

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Tuesday, September 24, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on the S. 1724, Freedom from Government Competition Act of 1996.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on tribal sovereign immunity.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 24, at 9 a.m. to hold a hearing to discuss Social Security reform.

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

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUSPEND THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, pursuant to rule 5, paragraph 1 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give written notice to suspend rule 28 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, titles 3 and 6 of the Budget Act and all provisions of the budget resolutions for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3610, the DOD appropriations bill.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

UNITED STATES' RELATIONSHIP WITH NORTH KOREA

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the Members of Congress who has contributed significantly more than most of us is Congressman TONY HALL.

His emphasis on helping people in need has sharpened the conscience of many policymakers, though it has not sharpened it enough.

He has provided leadership in areas that most Members of Congress ignore, such as Eritrea.

Recently he went to North Korea, and he testified before the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

It is a remarkable insight into the leadership that is needed in regard to the tense situation in Korea.

Nowhere do we have as many troops facing each other as we do between North Korea and South Korea and that

problem is compounded by the fact that there is no communication between the two countries.

Mr. President, I ask that Congressman HALL's remarks be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

TESTIMONY OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TONY P. HALL

Good morning. I want to thank you for inviting me to testify today, Mr. Chairman, and to thank both you and Senator Robb for the focus you are bringing to the United States' relationship with North Korea.

I am convinced that our increasing contacts with North Korea can only benefit America's interests—and make the job of the 37,000 American troops stationed along the border with South Korea easier. And I am hopeful that our contacts also will help the people of North Korea who have suffered in their decades-long isolation, and are hurting badly today.

Our humanitarian work, our progress in dismantling North Korea's nuclear reactor and on missile technology controls, and the unprecedented joint investigation by U.S. and North Korean soldiers into the fate of missing servicemen—all of these mark a dramatic turn-around in a relationship that is in its fifth decade of military tension.

I believe our nation owes special thanks for these changes to former President Jimmy Carter, whose personal diplomacy laid the groundwork for peace two years ago. Senator Paul Simon, who with Senator Frank Murkowski travelled to North Korea at a crucial moment, and who has championed ideas that hold great promise for the future of both countries, also deserves recognition for his work. We ought to build on their success in seizing this historic opportunity.

NORTH KOREA'S FOOD SHORTAGE

The hunger and malnutrition that I saw in North Korea is different than famines I've seen in my visits to other countries. This is the only country I can remember where grown children are shorter than their parents. The stunting is severe, especially when you compare North Koreans to their siblings and cousins in South Korea. And North Korea is the only place I've seen where parents and grandparents are giving their rations to their children in a desperate effort to protect them.

Today in North Korea, people are somehow surviving on rations of little more than 600 calories a day—just seven ounces of grain. That's not two bowls of rice, too much to die on, but not enough to live on and function. They are scrambling to supplement that starvation diet, but clearly having little success.

Nutritional standards say sedentary workers need about 2,000 calories a day to maintain their body weight—but people in North Korea cannot be sedentary. In two weeks, the harvest will be brought in with the aid of few animals and fewer machines. And if there is to be any hope for next year's harvest, the back-breaking work of rebuilding broken irrigation systems, roads, and other infrastructure must be completed.

Adults have lost an average of 30 pounds since January, according to Western aid workers I talked to there. According to our Ambassador to South Korea, James Laney, a North Korean soldier who defected to South Korea in mid-August weighed just 92 pounds. And there are many more measures of the extent of the suffering in North Korea in both the intelligence and in the unclassified reports of U.N. agencies, the International Red Cross, and charities that have visited North Korea.

For me, two things stand out in all of these measurements:

First, the bodies of most of the North Koreans that I saw are exhausted. Simply surviving this winter will be a tremendous physical challenge that many of them will not be able to meet.

Second, North Korea's land appears equally worn out. Food grows on any patch of land available—atop the rice paddy walls, along the shoulders of roads, in rivers' floodplains, on the slopes of steep hills. Land is not permitted to lie fallow, there is no investment in fertilizer and pesticides, deforestation leads to soil erosion that ruins once-productive land—and sorry yields are the result of it all.

North Korea's granaries were last full in 1992—but however self-inflicted the long-term problems may be, the country was overwhelmed by the worst natural disaster in its history last year. And this year, another severe flood struck the breadbasket provinces that produce 60 percent of North Korea's grain.

WHAT IS MISSING

What struck me most was not what I saw—but what was missing. There is an eerie silence in the capital, and in the villages that we visited in more than 20 hours on the road. You don't hear roosters crowing, and the air seems empty of birds—even of gulls in the seaside city of Haeju. You don't see cats, or rats, or cows or goats—or much sign of other animal life. Occasionally, in people's homes I saw dogs, but not a single puppy. According to some aid workers, the sight of a pregnant woman is increasingly rare, and a new maternity hospital never has more than 25 of its 250 beds filled. Certainly we saw no fat people—or anybody that bore much resemblance to their healthier siblings and cousins in South Korea.

Soldiers—and we saw a lot of individual soldiers throughout the capital and countryside—have the same hollow-cheeked look as civilians, and their uniforms hang very loosely on them. That may be the best evidence that most of North Korea's military isn't getting much more to eat than the rest of the people.

All of this added up to a nagging sense that we simply cannot know what is happening in North Korea. Aid workers speak in hushed tones when talk turns to what is happening in the mountains that make up 80 percent of North Korea. They can barely help the 1.5 million children and flood victims covered by the U.N.'s appeal for humanitarian aid; the remaining 20 million people are on their own.

Two American demographers, Nicholas Eberstadt of the American Enterprise Institute and Judith Banister, of the U.S. Census Bureau, have done statistical analysis of North Korea's population—and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a letter for the record that Mr. Eberstadt is preparing. The gist of their finding is that half a million people are "missing." That is either (1) a statistical blip; or (2) a sign of severe changes in the birth and death rates. We cannot know which is true, but I believe the possibility of something that would affect 500,000 people deserves our concern.

NORTH KOREA'S OWN EFFORTS

I also want to comment briefly on the efforts that North Korea is making to ease suffering in its country. Its rations system now feeds the majority of the population, and by all accounts, it is meticulously fair. Ration cards measure out to three decimal points. A U.N. report issued Sept. 9 notes that sometimes there is not enough food to distribute the second of two monthly rations, but people do seem to share equally in the food available.

The system also appears to be exceptionally efficient. The first U.S. flag ship to visit