

growth, urban affairs, and credit, and report thereon from time to time.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES

Procedures formally adopted by the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, February 4, 1981, establish a uniform questionnaire for all Presidential nominees whose confirmation hearings come before this Committee.

In addition, the procedures establish that:

[1] A confirmation hearing shall normally be held at least 5 days after receipt of the completed questionnaire by the Committee unless waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

[2] The Committee shall vote on the confirmation not less than 24 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the hearing unless waived by unanimous consent.

[3] All nominees routinely shall testify under oath at their confirmation hearings.

This questionnaire shall be made a part of the public record except for financial information, which shall be kept confidential.

Nominees are requested to answer all questions, and to add additional pages where necessary.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge National Peace Corps Week and the many U.S. Peace Corps volunteers serving across the globe.

There are currently 22 U.S. Peace Corps volunteers from Wyoming who are serving around the world. These men and women have joined a unique organization of people who are willing to make a personal commitment to lend a helping hand to those in the world who are less fortunate than us.

These Americans often live and work in challenging areas as they partner with their local counterparts to aid development. Peace Corps volunteers have made significant contributions assisting people to improve health care services, create business opportunities, promote education, and develop resources.

Many people in the world today are suffering from political unrest, natural disasters, disease, and a lack of economic opportunities. I commend all the Peace Corps volunteers who leave behind the comforts of home to live in different areas of the world and work to make the world a better place.

The Peace Corps volunteers' reputation as ambassadors of good-will demonstrates the ability of individuals to make a difference in our world. As they work alongside people from different nations, these volunteers have the opportunity to represent America and the values that we hold dear. Additionally, our volunteers' knowledge of the unique challenges people face gives us insight into developing better relations with other countries. I applaud their efforts and dedication.

I would like to recognize the men and women from Wyoming who are currently serving as U.S. Peace Corps volunteers: Lisa J. Balland, serving in Uganda; Thomas P. Burian, serving in Capre Verde; Bria M. Chimenti, serving

in Tonga; Jenna M. Dillion, serving in Senegal; Heather Dixon, serving in Gambia; Seth H. Edmunds, serving in Fiji; Sagar L. Gondalia, serving in Kazakhstan; Larry R. Hanson, serving in Fiji; Daniel J. Healy, serving in Ukraine; Sarah D. Hunt, serving in Romania; Kevin U. Malatesta, serving in Armenia; Joshua C. Marshall, serving in Morocco; Kathryn D. Mcmillan, serving in Costa Rica; Korie C. Merrill, serving in Togo; Jennifer D. Moore, serving in Namibia; Maggie K. Moran, serving in Romania; Michael O. Nielsen, serving in Malawi; Kelly M. Olenyik, serving in Malawi; Brandon J. Perkins, serving in Burkina Faso; Michael S. Quinn, serving in Kazakhstan; Garrett C. Schiche, serving in Thailand; and Brian M. Steen, serving in Kyrgyzstan.

CONGRATULATING HAMILTON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Mr. JOHANNES. Mr. President, I wish to offer my congratulations to Hamilton County, NE, as Progressive Farmer named them the top county in our country to raise a family. As I am sure the senior Senator from Nebraska would agree, this is a community worthy of the honor. With the great beauty, work ethic, and commitment to family and neighbors, truly Hamilton County and all of Nebraska offers visitors and residents a uniquely fulfilling quality of life.

I know the senior Senator from Nebraska has also been to Hamilton County numerous times. Would the senior Senator like to offer his thoughts on the honor this Nebraska county has received?

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I thank the junior Senator from Nebraska. I, too, offer my praises to Hamilton County, NE, and to express how truly fitting this honor from the Progressive Farmer is. Hamilton County has always been a place imbued with the strong values of our great State of Nebraska values of the family, a strong work ethic, and the beauty that the State is known for. Aptly named for our Nation's first Treasury Secretary—Alexander Hamilton—this county holds many of Nebraska's treasures. From Phillips to Hampton, Aurora to Marquette, Giltner to Hordville, and even little Stockham, this county embodies what Nebraska is all about.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rules XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 24, 2009, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on In-

vestigations adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the rules of procedure of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AS ADOPTED

FEBRUARY 24, 2009

1. No public hearing connected with an investigation may be held without the approval of either the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member or the approval of a Majority of the Members of the Subcommittee. In all cases, notification to all Members of the intent to hold hearings must be given at least 7 days in advance to the date of the hearing. The Ranking Minority Member should be kept fully apprised of preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings. Preliminary inquiries may be initiated by the Subcommittee Majority staff upon the approval of the Chairman and notice of such approval to the Ranking Minority Member or the Minority counsel. Preliminary inquiries may be undertaken by the Minority staff upon the approval of the Ranking Minority Member and notice of such approval to the Chairman or Chief Counsel. Investigations may be undertaken upon the approval of the Chairman of the Subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member with notice of such approval to all Members.

