

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, for a committee hearing re pending benefits related legislation. 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.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 8, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Corrections and Rehabilitation be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "The Findings and Recommendations of the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons" on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. Witness list.

The Honorable John J. Gibbons, Commission Co-Chairman, Former Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Newark, NJ.

Nicholas de B. Katzenbach, Commission Co-Chairman, Former U.S. Attorney General, Princeton, NJ.

Gary D. Maynard, Commissioner, Director of the Iowa Department of Corrections and President-Elect of the American Correctional Association, Des Moines, IA.

Mark H. Morial, Commissioner, President and CEO of the National Urban League, former Mayor of New Orleans and Louisiana State Senator, New Orleans, LA.

Pat Nolan, Commissioner, President of Prison Fellowship's Justice Fellowship and a member of the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, Lansdowne, VA.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on Asian Adoptions in the United States.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY STUDY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,

and Transportation Subcommittee on National Ocean Policy Study be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Offshore Aquaculture: Challenges of Fish Farming in Federal Waters.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2766

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am going to close shortly. First the distinguished Senator from Virginia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, will seek recognition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, in consultation with the distinguished leadership on both sides, Senator LEVIN and I participating, I am pleased to ask unanimous consent that at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2766, the Defense authorization bill; further, that Senator LEVIN be recognized at 5:30 to make his opening statement; provided further that Senator WARNER then be recognized and that no amendments be in order until the chairman is recognized at that time.

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

Mr. WARNER. Again, I thank the leadership. I am very anxious, as are all members of the Armed Services Committee from both sides of the aisle, and my esteemed ranking member, Senator LEVIN, to begin this bill on Monday. It is our hope that we can proceed as quickly as possible, fully recognizing that there may be, hopefully, an interruption with regard to the supplemental appropriations conference report. At some point—and I discussed this with Senator LEVIN—it would be our intention to approach our leadership in hopes that in the amendment process, after a day or so in the beginning, we can turn to the tradition of having relevant amendments so that we can bring this bill to a close. That gives Senators an opportunity in the first day or so to present whatever they wish and then thereafter proceed to matters that have a direct relevance to the bill itself.

I thank the distinguished leader for the opportunity to address the Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I compliment the distinguished Senator from Virginia, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who has managed many of these very difficult measures over the years and is raring to go one more time starting Monday. We look forward to responding to his leadership.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Senator.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 13, at 2:30 p.m., immediately following the official photograph, there be 60 minutes equally divided for debate prior to the cloture vote on Executive Calendar No. 553, with 15 minutes under the control of Senator BYRD, and 15 minutes under the control of Senator KENNEDY, and 30 minutes under the control of Chairman ENZI; provided further, that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, the Senate proceed to an immediate vote on the confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate.

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

AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTO IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 505, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 505) authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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. 505) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 505

Resolved, That paragraph 1 of rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting an official photograph to be taken of Members of the United States Senate on June 13, 2006.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

NATIONAL HEALTH IT WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 506, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 506) to designate the period beginning on June 5, 2006, and ending June 8, 2006, as "National Health IT week."

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be

agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 506) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 506

Whereas the Center for Information Technology Leadership estimated that the implementation of national standards for interoperability and the exchange of health information would save the United States approximately \$77,000,000,000 in expenses relating to healthcare each year;

Whereas the RAND Corporation estimated that, if the healthcare system of the United States implemented the use of computerized medical records, the system could save the United States more than \$81,000,000,000 each year;

Whereas healthcare information technology has been shown to improve the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States;

Whereas healthcare information technology and management systems have been recognized as essential tools for improving the quality and cost efficiency of the healthcare system;

Whereas the President and Secretary of Health and Human Services have made a commitment to leveraging the benefits of the healthcare information technology and management systems by establishing of the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the American Health Information Community;

Whereas Congress has placed an emphasis on improving the quality and safety of the delivery of healthcare in the United States; and

Whereas 42 organizations have come together to support National Healthcare IT Week to improve public awareness relating to the potential benefits of improved quality and cost efficiency that the healthcare system could achieve by implementing health information technology: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the period beginning on June 5, 2006, and ending on June 8, 2006, as "National Health IT Week".

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE DISCUSSION BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 444, S. Res. 456.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 456) expressing the sense of the Senate on the discussion by the North Atlantic Council of secure, sustainable, and reliable sources of energy.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution 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. 456) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 456

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President should place on the agenda for discussion at the North Atlantic Council, as soon as practicable, the merits of establishing a policy and strategy for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to promote the security of members of the Organization through the development of secure, sustainable, and reliable sources of energy; and

(2) the President should submit to Congress a report that sets forth—

(A) the actions the United States has taken to place the matter referred to in paragraph (1) on the agenda for discussion at the North Atlantic Council;

(B) the position of the United States on the matter, as communicated to the North Atlantic Council by the representatives of the United States to the Council;

(C) a summary of the debate on the matter at the North Atlantic Council, including any decision that has been reached with respect to the matter by the Council; and

(D) a strategy for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to develop secure, sustainable, and reliable sources of energy, including contingency plans if current energy resources are put at risk.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m., Friday, June 9. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of our colleagues, there will be no votes tomorrow, Friday. On Monday, we will begin consideration of the Defense authorization matter. Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to give their opening statements during Monday's session. No votes will occur on Monday, and the next vote will be on Tuesday prior to the policy luncheons.

I remind everyone that on Tuesday at 2:15 p.m., we will have our official photograph taken in the Senate Chamber. Senators should be seated at their desks promptly at 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday.

A few minutes ago, we locked in an agreement for debate and a cloture vote on a Mine Safety and Health nomination. That vote will occur at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Again, I remind everyone that the first vote will occur prior to the policy lunch recess.

In addition to a busy week on the Defense authorization bill, next week we will address the supplemental appropriations conference report which should shortly be available. I know, I just signed it myself.

I will have more to say on Friday regarding next week's schedule.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Georgia, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Georgia, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 9, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Thursday, June 8, 2006:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SUSAN C. SCHWAB, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

THE JUDICIARY

NOEL LAWRENCE HILLMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

PETER G. SHERIDAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

THOMAS L. LUDINGTON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

SEAN F. COX, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.