

SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977: Policy Issues Thirty Years Later."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 11 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Legislative Hearing on America's Climate Security Act of 2007, S. 2191."

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing on climate change.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. AKAKA. 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 a hearing entitled "Exploring the Scope of Public Performance Rights" on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. The hearing will commence at 9:30 a.m. in room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Witness list:

Lyle Lovett, Singer/Songwriter, Nashville, TN; Alice Peacock, Singer/Songwriter, Chicago, IL; Steven W. Newberry, President and CEO, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation, Glasgow, KY; and Dan DeVany, Vice President and General Manager, WETA, Arlington, VA.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a hearing entitled "SBA Lender Oversight: Preventing Loan Fraud and Improving Regulation of Lenders," on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, beginning at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 13, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in order to conduct an open hearing on Congressional oversight.

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

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 10 a.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled, "Human Capital Needs of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection 'One Face at the Border' Initiative."

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Karla Bromwell of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Virginia Murphy, who is on detail from the Department of Agriculture to the office of Senator FEINSTEIN, be granted the privileges of the floor for the duration of debate and any vote on H.R. 2419.

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. 335, the nomination of Henrietta Fore to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid on 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:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Henrietta Holmsman Fore, of Nevada, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the nomination of Henrietta Fore was a little controversial, but it worked out just fine. This good Nevadan will have a good job. She will do her best. I am confident it will be one that the country will be pleased with.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 377.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 377) recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood.

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. 377) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 377

Whereas, on November 16, 1907, Oklahoma officially became the 46th State of the Union;

Whereas the State of Oklahoma is known as the Sooner State;

Whereas the State of Oklahoma has become a national leader in agriculture, natural resource industries, technology, and manufacturing;

Whereas the people of Oklahoma have harvested the natural abundance of the State to produce a wealth which has enabled the building of cities, educational institutions, an unhurried pace of life, and a rich culture, while maintaining the pristine ecology;

Whereas the beautiful mountains, rivers, lakes, trees, plains, and fields of the State of Oklahoma are appreciated and preserved, and the quality of life is unsurpassed; and

Whereas, on November 16, 2007, the State of Oklahoma will begin a new century of statehood: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and celebrates the centennial of Oklahoma statehood.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2334, S. 2340, S. 2346, S. 2348, AND H.R. 3996, EN BLOC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are five bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2334) to withhold 10 percent of the Federal funding apportioned for highway construction and maintenance from States that issue driver's licenses to individuals without verifying the legal status of such individual.

A bill (S. 2340) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2346) to temporarily increase the portfolio caps applicable to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, to provide the necessary financing to curb foreclosures by facilitating the refinancing of at-risk subprime borrowers into safe, affordable loans, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2348) to ensure control over the United States border and to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws.

A bill (H.R. 3996) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for their second reading en bloc, but I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

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

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

FARM, NUTRITION, AND BIOENERGY ACT

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, we have been working very diligently on both sides of the aisle today to put together a list of amendments we could agree with each other would be the maximum number and substance of amendments that would be offered on the farm bill. Senator REID, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator HARKIN, Senator CONRAD, and myself have all been engaged in different conversations today about these amendments. At the end of the day, the lists we have come up with are very long on both sides. I think the total number exceeds 275.

As we all know, on bills of this magnitude, an overwhelming number of those amendments will ultimately disappear. We will dispose of them by either bringing them to the floor by accepting them or by the authors and proponents of those amendments agreeing at the end of the day that they simply don't want to do anything other than talk about their amendments.

We are not able to enter into a unanimous consent agreement on this right now. I understand the leadership is going to wait until in the morning to do that. But by starting first thing in the morning, I think we do have the opportunity to move through a significant number of these amendments, and I encourage the proponents of the amendments on both sides of the aisle to think seriously about whether you want to see a farm bill completed, and if you do, then come down, agree to a minimal amount of time we can use for debate and discussion on the amendments, and let's move through these amendments with as much haste as we possibly can.

