

meet on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, to begin immediately following a 9:30 a.m. hearing, to consider the nomination of Joel David Kaplan to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on Howard Radzely, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, at 10 a.m., in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in Dirksen Room 226. The markup will be a continuation of Committee action on S.J. Res. 1, the victims' rights amendment.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, for a hearing on U.S. Army policies on the award of the Combat Medical Badge, and on pending legislation relating to VA-provided health care services including the following:

S. 613, a bill to authorize a construction project at the former Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center, Aurora, CO;

S. 615, a bill relating to the naming of a VA outpatient clinic in Horsham, PA;

S. 1144, a bill relating to the naming of a VA medical center in Chicago, IL;

S. 1156, the proposed "Department of Veterans Affairs Long-Term Care and Personnel Authorities Enhancement Act of 2003";

S. 1213, section 2, a section of a bill relating to eligibility of U.S.-resident Filipino veterans for VA health care benefits;

S. 1283, a bill to require advance notification of Congress regarding any action proposed to be taken by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the implementation of the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

S. 1289, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN, after Paul Wellstone.

The hearing will take place in room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 3 p.m.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

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

mittee on Aging be authorized to meet on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Dirksen 628 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to highlight the unique role that the DOE's Office of Science plays in supporting basic research in the physical sciences.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND BORDER
SECURITY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security be authorized to meet to conduct a joint hearing on "The L1 Visa and American Interests in the 21st Century Global Economy" on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., in SD226.

Panel I: Patricia Fluno, former Siemens Technologies employee, Lake Mary, FL; Michael W. Gildea, Executive Director, Professional Employees Section, AFL-CIO, Washington, DC; Beth R. Verman, President, Systems Staffing Group, Member, National Association of Computer Consultant Businesses, Bala Cynwyd, PA; Daryl R. Buffenstein, General Counsel, Global Alliance Personnel, Atlanta, GA; Austin T. Fragomen, Jr., Chairman, American Council on International Personnel, Washington, DC; and Stephen W. Yale-Loehr, Adjunct Professor, Cornell Law School, Ithaca, New York.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns and fellows from the Finance Committee be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the debate on the energy bill: Mick Wiedrick, Constantine Tujios, Matt Linstroth, Jeff Klein, Stephanie Beck, Renee Johnson, Mark Kirbabas, Alisa Blum, and Rhonda Sinkfield.

I also ask that the following staff from the Joint Committee on Taxation be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the debate: George Yin, Thomas Barthold, Ray Beeman, John Bloyer, Nikole Flax, Roger Colinviaux, Harold Hirsch, Deirdre James, Laurelee Matthews, Patricia McDermott, Brian Meighan, John Navratil, Joseph Nega, David Noren, Cecily Rock, Carol Sayegh, Gretchen Sierra, Ron Schultz, Mary Schmitt, Allison Wielobob, Barry Wold, and Tara Zimmerman.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask unanimous consent that Antonio Gonzales, Daniel Archuleta, Jasmine Fallstitch, Christine Nelson, Ryan Davies, James Guttierrez, Frank Murray, Tara Peterkin, and Scott Pearsall be granted the privilege of the floor during debate on the Energy bill this week.

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

DR. YANG JIANLI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 233, S. Res. 184.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 184) calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally to release Dr. Yang Jianli, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments to the resolution be agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed; further, that the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendments to the resolution were agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 184), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

COMMENDING THE SIGNING OF
THE UNITED STATES-ADRIATIC
CHARTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 234, H. Con. Res. 209.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209) commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments, amendments to the preamble, and an amendment to the title, as follows:

[Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.]

H. CON. RES. 209

Whereas the United States has an enduring interest in the independence, territorial integrity, and security of Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and supports their full integration in the community of democratic Euro-Atlantic states;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* have taken clear and positive steps to advance their integration into Europe by establishing close cooperative relations among themselves and with their neighbors, as well as their promotion of regional cooperation;

Whereas Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* have already contributed to European security and to the peace and security of southeast Europe through the resolution of conflicts in the region and their regional cooperation in the Southeast Europe Defense Ministerial;

Whereas on May 2, 2003, the United States-Adriatic Charter was signed in Tirana, Albania, by Secretary of State Colin Powell, [Albanian Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatian Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and Macedonian Foreign Minister] Albanian Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister Ilinka Mitreva;