No public hearing shall be held if the Minority Members unanimously object, unless the full Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs by a majority vote approves of such public hearing.

Senate Rules will govern all closed sessions convened by the Subcommittee (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate).

2. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chairman, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by him or her, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chairman or a staff officer designated by him or her, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Subcommittee Chairman certifies in writing to the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member that, in his or her opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

3. The Chairman shall have the authority to call meetings of the Subcommittee. This authority may be delegated by the Chairman to any other Member of the Subcommittee when necessary.

4. If at least three Members of the Subcommittee desire the Chairman to call a special meeting, they may file in the office of the Subcommittee, a written request therefor, addressed to the Chairman. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Subcommittee shall notify the Chairman of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chairman fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Subcommittee Members may file in the office of the Subcommittee their written notice that

a special Subcommittee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Subcommittee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Subcommittee clerk shall notify all Subcommittee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the Chairman is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

5. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter.

One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Subcommittee business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that one member of the minority is present.

6. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

7. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, his or her counsel, or any spectator conducts himself or herself in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chairman or presiding Member of the Subcommittee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, his or her representative or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

8. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing, and to advise such witness while he or she is testifying, of his or her legal rights; provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Subcommittee Chairman may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association, or by counsel representing other witnesses, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by staff or during testimony before the Subcommittee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association, or by personal counsel not representing other witnesses. This rule shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event his or her counsel is ejected for conducting himself or herself in such a manner so as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this rule be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

9. Depositions.

9.1 Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Subcommittee shall be authorized and issued by the Chairman. The Chairman of the full Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee shall be kept fully apprised of the authorization for the taking of depositions. Such notices shall specify a time and place of examination, and the name of the Subcommittee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. The deposition shall be in private. The Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness' failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Subcommittee subpoena.

9.2 Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 8.

9.3 Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Subcommittee Members or staff. Objections by the witness as to the form of questions shall be noted for the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Subcommittee Members or staff may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chairman or such Subcommittee Member as designated by him or her. If the Chairman or designated Member overrules the objection, he or she may refer the matter to the Subcommittee or he or she may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after he or she has been ordered and directed to answer by a Member of the Subcommittee.

9.4 Filing. The Subcommittee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded. If it is transcribed, the witness shall be furnished with a copy for review pursuant to the provisions of Rule 12. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in his or her presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the Subcommittee clerk. Subcommittee staff may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from his or her obligation to testify truthfully.

10. Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Chief Counsel or Chairman of the Subcommittee 48 hours in advance of the hearings at which the statement is to be presented unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement. The Subcommittee shall determine whether such statement may be read or placed in the Record of the hearing.

11. A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during the testimony, television, motion picture, and other cameras and lights, shall not be directed at him or her. Such requests shall be ruled on by the Subcommittee Members present at the hearing.

12. An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of his or her own testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection by witness or his or her counsel under Subcommittee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness at his or her expense if he or she so requests.

13. Interrogation of witnesses at Subcommittee hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Subcommittee by Members and authorized Subcommittee staff personnel only.

14. Any person who is the subject of an investigation in public hearings may submit to the Chairman of the Subcommittee questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Subcommittee. With the consent of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee present and vot-

ing, these questions, or paraphrased versions of them, shall be put to the witness by the Chairman, by a Member of the Subcommittee, or by counsel of the Subcommittee.

15. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified, and who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or comment made by a Subcommittee Member or counsel, tends to defame him or her or otherwise adversely affect his or her reputation, may (a) request to appear personally before the Subcommittee to testify in his or her own behalf, or, in the alternative, (b) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or comment complained of. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration and action.

If a person requests to appear personally before the Subcommittee pursuant to alternative (a) referred to herein, said request shall be considered untimely if it is not received by the Chairman of the Subcommittee or its counsel in writing on or before thirty (30) days subsequent to the day on which said person's name was mentioned or otherwise specifically identified during a public hearing held before the Subcommittee, unless the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement.

