

(1) expeditiously consider the recommendations of the United States Commission on Ocean Policy during the 109th Congress; and

(2) enact a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated national ocean policy that will ensure the long-term economic and ecological health of the United States oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes.

SA 260. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert:
SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING DROUGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

It is the sense of the Senate that, in response to the ongoing drought in certain western states, Congress should allocate \$15,000,000 to the Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Emergency Assistance Program from within fiscal year 2006 funds available in the Water and Related Resources account for bureauwide programs of the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Department of the Interior.

SA 261. Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KENNEDY) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF SENATE REGARDING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) payments to States from the Federal Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) are essential to protect public health, fisheries, wildlife, and watersheds, and to ensure opportunities for public recreation and economic development;

(2) despite important progress in protecting and enhancing water quality since the enactment of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) in 1972, serious water pollution problems persist throughout the United States;

(3) the report of the Environmental Protection Agency dated September 30, 2002, and relating to clean water and drinking water infrastructure gap analysis found that there will be a \$535,000,000,000 gap between current spending and projected needs for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years if additional investments are not made;

(4) in November 2002, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the annual investment in clean water infrastructure needs to be at least \$13,000,000,000 for capital construction and \$20,300,000,000 for operation and maintenance; and

(5) the Federal Government is a vital partner with State and local governments and must continue to share in the burden of maintaining and improving the water infrastructure of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that payments to States from the Federal Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund under title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) should be increased to \$1,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 to assist States and local communities in meeting water quality standards and restoring the health and safety of the water of the United States.

SA 262. Mr. GREGG (for Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. GREGG to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010; as follows:

At the end of title V, insert the following:
SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO PENSION REFORM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) The rules for calculating the funded status of pension plans and for determining calculations, premiums, and other issues should ensure strong funding of such plans in both good and bad economic times.

(2) The expiration of the interest rate provisions of the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 at the end of 2005 and the need to address the deficit at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (referred to in this section as the "PBGC") demand enactment of pension legislation this year.

(3) Thirty-four million active and retired workers are relying on their defined benefit plans to provide retirement security, and a failure by Congress to reform the defined benefit system will place at risk the pensions of millions of Americans.

(4) Stabilization of the defined benefit pension system and the PBGC may require significant and structural changes in the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which must be undertaken in a single comprehensive set of reforms.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the Senate conferees shall insist on the Senate position expressed in this resolution with respect to PBGC premiums.

SA 283. Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 18, setting for the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Sec. . SPECIAL RULE WITH RESPECT TO PENSION REFORM

In the Senate, if the Committee on Finance or the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions reports a bill or joint resolution that includes pension reform and that measure achieves not less than \$476 million in net outlay reductions in fiscal year 2006 and \$3.306 billion in net outlay reductions for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2010, and provided both committees have met their respective spending reconciliation instructions pursuant to Sec. 201(a), the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget may file with the Senate appropriately revised allocations, function levels and aggregates as long as the cumulative value of the

adjustments do not increase overall Federal Government outlays. Function levels or aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2006 or for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.

Such revised allocations, function levels and aggregates shall be considered as allocations, function levels, and aggregates contained in the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget.

SA 264. Mr. FRIST proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 43, designating the first day of April 2005 as "National Asbestos Awareness Day"; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas these fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally little is known about late stage treatment and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognosis;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos yet continues to consume almost 7,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the Nation;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas asbestos exposures continue and safety and prevention will reduce and has reduced significantly asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of Americans die from asbestos related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Asbestos Awareness Day" would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 6, at 10 a.m. in 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to consider the nomination of David Garman to be Under Secretary of Energy.

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the Committee staff at (202) 224-1327.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in open and closed session to receive testimony on current and future world-wide threats to the national security of the United States.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. 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, March 17, 2005, at 11 a.m. to mark up an original bill entitled the Federal Public Transportation Act of 2005.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open Executive Session during the session on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., to consider favorably reporting the nomination of Daniel R. Levinson, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Office Building Room 226.

Agenda:

I. Nominations: William G. Myers, III, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Terrence W. Boyle, II, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina; James C. Dever, III, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina; Thomas B. Griffith, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Paul A. Crotty, to be U.S. District

Judge for the Southern District of New York; J. Michael Seabright, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

II. Bills: Asbestos—S. 378, Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2005, Biden, Specter, Feinstein, Kyl; S. 188, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Reauthorization Act of 2005, Feinstein, Kyl, Schumer, Cornyn, Durbin, Specter; S. 119, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005, Feinstein, Schumer, Durbin, DeWine, Feingold, Kennedy, Brownback, Specter; S. 589, a bill to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, Cornyn, Leahy.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 17, 2005, for a committee hearing titled "Back from the Battlefield: Are We Providing the Proper Care for America's Wounded Warriors?"

The hearing will take place in Room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Coast Guard be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. on Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance/FY 2006 Budget Request in SR-253.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOW

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2005, at 3 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the posture of the U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mindy Lanie, a sign language interpreter from congressional support services, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of the budget resolution.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kathleen Strotzman be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the budget resolution.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR AND DISCHARGE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk. Further, that Harold Damelin, PN87, be discharged from the Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Senate also proceed to its consideration.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, 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 en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

David B. Bolton, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries. (New Position)

Joseph R. DeTrani, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks. (New Position)

John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

C. David Welch, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Rudolph E. Boschwitz, of Minnesota, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of services as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD

George M. Dennison, of Montana, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

James William Carr, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

Kiron Kanina Skinner, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Claude R. Kehler, 6600