

and legacy of dedication, hard work, and service will remain.

Mr. Mathwin began his career at Montgomery Blair as an English teacher, but found a more satisfying calling as a journalism instructor. Eventually he became the faculty advisor for Blair's student newspaper Silver Chips.

Under Mathwin's guidance, the student staffers of Silver Chips enjoyed tremendous success. During his tenure, Silver Chips earned countless awards at the local, state, and national level, including the Pacemaker Award as the nation's top newspaper.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the students, parents, faculty, and administration of Montgomery Blair High School, I say to Mr. John Mathwin: thank you for your service to our community and our children. You will be missed!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, Thursday, May 19, 2005 I was in Mingo Junction, Ohio and missed rollcall votes No. 190–199. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes No. 191, 194, 196, 198 and 199. I would have voted “no” on rollcall votes No. 190, 192, 193, 195 and 197.

BYRNE GRANT FUNDING

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues from Nebraska and

around the country on a most important matter—Byrne Grant funding. I appreciate the leadership of Mr. TERRY and Chairman SOUDER on this issue as well as the work done by my fellow members of the House Meth Caucus to ensure that the needs of state and local communities are being met.

Byrne grants provide necessary federal resources that make possible enforcement and treatment programs undertaken by state and local governments to combat the illegal drug epidemic that is rampant throughout the nation, a plague that I've seen firsthand in communities throughout eastern, central and southern Oregon. Nowhere is the need for federal anti-drug resources more pronounced than in rural areas like Oregon's Second Congressional District, where entire communities struggle to cope with the proliferation of illegal substances and their devastating effects on families and communities.

According to an assessment conducted earlier this year by the Oregon HIDTA office, reducing funding for these programs would reduce interagency cooperation and intelligence sharing between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The assessment also found that operations by local taskforces on the front lines in the fight against illegal drugs would decrease by 25 to 75 percent. Without the federal funds received many local drug taskforces in Oregon would have to severely curtail operations, reduce staffing levels or even cease operations completely. Given the threat posed to children, families and communities by illegal drugs, these efforts to control the drug problem must continue.

I want to again state my belief that Byrne Grant funding should be maintained at its current level as the House Appropriations Committee prepares to allocate funds to this and other critical anti-drug programs in the coming year.

The state of Oregon has historically received over \$6 million in Byrne grants, a significant portion of which has been allocated to programs and projects in the Second District.

Local task forces like the Klamath Interagency Narcotics Team, the Mid-Columbia Interagency Narcotics Task Force, the Central Oregon Drug Enforcement team, the Jackson County Narcotics Enforcement Team, and the Blue Mountain Narcotics Enforcement Team, which receives about one-third of its budget from Byrne Grants, would be devastated without continued support from federal anti-drug programs.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I conducted a series of seven town hall forums focused on production, distribution and abuse of illegal drugs, particularly the runaway problem of methamphetamine. While traveling throughout the Second District I heard again and again about the importance of federal resources to the outstanding efforts being conducted by state and local enforcement agencies and treatment and prevention providers. While I realize that we are in a time of strict budget constraint I strongly support these efforts and I will continue to do all I can to ensure that the federal government honors its commitment to fight the scourge of illegal drugs in our communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, 2005, during consideration of H.R. 2361, I was absent during rollcall number 196. Unfortunately, the vote occurred earlier in the evening than was expected and I was unable to make it to the floor in time to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” for the Rahl-Whitfield amendment.

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 24, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 25

Time to be announced

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Philip J. Perry, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, and Carolyn L. Gallagher, of Texas, and Louis J. Giuliano, of New York, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

Room to be announced

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation, focusing on provisions relating to renewable energy, nuclear matters, and studies.

SD-366

Environment and Public Works
To hold an oversight hearing to examine permitting of energy projects.

SD-406

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Horton Wilkins, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to Canada, William Alan Eaton, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Panama, James M. Derham, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Guatemala, and Robert Johann Dieter, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to Belize, Paul A. Trivelli, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Nicaragua, and Linda Jewell, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

SD-419

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine how counterfeit goods provide easy cash for criminals and terrorists.

SD-562

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

9:50 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider proposed Head Start Improvements For School Readiness Act, S. 518, to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State, and pending nominations.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the U.S. Grain Standards Act.

SR-328A

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing, Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine S. 360, to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act.

SR-253

Indian Affairs

To hold hearings to examine S.J. Res. 15, to acknowledge a long history of official depredations and ill-conceived policies by the United States Government regarding Indian tribes and offer an apology to all Native Peoples on behalf of the United States.

SR-485

11 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To hold hearings to examine human rights concerns in Kosovo.

SD-124

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda Morrison Combs, of North Carolina, to be Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget.

SD-562

Judiciary

Intellectual Property Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine piracy of intellectual property.

SD-226

MAY 26

9 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the container security initiative and the customs-trade partnership against terrorism, focusing on how Customs utilizes container security initiative and customs trade partnership against terrorism in connection with its other enforcement programs and review the requirements for and challenges involved in transitioning these from promising risk management concepts to effective and sustained enforcement operations.

SD-562

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

9:30 a.m.

Environment and Public Works
Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SD-406

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider comprehensive energy legislation, focusing on provisions relating to oil and gas, and incentives for innovative technology, and other related issues.

SD-366

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine aviation capacity and congestion challenges regarding summer 2005 and future demand.

SR-253

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the report to Congress on international economic and exchange rate policies.

SH-216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the 21st century workplace.

SD-430

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean Ian McCormack, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, and Dina Habib Powell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Appropriations
Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Commerce.

S-146, Capitol

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine challenges facing the VA claims adjudication and appeal process.

SR-418

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine federal funding for private research and development, focusing on effectiveness of federal financing of private research and development, and whether some of these programs result in the development of new technologies or displace private investment.

SD-562

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rodolphe M. Vallee, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Slovak Republic, Molly Hering Bordonaro, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, and Ann Louise Wagner, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to Luxembourg.

SD-419

Judiciary

Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the need for comprehensive immigration reform relating to the national economy.

SD-226

Appropriations

State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for