

Because of the limited time available for the hearings, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 19, 2003, at 10:00 A.M. to conduct a hearing on "The Growing Problem of Identity Theft and Its Relationship to the Fair Credit Reporting Act."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 19, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., on pending Committee business.

S. 1264. The Federal Communications Commission Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Bill Bailey/Lee Carosi/James Assey).

S. 865. Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act (Bill Bailey/James Assey).

S. 1234. The Federal Trade Commission Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Ken Nahigian/David Strickland/Cathy McCullough).

S. 1046. Preservation of Localism, Program Diversity, and Competition in Television Broadcast Service Act of 2003 (Lee Carosi/James Assey/Rachel Welch).

S. 1261. The Consumer Product Safety Commission Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Ken Nahigian/David Strickland/Cathy McCullough).

S. 1244. The Federal Maritime Commission Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Rob Freeman/Mary Phillips/Carl Bentzel).

S. 1262. The Maritime Administration Authorization Act of 2003 (Rob Freeman/Mary Phillips/Carl Bentzel).

S. 247. Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Amendments Act of 2003 (Drew Minkiewicz/Margaret Spring).

S. 1106. Fishing Quota Act of 2003 (Drew Minkiewicz/Margaret Spring).

S. 861. Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act (Drew Minkiewicz/Margaret Spring).

S. 1152. United States Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2003 (Ken LaSala/Jean Toal Eisen).

S. 1260. The Commercial Space Transportation Act of 2003 (Floyd DesChamps/Jean Toal Eisen/John Cullen).

S. 189. 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (Ken LaSala/Jean Toal Eisen/Chan Lieu).

S. 877. Controlling the Assault of Non-Solicited Pornography and Marketing (CAN-SPAM) Act of 2003 (Paul Martino/David Strickland).

Nomination of Annette Sandberg (PN 440), of Washington, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Administration, (Rob Freeman, May Phillips, Virginia Pounds/Debbie Hersman/Vanessa Jones).

Nominations for Promotion in the United States Coast Guard (PNs 689, 671, 672) (Virginia Pounds/Army Fraenkel/Vanessa Jones).

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 19, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing entitled "Self-Dealing and Breach of Duty: An Initial Review of the ULLICO Matter."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Teachers Union Scandals: Closing the Gaps in Union Member Protections" during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 10:15 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, June 19, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. in Hart Room 216.

I. Nominations: William H. Pryor, Jr., to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; Diane M. Stuart to be Director, Violence Against Women Office, United States Department of Justice.

II. Bills: S. 724. A bill to amend Title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain rocket propellants from prohibitions under that title on explosive materials. [Enzi, Craig, Durbin, Sessions]; S. 1125, Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act of 2003 ("The FAIR Act") [Hatch, DeWine, Chambliss]; S. 1233. A bill to authorize assistance for the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Justice Learning Center [Mikulski, Hatch, Edwards]; S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims [Kyl, Chambliss, Cornyn, Craig, DeWine, Feinstein, Graham, Grassley].

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

COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 225, 226, 229, 230, and 232.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative business.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

Anne Rader, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

FEDERAL RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD

Terrence A. Duffy, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2003.

Terrence A. Duffy, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board for a term expiring October 11, 2007.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

CONFIRMATION OF EDUARDO AGUIRRE, JR.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the nomination of Eduardo Aguirre to serve as Director of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), in the newly-created Department of Homeland Security. I was very impressed with him at his nomination hearing, and I look forward to working with him in his new position.

I am pleased that this nomination was referred to the Judiciary Committee, which continues to have jurisdiction over immigration legislation and oversight. Similarly, I am pleased that we were able to obtain unanimous consent last week for the Judiciary Committee to receive a subsequent referral on the nomination of Michael Garcia to head the Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement—BICE.

The recent Inspector General report on the treatment of "9/11 detainees"

shows the severe consequences that can be faced by those immigrants who fail to mention their unlawful status. Of course, the responsibility to remain here legally falls upon immigrants, but there are occasions when immigrants live up to that responsibility and are nonetheless failed by errors and backlogs on the Government's part. I hope and trust that preventing such errors will be a major priority for Mr. Aguirre. I also hope that he will use his position to battle the perception in many immigrant communities that the war on terrorism has become a war on immigrants.

At his confirmation hearing, I talked to Mr. Aguirre about the former INS employees in Vermont who will be under his jurisdiction, including those at the Vermont Service Center in St. Albans. I recommended to him that he build on the established INS workforce throughout the State by making Vermont a regional center for his agency, and I was pleased that he seemed to take that advice seriously. I am eager to work with him to see that idea become a reality.

