

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to continue to receive testimony on the Joint Strike Fighter F136 Alternative Engine Program in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years Defense Program.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., on Innovation and Competitiveness.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 15 at 11:30 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to consider pending nominations and any other pending calendar business of the Committee which may be ready for consideration.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing on Post-Palestinian Election Challenges in the Middle East.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 9 a.m. on legislative items.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 1899, the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act Amendments of 2005.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 9 a.m. in The Mansfield Room, S-207 The Capitol.

Agenda

I. Nominations: Norman Randy Smith, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Patrick J. Schiltz, to be U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Minnesota; Steven G. Bradbury, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; John F. Clark, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

II. Bills: S. , Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Chairman's Mark; S. 1768, A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings: Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Grassley, Schumer, Feingold, Durbin; S. 829, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2005: Grassley, Schumer, Cornyn, Leahy, Feingold, Durbin, Graham, DeWine, Specter; S. 489, Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act: Alexander, Kyl, Cornyn, Graham, Hatch; S. 2039, Prosecutors and Defendants Incentive Act of 2005: DURBIN, SPECTER, DEWINE, LEAHY, KENNEDY, FEINSTEIN, FEINGOLD; S. 2292, A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges: Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Feinstein, Biden.

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment: Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 15, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet tomorrow, March 15, 2006 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in Dirksen 106 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY, AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing on "Hospital Group Purchasing: Are the Industry's Reforms Sufficient to Ensure Competition?" in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness List

Panel I: Richard J. Bednar, Coordinator, Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative, Washington, DC; Mark B. Leahey, Executive Director, Medical Device Manufacturers Association, Washington, DC; S. Prakash

Sethi, Professor, Baruch College, The City University of New York, New York, NY; and Mina Ubbing, President and CEO, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, OH.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing entitled, "The GAO High-Risk List: An Update."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on ground forces readiness in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

Mr. COBURN. In executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the Agriculture Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nominations, and that they be placed on the calendar: PN 1079 PN, Marc L. Kesselman; PN 1329, Linda Avery Strachan; PN 1196, Boyd Kevin Rutherford; PN 1158, Gale A. Buchanan.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 402, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 402) designating the first day of April, 2006 as "National Asbestos Awareness Day."

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

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution

be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 402) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 402

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

Resolved, That the Senate designates the first day of April 2006 as "National Asbestos Awareness Day."

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 16. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, the budget resolution, as under the previous order.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, today we have made significant progress on the budget resolution. We had 10 roll-call votes on amendments to the resolution. The bill managers have done an exceptional job working through the process. That being said, we have many amendments filed, and Senators who have amendments should already be working with the bill managers.

Tomorrow will be a very busy day. Under an agreement reached this afternoon, tomorrow morning at 10:30 we will have a series of votes on the budget resolution and the debt limit bill. At 1:30, all time on the budget resolution will be deemed expired and the vote-arama will begin. Senators are reminded to stay close to the Chamber and plan their schedules accordingly.

RECESS UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:05 p.m., recessed until Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 15, 2006:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WARREN W. TICHENOR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE KEVIN E. MOLEY.

MARK C. MINTON, OF FLORIDA, 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 MONGOLIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ANDREW VON ESCHENBACH, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE LESTER M. CRAWFORD, RESIGNED.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

JOHN A. RIZZO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE SCOTT W. MULLER, RESIGNED.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar:

MARC L. KESSELMAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

LINDA AVERY STRACHAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

BOYD KEVIN RUTHERFORD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

GALE A. BUCHANAN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.