I do regret that—we are here ready to agree to a unanimous consent that this

will be the complete list and we will begin working and we look forward to being here tomorrow in that same frame of mind, to agree to the list of amendments as proposed on both sides of the aisle. We are not happy with some of their amendments and I understand they are not happy with some of the amendments coming from this side. Again, that is the way this body has always worked, and I hope in the morning we are ready to proceed and we can move toward debate, discussion, and voting on these various amendments, and that we can conclude this as soon as possible, whether that is before we leave this week—it may be impossible—but in any event, we will begin work on it tomorrow.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while my friend is on the floor and my friend from South Dakota is on the floor, through the Chair to my friend from Georgia, looking at these two lists kind of puts a smile on your face, because it is quite a list. There is a multitude of tax issues and a lot of things totally not relevant to this farm bill.

But I would say through the Chair to my friend that I am going to take a look at this—I have had some good meetings with my staff and Senator HARKIN today—and make a decision about what we should do on this tomorrow. But the question I have of my friend from Georgia is how long do we have to work on this, work our way through these amendments? There are about 280 or 290 amendments. I sit here today and I say again, I have no doubt that the vast majority of the Democrats—with a significant majority of Democrats, with a handful of help from the Republicans, cloture would be invoked on this bill.

So I say to my friend, how long do you think we should play around with all of these amendments? Is there a magic number we need to have votes on some of them? When should I file cloture? If farm State Senators and if other Senators want a farm bill, time is wasting. We have a few more days left in this work period before Thanksgiving, and when we come back after Thanksgiving we have a very short 3 weeks to get all of the Federal Government's work done that has to be done before the calendar year ends. So I don't expect my friend to answer the question without talking to my counterpart on the other side, but I want him to think about how much longer do we do this little gesture we are going through here? We have wasted a lot of time. The question the Republicans have to make a decision on is do they want a farm bill? We want one. We want a farm bill. We will take the bill that came out of committee—the vast majority of us—but we know there are some amendments we need to do. I think it is important we do the Dorgan amendment. I think it is important we do the Lugar amendment. I do think the substitute and the payment limits are something we need to do, but I don't know how much more of this we should be concerned about.

I will have some meetings in the morning and we will report back to the ranking member of this very important committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I say to the majority leader I appreciate his comments. Obviously, I don't have the answer to the question as to how long we should consider the amendments before we file cloture. That is a decision for the majority leader to make on his own, hopefully in consultation with the leadership on this side. But what I would say is we started this process last week. There were procedural issues that had to be resolved last week. We sat around for a couple of days without being able to bring up amendments. Here we are again. We have sat around today, again, without having the opportunity to bring them up. After having served 8 years in the House, I have an appreciation of the Senate as I have never had before. It is a deliberative body that our forefathers decided it should be, and I have seen no better example of that deliberation than I have on this particular bill.

That being said, we won't know when it is the right time to file cloture until we begin the work, and if we begin the work on this tomorrow, I know from our side of the aisle—and I will make the commitment—we will move these amendments as quickly as possible. There is the great likelihood that a number of these amendments won't be called up, but we won't know until we get into the process.

My farmers and ranchers want a farm bill. They like the one we have, but this bill, in my opinion, improves ag policy for the next 5 years. If we should not be able to get a farm bill, then an extension of the current farm bill is one of the options that is out there.

I have said all along that I think we could improve that product and this farm bill does that. So I hope we can come here in the morning with the idea that we are going to take up these amendments and we will take the Grassley and Dorgan amendment as the first one. That is on payment limits. I am opposed to the amendment and I will have a lot to say about it during the debate, but we are ready to talk about it and we are ready to begin the process. I hope that with all of the counsel available to the majority leader, he will be prepared with us to begin the debate and vote on these amendments in the morning.

ORDER FOR STAR PRINT—S. 589

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 474, S. 589, be star printed with the changes at the desk.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend, I am going to close the Senate. Does he want to say something?