

NOTICES OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4(b)(3) of Rule XXVIII for the purpose of proposing to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3043), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

To the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3043.

Insert in the appropriate place:

SEC. _____. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of funds made available under the heading “**OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION**” under the heading “Institute of Museum and Library Services” in title IV may be used for the Bethel Performing Arts Center.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In accordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend paragraph 4(b)(3) of Rule XXVIII for the purpose of proposing to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3043), making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds made available under the heading “**OFFICE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES: GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION**” under the heading “**INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES**” in title IV may be used for the Bethel Performing Arts Center.

NOTICE OF HEARING

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, “Medicaid Providers That Cheat on Their Taxes and What Can Be Done About It.” More than 30,000 Medicaid providers owe more than \$1 billion in unpaid Federal taxes, according to a recent investigation conducted by the Government Accountability Office at the request of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. The GAO study included only 7 States, which means the total number of Medicaid providers that cheat on their taxes could be considerably higher. The Subcommittee’s November 14 hearing will cover the extent of the problem, as well as possible solutions. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include representatives of the

Government Accountability Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Financial Management Service, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. A final witness list will be available Friday, November 9, 2007.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on whether domestic energy industry will have the available workforce, crafts and professional, to meet our Nation’s growing energy needs and if gaps exist, what policies the Congress should take to address these gaps.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to hear testimony on the “GOP and WEP: policies affecting pensions from work not covered by Social Security.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct an Executive business meeting on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Agenda: Nomination of Michael B. Mukasey to be Attorney General of the United States.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, in order to conduct an oversight hearing on the hiring practices and quality control in VA medical facilities. The Committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 6, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to hold a closed hearing.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CHAMBLISS. I ask unanimous consent that Alan Mackey and Patty Lawrence, detailers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on my committee staff, be granted the privilege of the floor for today’s session.

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Caryn Long of my staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the Senate’s consideration of the farm bill.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 371, the nomination of Patrick Francis Kennedy, to be Under Secretary of State; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion 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 nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Patrick Francis Kennedy, of Illinois, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO ESCORT HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HONORABLE NICOLAS SARKOZY, PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President pro tempore of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of France, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, November 7, 2007.

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

**DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 25, 2007,
AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 369, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 369) designating November 25, 2007, as “Drive Safer Sunday.”

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

Mr. REID. 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. 369) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 369

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas everyone traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive more safely to reduce deaths and injuries resulting from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saved 15,434 lives in 2004, 15,632 lives in 2005, and 15,383 lives in 2006;

Whereas Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to be careful about safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely during the heaviest traffic day of the year, and to publicize the importance of the day using Citizen’s Band (CB) radios and in truck stops across the Nation;

(C) clergy to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive particularly

safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 25, 2007, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SUPPORTING VETERANS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 370.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 370) supporting and encouraging greater support for Veterans Day each year.

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 370) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 370

Whereas veterans of service in the United States Armed Forces have served the Nation with honor and at great personal sacrifice;

Whereas the American people owe the security of the Nation to those who have defended it;

Whereas, on Memorial Day each year, the Nation honors those who have lost their lives in service to the Nation;

Whereas, on Veterans Day each year, the Nation honors those who have defended democracy by serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day is an expression of faith in democracy, faith in American values, and faith that those who fight for freedom will defeat those whose cause is unjust;

Whereas section 116(a) of title 36, United States Code, provides that “The last Monday in May is Memorial Day” and section 116(b) of that title requests the President to issue a proclamation each year calling on the people of the United States to observe Memorial Day by praying, according to their individual religious faith, for permanent peace, designating a period of time on Memorial Day during which the people may unite in prayer for a permanent peace, calling on the people of the United States to unite in prayer at that time, and calling on the media to join in observing Memorial Day and the period of prayer;

Whereas section 4 of the National Moment of Remembrance Act (Public Law 106-579) provides, “The minute beginning at 3:00 p.m.

(local time) on Memorial Day each year is designated as the ‘National Moment of Remembrance’”; and

Whereas Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, provides that “Memorial Day, the last Monday in May” and “Veteran’s Day, November 11” are legal public holidays: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages the people of the United States to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day each year by treating that day as a special day of reflection; and

(2) encourages schools and teachers to educate students on the great contributions veterans have made to the country and its history, both while serving as members of the United States Armed Forces and after completing their service.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 2007**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business tonight, it stand adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, November 7; that, on Wednesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any remarks of the two leaders, the Senate proceed as a body to the House of Representatives for a joint meeting to hear an address by the President of France; that the Senate then stand in recess until 12:15 p.m., and the Senate then proceed to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3043, as provided under a previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. REID. Unless the distinguished Republican leader has further business to bring before this body, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 7, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Tuesday, November 6, 2007:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PATRICK FRANCIS KENNEDY, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT).

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.