If a person requests the filing of his or her sworn statement pursuant to alternative (b) referred to herein, the Subcommittee may condition the filing of said sworn statement upon said person agreeing to appear personally before the Subcommittee and to testify concerning the matters contained in his or her sworn statement, as well as any other matters related to the subject of the investigation before the Subcommittee.

16. All testimony taken in executive session shall be kept secret and will not be released for public information without the approval of a majority of the Subcommittee.

17. No Subcommittee report shall be released to the public unless approved by a majority of the Subcommittee and after no less than 10 days' notice and opportunity for comment by the Members of the Subcommittee unless the need for such notice and opportunity to comment has been waived in writing by a majority of the Minority Members.

18. The Ranking Minority Member may select for appointment to the Subcommittee staff a Chief Counsel for the Minority and such other professional staff members and clerical assistants as he or she deems advisable. The total compensation allocated to such Minority staff members shall be not less than one-third the total amount allocated for all Subcommittee staff salaries during any given year. The Minority staff members shall work under the direction and supervision of the Ranking Minority Member. The Chief Counsel for the Minority shall be kept fully informed as to preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings, and shall have access to all material in the files of the Subcommittee.

19. When it is determined by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, or by a majority of the Subcommittee, that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law may have occurred, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member by letter, or the Subcommittee by resolution, are authorized to report such violation to the proper State, local and/or Federal authorities. Such letter or report may recite the basis for the determination of reasonable cause. This rule is not authority for release of documents or testimony.

SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, In mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD:

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Thank you for this opportunity to talk about this issue.

I am not complaining. I have a wonderful life here in Idaho that I could never afford in California. These are the facts of my life.

I am a 46-year-old, divorced female with no children. I am a high school graduate. I am not a minority. I am an American citizen.

Like a lot of Idahoans, I work full time for a low wage. I make \$13.00 an hour without employee benefits. I buy my own health insurance and contribute an inadequate amount to my own IRA. I do own a modest town home in downtown Boise. I have almost paid off my dream vehicle, a medium-sized pickup truck. My monthly expenses are about \$1,200 a month. This does not include groceries, gas, clothes or entertainment. I commute seven miles (round trip) to my job at Hewlett-Packard five days a week. I eat my lunch at my desk. I love my job, I love my home, I love my truck, I love Idaho!

Last year it was really tight. I kept my home heat at 60-65 degrees during the winter. This year it is impossible for me to make ends meet. The cost of gas and food has increased way more than my salary. I am using my credit card, that I had just paid off, to put gas into my truck. Dumb, but I got to have gas to make my life work. We all do!

I have a small "carbon footprint." And [now I am told to conserve!]

I looked at taking the bus, Valley Ride. It would take me one-and-a-half hours to take the bus to work and one-and-a-half hours to go home at the end of the day. My time is too valuable. I would rather go to the gym, ride my bike on the greenbelt, play with my dog, mow my lawn, have a beer with my buds.

I am furious! There is no reason on God's green earth why this should be happening to Americans. We are the greatest nation on earth with vast resources that our Government has taken from us with their [moratoriums!]

Manmade global warming is nothing more than a leftist power grab and I am sick of elitists telling the rest of us how to live our lives! I want to take care of myself, not the government! What we have going on [right

now] is national economic suicide! I appreciate all you try to do for Idaho and the citizens of the United States. You have been a wonderful Senator. I am very excited about having nuclear power plants in Idaho. And I look forward to our State creating more businesses, jobs and revenue by using our state's renewable resources. Any chance Idaho has some coal or oil we could exploit? Free market is the way to go for all of America's needs!

SUZANNE, Boise.

I am sure you have received thousands of responses by now, and I am sure I am not the first to come to you with these concerns and ideas. I just hope that adding our "story" to the mix, might add some additional light to the situation.

Who we are: We are a family of six. Our children are 5 years and almost 3-year-old triplets. We own/operate a dairy in Kuna.

Each trip into Boise costs us about \$10 (round trip) in gas. I used to do all my shopping at Walmart/Costco/Winco since the price of groceries are cheaper there than at our Kuna Paul's store. However, adding in the cost of gas now makes tasks as simple as grocery shopping that much more expensive. We are trying to last up to 2 weeks in between shopping trips, just because of the cost of gas. We are eating more frozen foods and less fresh foods.

