

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on women's health during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 1997, at 10 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PROTECTION OF AIRBUS
INDUSTRIE

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, the European Community is engaged in the blatant misuse of its authority to review United States mergers shamelessly to protect Airbus Industrie. It has decided that it will use its authority to block the merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. Its rationale is that the combined commercial aircraft company poses too great a risk to Airbus Industrie.

For the past 25 years, America has watched the Europeans pour billions of dollars of subsidies into Airbus Industrie to create what is now without question a highly competitive aircraft company. Airbus Industrie today boasts more than 30 percent of the global market for large jet transports. Its goal is to have 50 percent of the market and it is aggressively pursuing that goal. Many of us were shocked with French President Chirac's shameless pursuit of aircraft orders in China in exchange for the French's Government's commitment to defeat a U.N. human rights resolution.

Airbus Industrie has already destroyed the viability of the Douglas Aircraft Co. Airbus' market share has come largely at the expense of McDonnell Douglas, which last year had only 4 percent of the market. Now the Europeans, in a final blow to Douglas, want the Boeing Co. to divest itself of Douglas Aircraft Co. and put the 14,000 remaining Douglas employees out on the street.

While most Americans will find it inconceivable, the Europeans do in fact have the legal authority to block this American merger. This is true even though neither Boeing nor McDonnell Douglas have significant operations in Europe and despite the fact that our own Government has thoroughly reviewed the merger and approved it without conditions.

The Europeans have disregarded our own exhaustive review process in the United States.

The Boeing Co. has engaged in a good-faith effort to try to address the concerns raised by the European Commission about the merger—but to no avail. Nevertheless, the EC plans to block the merger. This means that Boeing aircraft may well be prevented from being sold in Europe.

From the very beginning, the European merger review proceedings have

been dominated by the political considerations of the Airbus member sales. I warned the President about this in a May letter on this subject. My colleagues in the Senate supported my sense-of-the-Senate resolution on the subject last week.

The United States can no longer stand aside and allow Europe blatantly to protect Airbus at the expense of our own civil aircraft industry and our own American employees. The administration should send a clear signal that it will not allow this type of protectionism to continue and that we will retaliate decisively if the Europeans block the merger.

The European Commission's indifference to appropriate antitrust considerations and its undisguised protectionism was expressed candidly by the EC's Karl Van Miert on Tuesday, July 15 on Belgian radio: "The EC does not want a competitive market, it wants a guaranteed market."•

THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE
RESTORATION OF THE PERMA-
NENT DIACONATE IN PATERSON

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to mark a special anniversary. This year is the 25th anniversary of the restoration of the Permanent Diaconate in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson, NJ. In the Catholic faith, a deacon is a layman who willingly gives his time, talent and treasure to help not only his own church community but, through his work, the entire community. His is a life of service.

Mr. President, I deeply admire the commitment of these lay people to serve others. They bring to mind the words of the great humanitarian, Albert Schweitzer, "The greatest gift we can give to another, is the gift of ourselves."

The work done by the 146 deacons of Paterson's Diocese also reminds me of the long tradition of service which communities of faith have in America. Whether Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or other religion, these communities not only minister to individuals' spiritual needs, but to all of their needs. They may provide tangible support like food and shelter, or simply compassion, counseling, and concern.

Mr. President, I offer my congratulations to the Diaconate of the Diocese of Paterson, and to Msgr. Ken Lasch who, 25 years ago, laid the cornerstone upon which the Diaconate's success has been built. As a native of Paterson, I am pleased that we have these dedicated men in our midst who are serving both their church and our community. •

CELEBRATING THE HISTORY OF
OUR NATION

• Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, many of us returned home to our States to celebrate the Fourth of July and the birth of this great Nation. All across this country, in both urban and rural com-

munities, we joined as one to honor our Founding Fathers and their commitment to freedom as reflected in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Together these two documents form the foundation of our Nation.

It seems most fitting and appropriate to take a moment after we have returned from our Fourth of July activities to take note of two groups of Wyoming students that came to our Nation's Capital recently as part of programs celebrating the history of our Nation and its place in the world.

To celebrate the Constitution, and its effect on our lives as citizens, a team from Central High School in Cheyenne traveled to Washington to participate in a competition entitled "We the People * * * The Citizen and the Constitution." In that event, students from across the United States competed against each other as they demonstrated their remarkable understanding of and sensitivity to the fundamental principles upon which this Nation was founded. They proved that the values that are embodied in our Nation's Constitution still resonate with meaning and importance in our lives today as they serve to fire our children's imaginations and interest in our past.

In the process of preparing for this event, those students learned a lot about the Constitution. I would imagine many of them were surprised to learn that it is truly a living document. Through the years it has been changed and amended to address the problems of a growing democracy. It has weathered every storm, including a Civil War and countless crisis faced by our Nation's leaders. Through it all, it has continued to provide the guideposts we have followed to ensure that our Nation remains strong and free.

It was very gratifying personally to see such attention focused on our Nation's Constitution. That document holds a great deal of meaning to me personally.

I have always drawn inspiration from the words our Founding Fathers used as they drafted the U.S. Constitution. In fact, when I served as the mayor of Gillette, WY, I always had a copy in my coat pocket. I gave copies to the members of the council each year on Constitution Day and every other year we read it as part of our proceedings.

Now that I have been elected to the Senate, I have to say it has new meaning for me. It refers to me. It is my job description. It is not just the basic rules for someone way off in Washington. It speaks directly to me and the purpose I serve as a Member of the Senate, a representative of the dreams, hopes, and ambitions of the people of my home State of Wyoming.

Just a few weeks ago another group came to Washington as part of a program to promote and encourage our children's interest in and enthusiasm for history. We are all familiar with the famous quote of George Santayana,