

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "The McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity: Good for Consumers?" on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

*Witness list*

Panel I: The Honorable Trent Lott, U.S. Senator, R-MS; the Honorable Mary L. Landrieu, U.S. Senator, D-LA.

Panel II: Michael Homan, Homeowner, New Orleans, LA; J. Robert Hunter, Insurance Director, Consumer Federation of America, Washington, DC; Marc Racicot, President, American Insurance Association, Washington, DC; Susan E. Voss, Iowa Insurance Commissioner, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Des Moines, IA.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Oversight of the Enforcement of the Antitrust Laws" on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 2 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

*Witness list*

The Honorable Thomas O. Barnett, Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC; the Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in room 418 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on the VA Claims Adjudication Process.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 10 a.m., for a hearing entitled "Credit Card Practices: Fees, Interest Rates, and Grace Periods."

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

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

CLOTURE MOTIONS—S. 4

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send to the desk a cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Reid substitute amendment No. 275 to S. 4, the 9/11 Commission legislation.

Joe Lieberman, Charles Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, B.A. Mikulski, Christopher Dodd, Joe Biden, Debbie Stabenow, Harry Reid, Pat Leahy, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, H.R. Clinton, Bill Nelson, Tom Carper, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 57, S. 4, the 9/11 Commission legislation.

Joe Lieberman, Charles Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, B.A. Mikulski, Christopher Dodd, Joe Biden, Debbie Stabenow, Harry Reid, Pat Leahy, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, H.R. Clinton, Bill Nelson, Tom Carper, Jack Reed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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 Executive Calendar Nos. 39 and 40; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations, considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Stanley Davis Phillips, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

William B. Wood, of New York, 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 the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we just approved the new Ambassador to Afghanistan. I do recall yesterday we approved the new Ambassador to Iraq. That is pretty good work of the Senate. These are two very important diplomats. They have their work cut out for them. I congratulate both of them.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 100.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) designating the week beginning March 12, 2007, as "National Safe Place Week."

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator CRAIG and 14 of my colleagues in support of a resolution designating the week of March 12 through 17, 2007, as National Safe Place Week.

This resolution recognizes the participating businesses, community organizations, youth service agencies, and volunteers that are part of the YMCA National Safe Place Program and work for the safety and well being of at-risk youth.

Youth today face a growing amount of pressure in their daily lives at school, at home, and in the community. For some youth, problems include abuse or neglect at home, drug or alcohol addictions of family members and friends, trouble at school or dangerous situations on a date.

Young people who face these serious situations should not feel left alone and should have a place to go to in their community.

Over the past 24 years, the National Safe Place Program has provided immediate help to more than 200,000 youth in crisis at nearly 16,000 Safe Place locations and with counseling by phone.

This important program is currently operated by 140 agencies serving 700 communities in 40 States—bringing together the private and public sector to reach out and help at-risk youth who might be neglected, abused, threatened or in unsafe situations.

In my home State of California, there are nine designated Safe Place programs with 1,738 Safe Place sites located in over 65 communities which have served more than 5,000 youth.

National Safe Place sites include fast food restaurants, convenience stores, fire stations, schools, libraries, office buildings or even a city bus and are marked by large, yellow Safe Place signs displayed prominently in front windows.

In Fresno, CA, for example, city buses are all designated as Safe Places.

Any youth can walk into a Safe Place site and receive immediate help from a trained volunteer, and further help from a Safe Place staff person who can provide counseling, residential assistance or professional referrals, as needed.

The National Safe Place Week recognizes the commitment, resources, and energy of thousands of businesses, community organizations and volunteers who make this effective, growing network of support for youth possible. In addition, it seeks to increase awareness of the crises that youth face today.

I am encouraged by the National Safe Place Program's positive impact on communities throughout the Nation, and I hope that more communities will choose to participate in this innovative program.