Trips to the zoo or park have been completely eliminated.

My husband and I have been volunteering at St. Luke's NICU for the last eight months, but have been finding it hard to justify spending the \$10 in gas each time we go, when we are struggling just to pay for the groceries each month.

At our dairy, the cost to feed our own livestock is astronomically high!! The past several months have all been negative income months due entirely to the cost of grains. As a dairy owner, the milk price is going to have to go higher if dairies are going to survive.

My suggestions: Abolish the ethanol subsidies. It is pushing our food prices higher and higher. The cost of grain to make foods or to feed the livestock (that then becomes our food) is pushing a lot of the grocery bills higher and higher. If we have to, we can start riding bikes, but I do not have much choice when it comes to feeding my family.

We need to become more self-sufficient for our own energy needs. We need to start drilling. We need to start pushing for more electric and hybrid cars. Could we even start a program that would help convert gas engines into hybrids??? I would gladly spend a couple thousand (probably would go on a credit card honestly) right now to convert our family vehicle into a hybrid!

Hopefully you have time to read this e-mail and if you did, thank you so much!

LESLIE.

I am cutting back on fuel and fertilizer as much as I can. But, as a person pushing seventy, being frugal and "making do" is no problem and the challenge can be rather enjoyable—a virtue, not a vice. This seems to not be the case with the "boomers" and their progeny. They do not want to do without and they look for simplistic answers from politicians to a complex issue.

This is what I have seen in my lifetime: A doubling of world population every 25 years; Rising standards of living in large areas of the non-Western European-North American world and rising demand for energy; Finite easily and cheaply accessible oil and gas reserves; Unmistakable evidence of serious environmental damage, in part due to profligate use of fossil fuels; The swing in my lifetime away from efficient affordable pub-

lic transportation and towards an emphasis on private motor transportation, truck haulage, and air travel; A reversal of conservation measures and the encouragement of alternative energy development began in the seventies.

There are no quick fixes. The feds and the states can embark on a serious program of conservation. They can see what the Europeans have done along these lines the past thirty years. They can get really serious about public transportation—especially rail—the most efficient way of moving freight and people on land. More efficient engines as well, and smaller vehicles.

Long term, we need a serious energy strategy that involves alternatives, renewables, and changing lifestyles.

Can it be done? It better be done, but it will take some real leadership on the national level.

CLEVE, Bonners Ferry.

Drill! Build new refineries! Stop cowering to the environmental special interests! Stop selling this country's sovereign nation down the tubes. Thank you for trying to do something about this crisis.

The opportunity to have an open dialog regarding high energy prices is a refreshing change. It is apparent to me that by opening this door you are comfortable in the understanding that elected officials serve the people interest and not visa-versa.

My family is struggling. The increases we are seeing in the cost of energy are directly affected "every" area of our life. We are a simple middle-class family. Prior to this last year, we had seen a steady increase in the cost of living. However the sharp rise over the last year has been so tremendous we have been forced cut way back.

Highlights from the previous 12 months: We have depleted our savings accounts; We have accepted food donations; We have removed a large majority of all non-essential expenses in the home; We are using the economic stimulus check to pay off our tax debt from last year.

Idaho's economy is not on an even par with California, Florida, New York or Washington D.C. Wages are substantially lower here. Yet the cost of living is skyrocketing. This is directly due to the higher energy costs. Currently we do not have an alternate source of power to move our industry. A gallon of milk or a dozen eggs are produced, processed and transported with the use of natural gas, coal and oil. These are the three primary resources used by industrial nations to sustain their viability.

We are losing our viability and limiting our innovation. If you take a look at Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory, you will see that human nature will move up or down based on whether the needs at a given level are being met. The cost of living is forcing our society to circle the wagons. People are spending money on food that, in some cases, has doubled. Basic services that were affordable in years past are not. Small businesses are suffering. Large businesses are losing the support of small businesses all of which has stalling economic growth. Stalled economic growth creates a cascading snowball pushing us closer and closer to the razor's edge. In our country, we have always been considered a nation of opportunity. We are falling backwards. Hope, vision, trust and growth are losing ground to Fear and Anger.

As the cost of fuel go up, manufacturers push their costs onto the markets and the markets just push those cost onto the consumer. Initially the manufacturers and markets do not feel a big squeeze because the consumer adjusts to the market. My wife spent about six months adjusting to the market before we gave up and drastically