Whereas the Adriatic Charter affirms the commitment of Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* to the values and principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and to joining the Alliance at the earliest possible time;

Whereas Secretary of State Powell stated that the Adriatic Charter "reaffirms our partners' dedication to work individually, with each other, and with their neighbors to build a region of strong democracies powered by free market economies . . . [i]t underscores the importance we place on their eventual full integration into NATO and other European institutions . . . [a]nd most importantly, the Charter promises to strengthen the ties that bind the peoples of the region to the United States, to one another, and to a common future within the Euro-Atlantic family"; and

Whereas [Albanian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 Macedonian special forces troops were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia] 75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the postwar stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all contributed to the stabilization forces in Afghanistan, as signs of their commitment to promote international freedom and security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress—

(1) strongly supports the United States-Adriatic Charter and commends Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* for their continued efforts to become full-fledged members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union;

(2) urges NATO to invite Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* to join NATO as soon as each of these countries respectively demonstrates the ability to assume the responsibilities of NATO membership through the Membership Action Plan;

(3) welcomes and supports the aspirations of Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav*

Republic of Macedonia to join the European Union at the earliest opportunity;

(4) recognizes that Albania, Croatia, and *The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* are making important strides to bring their economic, military, and political institutions into conformance with the standards of NATO and other Euro-Atlantic institutions; and

(5) commends Secretary of State Powell for his personal support of the Adriatic Charter.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments to the concurrent resolution be agreed to, that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to, that the amendments to the preamble be agreed to, and that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, that the amendment to the title be agreed to; further, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The amendments to the concurrent resolution were agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 209), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendments to the preamble were agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the title was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

Resolved, That the resolution from the House of Representatives (H. Con. Res. 209) entitled "Concurrent resolution commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia," do pass with the following amendments:

(1)Page 3, line 4, after "and" the second time it appears insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(2)Page 3, line 8, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(3)Page 3, line 14, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(4)Page 3, line 16, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

Amend the preamble as follows:

(5)Page 1, unnumbered line 6, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(6)Page 2, unnumbered line 4, after "and" insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(7)Page 2, unnumbered line 11, strike out all after "Powell," down to an including "Minister" in unnumbered line 13 and insert: *Albania Foreign Minister Ilir Meta, Croatia Foreign Minister Tonino Picula, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Foreign Minister*

(8)Page 2, unnumbered line 15, after "and" the first time it appears insert: *The Former Yugoslav Republic of*

(9)Page 2, unnumbered line 29, strike out all after "Whereas" over to an including "Macedonia" in unnumbered line 2 on page 3 and insert: *75 special forces troops of Albania were sent to Iraq as part of the coalition forces during Operation Iraqi Freedom, 29 special forces troops of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were sent to Iraq as part of the post-*

war stabilization force, and Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Amend the title so as to read: "Concurrent resolution commending the signing of the United States-Adriatic Charter, a charter of partnership among the United States, Albania, Croatia, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia."

POSTMASTER EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 235, S. 678.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 678) to amend chapter 10 of title 39, United States Code, to include postmasters and postmasters organizations in the process for the development and planning of certain policies, schedules, and programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

[Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.]

S. 678

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Postmaster Equity Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. POSTMASTERS AND POSTMASTERS ORGANIZATIONS.

[(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1004 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ", postmaster," after "supervisory" both places it appears;

[(2) in subsection (b)—

[(A) in the first sentence, by inserting ", postmaster," after "supervisory"; and

[(B) in the second sentence—

[(i) by striking "or that a managerial organization (other than an organization representing supervisors)" and insert "that a postmaster organization represents a substantial percentage of postmasters (as defined under subsection (j)(3)), or that a managerial organization (other than an organization representing supervisors or postmasters)"; and

[(ii) by striking "relating to supervisory" and inserting "relating to supervisory, postmasters,";

[(3) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ", and the Postal Service and the postmasters organization (or organizations)," after "supervisors' organization";

[(4) in subsection (d)—

[(A) in paragraph (1)—

[(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "the supervisors' organization" both places it appears;

[(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations"; and

[(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking "organization" and inserting "organizations";

[(B) in paragraph (2)—

[(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "and the postmasters organization (or organizations)" after "supervisors' organization"; and