The National Safe Place Program brings us closer to making our country safe for youth, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REID. 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 to this bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 100) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the youths of the United States will be the future bearers of the bright torch of democracy;

Whereas youths need a safe haven from various negative influences, such as child abuse, substance abuse, and crime, and youths need to have resources readily available to assist them when faced with circumstances that compromise their safety;

Whereas the United States needs increased numbers of community volunteers acting as positive influences on the youths of the Nation;

Whereas the Safe Place program is committed to protecting the youths of the United States, the Nation's most valuable asset, by offering short term safe places at neighborhood locations where trained volunteers are available to counsel and advise young people seeking assistance and guidance;

Whereas the Safe Place program combines the efforts of the private sector and non-profit organizations to reach young people in the early stages of crisis;

Whereas the Safe Place program provides a direct way to assist programs in meeting

performance standards relative to outreach and community relations, as set forth in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.);

Whereas the Safe Place placard displayed at businesses within communities stands as a beacon of safety and refuge to at-risk youths;

Whereas more than 700 communities in 40 States make the Safe Place program available at nearly 16,000 locations;

Whereas more than 200,000 youths have gone to Safe Place locations to get help when faced with crisis situations and have received counseling by phone as a result of Safe Place information the youths received at school;

Whereas, through the efforts of Safe Place coordinators across the United States, each year more than 500,000 students learn in a classroom presentation that the Safe Place program is a resource they can turn to if they encounter an abusive or neglectful situation, and 1,000,000 Safe Place information cards are distributed; and

Whereas increased awareness of the Safe Place program will encourage more communities to establish Safe Place locations for the youths of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of March 12 through March 18, 2007, as "National Safe Place Week"; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested groups to—

(A) promote awareness of, and volunteer involvement in, the Safe Place program; and

(B) observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 8; that on Thursday, 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, and that there then be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Republican leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 4.

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

CALL OF THE ROLL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the live quorums required with respect to the two cloture motions I filed be waived.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, tomorrow we will be in a situation where we can continue to work on, of course, S. 4. I

indicated to the distinguished Republican leader yesterday that I am not certain but I think I can get consent as to the cloture motion which was filed by the Republicans earlier today, that we would be happy to vote on that tomorrow sometime. We would also be willing to vote on the two I just filed. If that does not happen, of course, we will be in a situation where we will have a cloture vote on Friday.

As I told everyone here early this week, the first cloture motion which we will vote on will be the one the Republicans filed. If cloture is not invoked, we will immediately move to the cloture motions I filed. There will be 30 hours in relation to that cloture motion if cloture is invoked and, of course, that time won't run out until sometime Saturday.

So it is really up to the minority as to what they want to do. We are willing to move it up 1 day or do it on Friday, whatever is their interest. Remember, 30 hours would not run out until sometime Saturday night. If we voted at, say, 10 a.m. Friday morning, 30 hours would run out sometime Saturday afternoon, 4 p.m. or thereabouts. If that, in fact, were the case and cloture were invoked and there are some germane amendments postcloture, we could dispose of those on Friday.

Anyway, we are in a situation where it appears that unless the minority decides to allow us to have those votes on Thursday, we would be in session Friday for a good part of the day and maybe going into Saturday unless we work something out.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if the majority leader will yield for an observation, I think we have made pretty good progress on getting amendments disposed of. Hopefully, we can do more of that tomorrow. I think both sides have been operating in good faith, and we will consider tomorrow what other possibilities there might be.

I think I can speak for the majority on this side in saying that we certainly look forward to wrapping up this bill in the near future. There are a few other amendments we would like to have considered, and those discussions are ongoing between my staff and the majority leader's staff.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say this: The Republican leader is absolutely right, and we have tried real hard on some nongermane amendments to get some votes. It is not all their fault. We have, on our side, a Senator or two who simply will not let us agree to votes on nongermane amendments because they say and have said for the last 2 days: You gave a vote on theirs; why don't I get a vote on mine. So we have agreed to.

As I explained to some Senators assembled here in the well earlier today, when we moved to this bill, I said it would be open for amendment, and it has been, and there is no way we can get out of germane amendments. We can invoke cloture, but they are still available.