical center. It requires VA to have

a plan ready to implement should a veteran walk into a VA medical center and require such treatment. Opioid substitution therapy is specifically mentioned in this section because it has proven to be very successful for the treatment of heroin addiction.

In closing, I acknowledge the tireless efforts of the original namesake of the bill, Heather French Henry, Miss America 2000. She dedicated her tenure to raising the Nation’s awareness of the plight of homeless veterans, traveling some 20,000 miles a month to visit with veterans in recovery programs and offer encouragement.

Mrs. Henry’s father and uncle provided the inspiration for her to commit herself to the issue, as they both had suffered and recovered from substance abuse and ultimately homelessness following their military service. The work that Heather French Henry has done on behalf of homeless veterans did not stop at the end of her reign, but has continued on. This bill is a testament to her profound dedication.

I also thank my good friend and colleague Senator WELLSTONE for his strong dedication to this issue. His unwavering commitment to homeless veterans was exemplified by his introduction of the Senate version of the bill and his tenacious efforts to get it passed. I applaud his efforts on behalf of this forgotten segment of the veterans population.

Finally, Mr. President, I recognize the hard work of Alexandra Sardagna of the Democratic staff of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; Bill Cahill of the Republican staff of the Committee; and John Bradley and Susan Edgerton of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee in developing this legislation and seeing it through the legislative process.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of provisions be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the materials were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY OF H.R. 2716 (AS AMENDED): THE “COMPREHENSIVE HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001”

The Compromise Agreement incorporates provisions from S. 739, passed by the Senate on November 15, 2001; with provisions of H.R. 2716, passed by the House on October 16, 2001. It seeks to enhance and provide additional support for VA programs that combat homelessness among veterans.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

The following is a summary of key provisions in the Compromise Agreement, H.R. 2716:

Programmatic Expansions: Authorizes VA to spend up to \$60 million per year on the transitional housing Grant and Per Diem program. Requires VA to establish at least twenty new comprehensive service centers for homeless veterans in those metropolitan areas found to have the greatest need. Extends the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill and Comprehensive Homeless Programs until December 31, 2006.

Mental Health Treatment Capability: Requires VA to develop and carry out a comprehensive plan to treat those patients, either on-site or through referral to another