

meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: "Closing The Legal Loophole for Union Violence."

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a Hearing on Tobacco Settlement during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, TERRORISM, AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Office Building, on: "The Encryption Debate: Criminals, Terrorists and the Security Needs of Business and Industry."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VETERANS MORTGAGES

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, during my tenure as Administrator of the Veterans, Administration a "fall back and rescue" plan was formulated to be of assistance to those veterans with VA guaranteed mortgages which might be burdensome.

The proposal which later became a VA regulation is now, as then, referred to as IRRRL which stands for interest rate reduction refinancing loan.

Many thousands of eligible veterans have already benefited from this legislation during the past 17 years of its existence and the VA personnel involved deserve many thanks for their dedicated interest and help.

My concern is not with the legislation or the Department of Veterans Affairs, but rather with the seeming reluctance of many in the mortgage industry to take a more active posture with regard to its implementation.

I have been told by those who are in the know that the numbers of interested lenders is very small in comparison to the need.

I call upon those companies who service GI mortgage loans to be more receptive and to make known throughout the veterans community the existence of these mortgage "lifelines."

The main features of the IRRRL are the following: First, in most cases the interest rate will be lower, and the payment will be lower. Documentation is at a minimum and no credit evaluation is done; second, refinancing can be

done if the mortgagee is less than 2½ months behind in their payments; and third, the veteran can add up to \$6,000.00 to the mortgage for energy efficient improvements, for example, air conditioning, heating systems, insulation, storm door and windows.

In closing, I also encourage Secretary designate Hershel Gober to intensify the VA's efforts to communicate to veterans information on this very vital and viable tool which is available to them. Further, I hope to enlist in the same effort the extremely valuable services of my good friend, former VA Secretary Jesse Brown, whose knowledge and dedication to veterans is unquestioned.●

HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF  
CARL F. BOOTH & CO., INC.

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the employees of Carl F. Booth & Co., Inc., in New Albany, IN. Each of the company's 44 employees helped construct the wooden case which holds the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address in the newly renovated Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress.

Carl Booth & Co., which produces custom plywood, specializes in providing interior plywood for jets and airplanes. The company has produced plywood for numerous corporate and celebrity jets and Air Force One.

Under the leadership of Carl Booth, the employees of the Indiana wood-working company displayed great dedication and enthusiasm in working on the plywood for the case, which took over 500 man-hours to produce.

We are honored to have such fine workmanship to hold the Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address, two important documents in the history of America. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the employees of Carl Booth & Co. for their contribution to this important project.●

RECOGNITION OF MAYOR BRENDA  
BARGER OF WATERTOWN, SD

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the important work of Mayor Brenda Barger in leading the residents of Watertown, SD, through winter storms and flooding.

Early this year, residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced relentless snowstorms and bitterly cold temperatures. Snowdrifts as high as buildings, roads with only one lane cleared, homes without heat for days, hundreds of thousands of dead livestock, and schools closed for a week at a time were commonplace. As if surviving the severe winter cold was not challenge enough, residents of the Upper Midwest could hardly imagine the extent of damage Mother Nature had yet to inflict with a 500-year flood.

Record levels on the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska forced over 5,000

residents of Watertown, SD, to evacuate their homes and left over one-third of the city without sewer and water for 3 weeks. The headline of the Watertown Public Opinion on April 6 read "Watertown in Peril," and I will never forget the image of homeowners and neighbors, shrouded in a late-season snow storm, sandbagging against the rising waters of the Big Sioux River and Lake Kampeska.

Brenda Barger held Watertown together with her strength and direction. Some 6 weeks prior to major flooding which began on April 4, Mayor Barger initiated efforts to try and minimize the impact of the impending disaster. Mayor Barger brought together local and county officials, volunteer agencies including the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and others, to brainstorm and compile resource lists of expected needs including equipment, people, and funds.

Despite careful planning, on April 5, an unexpected blizzard hit the State, devastating the area. Everything froze, creating further concerns about what was going to happen once the water began flowing again. Mayor Barger camped out in the city's impromptu crisis center around the clock and helped to direct the efforts of a number of local volunteers, prisoners, and National Guard personnel. Mother Nature caused Mayor Barger to make a number of difficult decisions immediately following the April storm, including ordering the evacuation of nearly 5,000 residents, or one-fourth the population, of Watertown and the shutdown of the water treatment plant at Lake Kampeska. In the following days, Mayor Barger secured over 750 portapotties and deployed them on the lawns of those families who could return to their homes. Water trucks were brought in to provide people with a fresh water supply, and Mayor Barger oversaw repairs to the water treatment plant which were completed ahead of schedule.

While those of us from the Midwest will never forget the destruction wrought by this year's floods, I have been heartened to witness first-hand and hear accounts of South Dakotans coming together within their community to protect homes, farms, and entire towns from rising flood waters. Mayor Brenda Barger truly exemplifies the role of a public servant, who, in the face of unimaginable natural destruction, placed the needs of an entire community ahead of personal concern. Now, Mayor Barger is spearheading efforts by Watertown residents to fully repair the damage from this past year and plan for future emergencies.

Mr. President, there is much more to be done to rebuild and repair impacted communities. Mayor Brenda Barger illustrates how the actions of an individual can bring some relief to the victims of this natural disaster. I ask you to join me in thanking her for her selfless efforts and congratulate her on being