

(2) **MINORITY STAFF.**—The ranking member shall fix the compensation of all personnel of the minority staff of the Special Committee.

(3) **NONDESIGNATED STAFF.**—The chairman and ranking member shall jointly fix the compensation of all nondesignated staff of the Special Committee, within the budget approved for such purposes for the Special Committee.

(c) **REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.**—The Special Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by such staff members in the performance of their functions for the Special Committee.

(d) **PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.**—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Special Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chairman of the Special Committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This resolution shall take effect on November 5, 2008.

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The Special Committee shall terminate two years after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

SEC. 9. SENSE OF SENATE ON CERTAIN CLAIMS REGARDING THE COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY.

It is the sense of the Senate that any claim of fraud, waste, or abuse under the False Claims Act that involves any contract or spending by the Coalition Provisional Authority should be considered a claim against the United States Government.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am going to be introducing legislation—I have previously introduced this—that deals with the construction in the Congress of what is called a Truman Committee.

In fact, President Truman was from the home State of the Presiding Officer and the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee on the floor. So the two Senators from Missouri, of course, I know harbor great pride in Harry Truman.

One of the interesting things about Truman's tenure here in Washington, DC was not just his service in the Senate and not just him being President, but one of the sources of pride was his stewardship of something called the Truman Committee.

At a time when a President of his own party was in power in the White House, he and the Congress created a committee here in the Senate to take a look at waste, fraud, and abuse in contracting, particularly in the military. It cost him \$15,000 to start it. Estimates are they saved \$15 billion—in dollars from that time. Think of that: \$15,000 to start the committee and saved \$15 billion.

Now I know there are some who will disagree, but I happen to think it is long past time for us to be far more aggressive to find out what is happening to all this money. I will give you a couple of examples. One I have used a lot—I shall not today—by bringing a towel to the floor of the Senate, but I have held up a towel that Henry Bunting

brought. He was a buyer for Kellogg, Brown, and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton. He was a buyer stationed in Kuwait. One of the things he was to do was buy hand towels for American soldiers. So he filed out the order for hand towels. His supervisor saw it and said: No, we are not going to buy those hand towels; we are going to buy hand towels with the initials of our company embroidered on the hand towels, KBR.

He said: Well, that will almost triple the cost. He was told: That does not matter; this is a cost-plus contract. The American taxpayer is going to pick up that tab.

So they ordered the towels that cost four or five times more. It did not matter; the taxpayers pick up the tab. That little towel is a very small reminder of what has been going on and how much the taxpayer has been fleeced. There is so much more.

Why do we need to track these things? Well, Paul Mullinax is a good reason. I called Paul Mullinax one Sunday. He was a truck driver in Florida. Here is what Paul Mullinax did. This is a good example of contracting in FEMA.

Paul Mullinax drives a refrigerated 18-wheeler. He was in Florida. He got a call from FEMA when Hurricane Katrina hit. They needed ice down in the Gulf of Mexico. So Paul Mullinax, God bless him, drove up, and he picked up some ice in New York for a FEMA contract; picked up a load of ice in his refrigerated truck. They said: Take it to Carthage, MO. This is ice that is destined for the Gulf of Mexico for the relief of the Katrina victims.

He drove his truck from New York to Carthage, MO; got there, they said: No, you are not supposed to be in Carthage, MO; you are supposed to be in Montgomery, AL. So he turned his truck south and east and went to Montgomery, AL. When he got there, he said there were over 100 18-wheel trucks. They had him park. He sat there for about 12 days with his refrigerated unit running on his truck. After about 12 or so days they sent him to Gloucester, MA, to offload his ice. This is ice destined for victims of Katrina. He picked it up in New York, went to Carthage, went to Alabama, and then they said: Offload it in a warehouse in Massachusetts, 15,000 bucks for that truckload of ice.

There were another 100 18-wheelers sitting where he was sitting. Should somebody ask questions and say: Who on Earth is responsible for this? The answer is yes. Waste, fraud, and abuse in contracting is epidemic. It is unbelievable.

Connected to the Katrina issue, this is a photograph, of course, of 8,420 brandnew, never-used FEMA trailers clogging an unused airport. The question is: Who made that decision and why? Were there any consequences as a result of this decision? I do not know.

