

at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing entitled, "Does CMS Have the Right Prescription? Implementing the Medicare Prescription Drug Program."

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2004, at 10:30 a.m., in open and closed session to receive testimony on the Military Implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SPECTER. 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 Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Review of Current Investigations and Regulatory Actions Regarding the Mutual Fund Industry."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 11 a.m., in SR-253, for a hearing to consider pending committee business.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on Anti-Semitism.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 10 a.m. on Judicial Nominations in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Senators.

Panel II: William Duane Benton, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Panel III: Robert Bryan Harwell, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina; George P. Schiavelli, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; Curtis V. Gomez, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. on "Keeping America's Mass Transportation System Safe: Are the Laws Adequate?" in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Harry S. Mattice, Jr., United States Attorney, Eastern District of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN; S. Mark Lindsey, Chief Counsel, Federal Rail Administration, United States Department of Transportation, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Ernest R. Frazier, Sr., Chief, System Security and Safety, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Washington, DC; Brian Jenkins, Director, National Transportation Security Center, Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose, CA.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Karen Volker, a foreign policy fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. FRIST. 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. 581, 585, and 597.

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

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Rhonda Keenum, of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, vice Maria Cino, resigned.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Brian Carlton Roseboro, of New Jersey, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Susan Johnson Grant, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I might just say for the RECORD that I have appreciated the opportunity to work through some of these nominations. This has been a matter of concern and interest to us for some time. This first installment accommodates some of our needs and I know some of the needs the White House has as well.

I hope we can do more in the coming weeks. This is one indication that we are making some progress.

I am pleased to note that we were able to do this prior to the recess.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2290

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk which is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2290) to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on the measure at this time in order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, many Members have been troubled by the fact that we are, apparently, after all of the work we have made to get to a point where we have a finite list, more extensive perhaps than either of us would like on the FSC bill, we are actually not going to go to the FSC bill; we are going to the asbestos bill.

As the majority leader knows from conversations I have had with him, it is unlikely this legislation will be able to move—not because we do not want to work on a bill that ultimately can become law to address the very legitimate concerns both of us have, all of us have with regard to asbestos, but as we have seen with malpractice, this is not the way to do it.

One would think that perhaps this is just another effort politically that will not have any result legislatively. I am not ascribing motives, but I hope there could be a real bona fide effort to work through the issues prior to the time we force votes on the floor, especially when we have other legislation for which many of us have been working hard to move, including the FSC bill.

Having said that, obviously, I am not in a position to stop the majority leader from moving as he has parliamentarily, and I will continue to express the hope that we can find some constructive solutions that reflect a

real compromise as we address this very important issue.

I yield the floor.

Mr. FRIST. I will respond to both of these issues. Asbestos is an issue the Senator from Delaware and I know the Democratic leader feel strongly about. It is an important bill, a bill we should address. We need to figure out the way to best address it.

The introduction of the bill is an attempt to advance the law so we can address it. We will continue discussions as the best way to address it.

Regarding the FSC/ETI, the JOBS bill, as he said, we have more amendments than either of us would like. It has been difficult to get it to the point we did. But it, too, is a bill we absolutely must address and we will continue to address.

I am hopeful over the recess, regarding both of these bills, Members will look at, spend time with, and discuss and debate them in a bipartisan way.

NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 298, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 298) designating May 2004 as National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 298) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 298

Whereas cystic fibrosis, characterized by chronic lung infections and digestive disorders, is a fatal lung disease;

Whereas cystic fibrosis is 1 of the most common genetic diseases in the United States and 1 for which there is no known cure;

Whereas more than 10,000,000 Americans are unknowing carriers of the cystic fibrosis gene;

Whereas 1 of every 3,500 babies born in the United States is born with cystic fibrosis;

Whereas newborn screening for cystic fibrosis has been implemented by 11 States and facilitates early diagnosis and treatment which improves health and longevity;

Whereas approximately 30,000 people in the United States have cystic fibrosis, many of them children;

Whereas the average life expectancy of an individual with cystic fibrosis is in the early thirties, an improvement from a life expectancy of 10 years in the 1960s, but still unacceptably short;

Whereas prompt, aggressive treatment of the symptoms of cystic fibrosis can extend the lives of people who have the disease;

Whereas recent advances in cystic fibrosis research have produced promising leads in gene, protein, and drug therapies beneficial to people who have the disease;