On the national level, it was a priority for many of us in Congress that immigration services not be overlooked at the Department of Homeland Security. Although our security is paramount, the new Department must remember that our Nation's founding principals and economic health demand that immigration be handled in a fair and orderly way. After his confirmation hearing, I believe that Mr. Aguirre—himself a refugee—understands this at a fundamental level.

He faces a challenging job. I have already written him about the backlogs that plague our immigration system, and I hope that he is able to make meaningful change in that area. The President has pledged to reduce the average backlog for immigration petitions to 6 months by 2006—to do so is going to take serious investment, and I hope Mr. Aguirre will be a voice inside the administration to make that investment.

NOMINATION OF C. STEWART VERDERY, JR.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the Senate's approval of the nomination of C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border and Transportation Security Policy. Mr. Verdery's nomination was approved unanimously by the Committee on Governmental Affairs on June 17, and his confirmation will fill a vital position at the new Department of Homeland Security. I have known Stewart for over a decade, and believe that his experience, Jeffersonian conservative principles, and personal qualities make him well-qualified to serve in the new Department.

The Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Border and Transportation Directorate, Department of

Homeland Security, is the principal adviser to the BTS Under Secretary for policy development in the substantive areas within the BTS Directorate, including immigration and customs enforcement, customs and border protection, transportation security, Federal law enforcement training, and domestic preparedness. The Assistant Secretary is responsible for ensuring that policies developed for BTS and its component agencies are designed to achieve homeland security objectives as directed by the DHS Secretary and BTS Under Secretary and to fulfill the BTS mission statement to "protect national security and promote public safety by enforcing our nation's immigration and customs laws, providing an effective defense against all external threats, including international terrorists, and other threats such as illegal drugs and other contraband, while preserving the free flow of legitimate trade and travel."

Mr. Verdery is well-known to this body, having served for more than 6 years in the U.S. Senate. He first served as counsel to my senior colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, in his personal office and on the Senate Rules Committee. He joined the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1998 as head of the crime and law enforcement unit, and then moved to become General Counsel to the senior Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. NICKLES. In this role, Mr. Verdery advised the Senate leadership on a host of issues, including crime and law enforcement, commerce, judicial nominations, constitutional law, campaign finance, and telecommunications. He was widely respected among his peers and relied upon not only by Senator NICKLES, but by many other members of the Republican Conference and their staffs as well.

Whether managing the high-profile investigation of the disputed 1996 Louisiana Senate election, helping direct the Clinton impeachment trial, or a host of other assignments, Mr. Verdery's organizational skills, political instincts, and notable work ethics enabled him to thrive in the demanding environment of the U.S. Senate.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Stewart when the Senate Republican leadership designated him as a lead staffer for the Senate Republican High Tech Task Force, which has the goal of advancing constructive technology policy in the Senate. As chairman of the High Tech Task Force in 2001-2002, I was impressed by his extraordinary command of complex technology issues and, perhaps more important, his ability to succinctly explain the issues to others. His advice and counsel were always sound and thoughtful, and through his effective and friendly manner, he instantly earned the respect of those with whom he worked.

Stewart Verdery played a key role in the transformation of the High Tech Task Force into a lead advocate for the

technology-friendly policies in the Senate. With his assistance, my colleagues and I were better prepared to advance a positive technology policy agenda in the Senate, including: the passage of a clean, 2-year Internet tax moratorium extension; passage of the upgraded Export Administration Act reauthorization; securing additional funding for anti-piracy prosecutions; and the hard-fought effort in the economic stimulus debate to make the Research and Development tax credit permanent, to provide enhanced expensing and to include the broadband tax credit.

Mr. Verdery will be a valuable member of the team at the Department of Homeland Security. I wish Stewart, his wife Jenny and their two young children, Isabelle and Chase, all the very best health and happiness in this new endeavor.

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I rise today to support the Senate's approval of the nomination of Stewart Verdery as the Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning at the Border and Transportation Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

I have worked with Stewart since his days as Counsel to the Senate Rules Committee and while he was at the Senate Judiciary Committee. He did an outstanding job in those capacities. As a matter of fact, he did such a great job I hired him to serve as my General Counsel in the Assistant Republican Leader's office. In his position there, he served not only as my counsel, but as a counsel for the entire Senate. We deal with a lot of issues in the U.S. Senate, and Stewart's counsel was invaluable to me and other Senators.

I consider Stewart and his wife Jenny to be part of the family. Not only were they married while he was on my staff, but their two children were born as well. I respect him as both a professional and a family man.

I have no doubt Stewart will excel in this new position, and it is with great pleasure that I support his nomination as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

KEEPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SAFE ACT OF 2003—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate a conference report to accompany S. 342, the Child Abuse Protection Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 342), to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under the Act, and