This is money wrapped in Saran Wrap. Hundred dollar bills. This guy, by the way, told me—this is in a base-

ment in Baghdad. This guy told me that they wrapped this money in Saran Wrap and occasionally threw it around like a football because it is about the size of a football—I have never wrapped hundred dollar bills. I have never seen that many hundred dollar bills. But if you wrap hundred dollar bills in Saran Wrap, I guess that is what it looks like. He said they actually threw them around like footballs in that room in Baghdad. The reason these were wrapped in Saran Wrap, with some rubber bands around them, is because this guy was in charge of distributing the money. He said we were paying contractors and subcontractors in Iraq, and our motto was: We pay in cash; you bring a bag.

This payment happened to be a \$2 million payment. We pay in cash, so bring a bag. He said it was just like the Wild West.

Question: Who is watching over all of this? Who is tracing it all? There is, I think, substantial evidence, with the release just 2 days ago of the Special Inspector General for Iraq, and another report, if you go through all of those reports, not just with Iraq, go through the reports on Katrina, and so many other similar examples, there is, I think, substantial evidence to lead one to conclude this is the greatest waste, fraud, and abuse in the history of this country.

Harry Truman, at a time when there was substantial concern about that, was able to get a select or special committee created here in the Congress, bipartisan; cost \$15,000 to create, they saved \$15 billion. Pretty successful. It ought to happen again. I am going to introduce legislation today, once again. We have voted on it several times previously. I propose that we once again create a Truman Committee, a bipartisan committee to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse, and on behalf of the American taxpayer say: This cannot continue. This has to stop.

I am going to make a longer presentation at some point, but I wanted to simply indicate that there is so much that needs to be done on this issue, and my hope is that at last, at long, long last, this Senate will adopt a select committee or a special committee similar to the Truman Committee.

If ever the American taxpayer deserved good Government, it is now, with something like this in which we can begin to unravel who got what and how we stop this from happening again.

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF A DOCUMENT ENTITLED "COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE, 1867-2008"

Mr. BYRD (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 438

Resolved, That there be printed with illustrations as a Senate document a compilation of materials entitled "Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, 1867–2008", and that there be printed one thousand five hundred additional copies of such document for the use of the Committee on Appropriations.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3972. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2483, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3972. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2483, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 901. REQUIREMENT OF APPROVAL OF CERTAIN CITIZENS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (c), the Department of the Interior, the Department of Energy, and the Forest Service, acting individually or in coordination, shall not assume control of any parcel of land located in a State unless the citizens of each political subdivision of the State in which a portion of the parcel of land is located approve the assumption of control by a referendum.

(b) NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.—The requirement described in subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a national emergency, as determined by the President.

(c) PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—The requirement described in subsection (a) shall not apply in the case of a voluntary transaction between a private landowner and the Federal Government of a parcel of land.

(d) DURATION OF APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a parcel of land described in subsection (a), the approval of the citizens of each political subdivision in which a portion of the parcel of land is located terminates on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the citizens of each political subdivision approve the control of the parcel of land by the Department of the Interior, the Department of Energy, or the Forest Service under that subsection.

(2) RENEWAL OF APPROVAL.—With respect to a parcel of land described in subsection (a), the Department of the Interior, the Department of Energy, or the Forest Service, as applicable, may renew, by referendum, the approval of the citizens of each political subdivision in which a portion of the parcel of land is located.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of

the Senate in order to conduct a business meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 11:30 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. At this mark-up, the Committee will consider pending bills on its shortlist of agenda items.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REID. 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 Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 10 a.m., in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in order to hold a hearing entitled, "Examining Threats and Protections for the Polar Bear."

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Private Fee for Service Plans in Medicare Advantage: A Closer Look."

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 2:30 p.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, in order to consider an original bill entitled, "The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008"; and to consider changes to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Finance.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 11 a.m. in order to hold a nomination hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 3:30 p.m. in order to hold an intelligence briefing on Afghanistan.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the U.S. Department

of Justice" on Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

Witness list

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey, Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. REID. 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 "Holding the Small Business Administration Accountable: Women's Contracting and Lender Oversight," on Wednesday, January 30, 2008, beginning at 10 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING WITH ILLUSTRATIONS OF "COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, UNITED STATES SENATE, 1867–2008"

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 438, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 438) authorizing the printing with illustrations of a document entitled "Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, 1867–2008."

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 438) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 438

Resolved, That there be printed with illustrations as a Senate document a compilation of materials entitled "Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, 1867–2008", and that there be printed one thousand five hundred additional copies of such document for the use of the Committee on Appropriations.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business, it adjourn until 11 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, January 31, and that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the