Whereas this innovative research is progressing faster and is being conducted more aggressively than ever before, due in part to the establishment of a model clinical trials network by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; and

Whereas education of the public on cystic fibrosis, including the symptoms of the disease, increases knowledge and understanding of cystic fibrosis and promotes early diagnosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2004 as “National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation—

(A) designating the month of May 2004 as “National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month”; and

(B) calling on the people of the United States to promote awareness of cystic fibrosis and actively participate in support of research to control or cure cystic fibrosis, by observing the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(3) supports the goals of—

(A) increasing the quality of life for individuals with cystic fibrosis by promoting public knowledge and understanding in a manner that will result in earlier diagnoses;

(B) encouraging increased resources for research; and

(C) increasing levels of support for people who have cystic fibrosis and their families.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED BY FIDEL CASTRO AND CUBA

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 328 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 328) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the continued human rights violations committed by Fidel Castro and the Government of Cuba.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an amendment from Senator NELSON of Florida, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the resolution, as amended, and the preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3044) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 7, line 20 strike “commission” and insert “committee”.

The resolution (S. Res. 328), as amended, was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

S. RES. 328

Whereas, one year ago, in March 2003, Fidel Castro and the Government of Cuba led a nationwide campaign to arrest and jail dozens of prominent democracy activists and critics of the repressive regime in Cuba;

Whereas credible nongovernmental observers report that the imprisoned democracy activists include—

(1) Osvaldo Alfonso Valdes, sentenced for 18 years;

(2) Librado Linares Garcia, sentenced for 20 years;

(3) Raul Rivero Castaneda, sentenced for 20 years;

(4) Martha Beatriz Roque Cabello, sentenced for 20 years;

(5) Victor Rolando Arroyo Carmona, sentenced for 26 years;

(6) Mijail Barzaga Lugo, sentenced for 15 years;

(7) Oscar Elias Biscet, sentenced for 25 years;

(8) Margarito Broche Espinosa, sentenced for 25 years;

(9) Dr. Marcelo Cana Rodriguez, sentenced for 18 years;

(10) Roberto de Miranda Hernandez, sentenced for 20 years;

(11) Carmelo Diaz Fernandez, sentenced for 18 years;

(12) Eduardo Diaz Fleitas, sentenced for 21 years;

(13) Antonio Diaz Sanchez, sentenced for 20 years;

(14) Alfredo Dominguez Batista, sentenced for 14 years;

(15) Oscar Espinosa Chepe, sentenced for 20 years;

(16) Alfredo Felipe Fuentes, sentenced for 26 years;

(17) Efrén Fernandez Fernandez, sentenced for 12 years;

(18) Adolfo Fernandez Sainz, sentenced for 15 years;

(19) Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, sentenced for 25 years;

(20) Luis Enrique Ferrer Garcia, sentenced for 28 years;

(21) Orlando Fundora Alvarez, sentenced for 20 years;

(22) Prospero Gainza Aguero, sentenced for 25 years;

(23) Miguel Galban Gutierrez, sentenced for 26 years;

(24) Julio Cesar Galvez Rodriguez, sentenced for 15 years;

(25) Jose Luis Garcia Paneque, sentenced for 24 years;

(26) Edel Jose Garcia Diaz, sentenced for 16 years;

(27) Ricardo Gonzalez Alfonso, sentenced for 20 years;

(28) Diosdado Gonzalez Marrero, sentenced for 20 years;

(29) Lester Gonzalez Penton, sentenced for 20 years;

(30) Alejandro Gonzalez Raga, sentenced for 14 years;

(31) Jorge Luis Gonzalez Tanquero, sentenced for 20 years;

(32) Leonel Grave de Peralta Almenares, sentenced for 20 years;

(33) Ivan Hernandez Carrillo, sentenced for 25 years;

(34) Normando Hernandez Gonzalez, sentenced for 25 years;

(35) Juan Carlos Herrera Acosta, sentenced for 20 years;

(36) Regis Iglesias Ramirez, sentenced for 18 years;

(37) Jose Ubaldo Izquierdo Hernandez, sentenced for 16 years;

(38) Reinaldo Labrada Pena, sentenced for 6 years;

(39) Nelson Alberto Aguiar Ramirez, sentenced for 13 years;