

The automation of the Crusader has been one of its key selling points because it would allow troops to remain under the protection of armor. But, as GAO has noted, if the automated system fails, the crew will be forced to resupply the vehicle by a "time consuming hand process, making them more vulnerable to counterfire."

Another key selling feature—the Crusader's theoretical rapid rate of fire—would drop dramatically if the cooling system fails.

A lot has also been written about the weight of the Crusader. While the weight has been reduced from 60 tons to about 40 tons, as GAO reported in February 2002, "the deployability advantage gained does not appear significant." GAO also warns that development is not done and the weight could again increase.

Not exactly the faster, more mobile force the Pentagon says it wants.

At its current weight and size, the only possible way to load two Crusaders onto a single C-17 is back to back. But, that only leaves mere inches of room, not enough space to properly restrain them with heavy chains.

There is also some concern on how the Army has reduced the weight. The Army reduced the size and payload of the system. The Army also plans to remove the heavy armor and road wheel protection and turn them into kits that can be applied when needed in combat situations. Weight reduction by removing armor is probably not much comfort to the soldiers.

There have also been development problems.

For example, the cost of the Crusader program has increased by \$1.5 billion.

Testing to date has been restricted to modeling and simulation, hardly sufficient to determine if the Crusader can operate in real-world operational environments.

As GAO noted in its February, 2002 report, many critical Crusader technologies are not sufficiently mature to start product develop-

ment. GAO wrote, "If, after starting product development, the Crusader technologies do not mature on schedule and instead cause delays, the Army may spend more and take longer to develop, produce and field the Crusader system. Crusader performance goals may be at risk."

GAO also wrote, "Confining delays in maturing technology to a time prior to the start of product development . . . is critical to saving time and money . . . a delay during product development costs several times more than a similar delay that occurs before product development."

Despite all of these problems, and Secretary Rumsfeld's stated intention to kill the program, Congress fully funded the Crusader program in H.R. 4546.

The conference committee that will be created to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the DOD authorization bill should kill the Crusader program. If they don't, and if money is included in the upcoming DOD appropriations bill for the Crusader, I will do my best to eliminate its funding.

The Crusader is not necessary for our national security. Rather, it is a corporate welfare boondoggle for a well-connected defense firm.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEKLY READER

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 20, 2002

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Weekly Reader, the nation's oldest and most widely-circulated periodical for school children.

The Weekly Reader dates to 1902, when Charles Palmer Davis visited his daughter's one-room schoolhouse and found only two students who knew William McKinley was the

President of the United States. After this experience, Charles Davis decided to create a children's newspaper.

Beginning with the first publication of Current Events on May 20, 1902, Weekly Reader has brought world and national news into classrooms in ways young people can understand. It has helped children learn to read and understand how events affect their lives and define their role in society.

I have a particular affection for Weekly Reader because my third grade teacher, Mrs. Kapella, encouraged me to become a member of the Weekly Reader Book Club. Over the course of the school year, I became the proud owner of seven books of my very own. This set me on a wonderful course of loving to read and sparked a lifelong interest in American history, how we became a nation, how we settled the West and how we became a world power.

The Weekly Reader's accessible style has helped students appreciate many of the important events that have shaped our world during the past century, including World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the first Moon landing, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Present in 90 percent of school districts in the United States, Weekly Reader is read by nearly 11 million students each week. Weekly Reader does more than report the news; it teaches tolerance and encourages children to speak their minds about important topics.

I applaud Weekly Reader for connecting our children to the world, encouraging them to become critical and imaginative thinkers and helping them grow into the leaders of tomorrow.

The longevity and popularity of Weekly Reader speaks volumes about its importance as a learning tool, and I join with others who cherish the publication in congratulating them on their centennial anniversary.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2002 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 22

9:30 a.m.

Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2452, to establish the Department of National Homeland Security and the National Office for Combating Terrorism; and pending calendar business.

SD-342

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the promotion of local telecommunication competition, focusing on greater broadband deployment.

SR-253

Appropriations

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues surrounding Parkinson's disease.

SH-216

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings on S.J. Res.34, approving the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings on S. 1340, to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to provide for probate reform with respect to trust or restricted lands.

SR-485

10:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Crime and Drugs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine Federal cocaine sentencing policies.

SD-226

1 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce, and Tourism Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the federal regulation of the sport of boxing and boxing regulation.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Conferees

Meeting of conferees on H.R. 333, to amend title 11, United States Code.

S-211, Capitol

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Science, Technology, and Space Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the National Science Foundation budget, focusing on Federal research and development activities.

SR-253

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings on pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

MAY 23

9:30 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine equal opportunity in American schools.

SD-430

Aging

To hold hearings to examine challenges women face concerning retirement and security.

SD-628

Energy and Natural Resources

To continue hearings on S.J. Res. 34, approving the site at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for the development of a repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Financial Institutions Subcommittee

To hold oversight hearings to examine banking and financial holding company engagement in real estate brokerage and property management.

SD-538

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine voting representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

SD-342

3 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine disaster assistance issues.

SD-106

POSTPONEMENTS

MAY 22

10 a.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the development of biological weapons in Cuba.

SD-419