

Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 30, at 10 a.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open Executive Session during the session on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, to consider favorably reporting the nomination of Donald Korb, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing on nominations.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 9 a.m., in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office building to conduct an oversight hearing on the Inter-Tribal Timber Council's Indian Forest Management Assessment Team Report. Immediately following the close of that hearing, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on S. 868, a bill to amend the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Restoration Amendments Act of 2003.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 30, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 30, 2004, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on Army aviation programs, in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2005 and the future years Defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Aviation Sub-

committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. for a closed hearing on Aviation Security, in SR-253.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, THE BUDGET, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security be authorized to meet on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing entitled, "The Federal Government's Role In Empowering Americans To Make Informed Financial Decisions."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 30, 2004, at 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of this hearing is to conduct oversight on National Heritage Areas, including findings and recommendations of the General Accounting Office, the definition of a National Heritage Area, the definition of National Significance as it relates to national heritage areas, recommendations for establishing national heritage areas as units of the national park system, recommendations for prioritizing proposed studies and designations, and options for developing a national heritage area program within the National Park Service.

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

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2443 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 assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has favorably considered the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2003, and will pass by unanimous consent the Senate manager's amendment to H.R. 2443. We look forward to working with the House to quickly reach agreement on a final bill for passage in both houses.

Senator HOLLINGS and I have agreed to work with the House through a bal-

anced, bipartisan conference committee. The Senate members would include five majority and four minority members of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. We plan to work together in a bipartisan manner to support the provisions of the Senate bill, while working with the House conference members to reach a final bill acceptable to all conferees. We will also include one majority and one minority member of the Environment and Public Works Committee to work with us on provisions in the bill that amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I am likewise pleased that the Senate will pass this important authorization bill for the Coast Guard. I look forward to working with Senator MCCAIN and the other members of the conference committee to reach a final consensus bill that we can adopt in both houses.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the McCain amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read for a third time and passed, the title amendment be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

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

The amendment (No. 2954) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment (No. 2955) was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read A Bill To authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 for the United States Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

The bill (H.R. 2443) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I further ask that the Senate insist upon its amendments, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses, and that the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees at a ratio of 5-4 on the Commerce Committee and 1-1 on the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

The Presiding officer (Mr. TALENT) APPOINTED MR. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BREAU, and Mr. WYDEN; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, Mr. INHOFE and Mr. JEFFORDS, conferees on the part of the Senate.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission: Eric G. Postel of Wisconsin.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 108-199,

Title VI, Section 637, appoints the following individual to serve as member of the Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP) Around the Globe Commission: Michael A. Ledeen of Maryland.

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 108-199, Section 104(c)(1)(A), appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program: William E. Troutt of Tennessee.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2250

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2250) to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 2002, and for other purposes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I object to further proceedings on the bill at this time on behalf of the leader in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar pursuant to rule XIV.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2004

Mr. ALEXANDER. On behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business

today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31. I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 10 a.m. with the first half of that time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

I further ask consent that at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning, the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House to accompany S. Con. Res. 95, the budget resolution. I further ask consent that Senator CONRAD be in control of 60 minutes, and Chairman NICKLES be in control of 30 minutes of debate only; provided further that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate disagree to the amendment of the House, agree to a request for a conference with the House, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate with a ratio of 4-3, with no intervening objection or debate.

Finally I ask consent that following the appointment of conferees, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, tomorrow, following morning business, the leader has asked me to say that the Senate will conduct the 90 minutes of debate prior to appointing conferees

with respect to the budget resolution. Following that action, the Senate will resume consideration of the welfare reauthorization bill.

Moments ago, the majority leader filed cloture on the committee substitute to that bill. That cloture vote will occur on Thursday of this week. We hope cloture would be invoked to allow us to finish the welfare legislation.

It is also the majority leader's hope that we will be able to move forward with germane amendments to the welfare reauthorization bill and make progress on the bill during tomorrow's session. Therefore, rollcall votes are possible during tomorrow's session. Senators will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ALEXANDER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 31, 2004, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate March 30, 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER R. HILL, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.