

to be the Chief Financial Officer of HUD; Eva M. Plaza, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of HUD for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; Gail W. Laster, of New York, to be the General Counsel of HUD; Jo Ann Jay Howard, of Texas, to be the Federal Insurance Administrator at the Federal Emergency Management Agency; F. Amanda Debusk, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce; R. Roger Majak, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 23, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on the issue of peaceful nuclear cooperation with China.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, October 23, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 23, 1997 at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Government Affairs Committee Special Investigation to meet on Thursday, October 23, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 23, 1997, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, October 23, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is sched-

uled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 633, a bill to amend the Petroglyph National Monument Establishment Act of 1990 to adjust the boundary of the monument; and S. 1132, a bill to modify the boundaries of the Banderier National Monument to include the lands within the headwaters of the Upper Alamo Watershed which drain into the monument and which are not currently within the jurisdiction of a Federal land management agency, to authorize purchase or donation of those lands, and for other purposes.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am not a member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, so I wanted to take a moment to address an issue that was a subject of a hearing in that Committee this morning.

The Chairman of the Committee, Senator JEFFORDS, and my good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Massachusetts, have co-sponsored an important and much-needed piece of legislation, the Employment Non-discrimination Act of 1997. I am an original co-sponsor of that bill.

Mr. President, when I was first sworn in as a United States Senator in 1985, I authored the gay and lesbian civil rights bill. At that time, only five other Senators would join me as co-sponsors of that legislation. In the 103rd Congress, I testified before the Armed Services Committee to lift the ban on gay men and lesbians serving in the military.

I agree with those who testified today before the Labor Committee, including Raymond Smith, the chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, and Herbert Valentine of the Presbyterian Church that ENDA is a solution to a serious problem in our society. I have heard from many Americans who have suffered discrimination in the workplace because of their sexual orientation. It is time for these Americans to have recourse against blatant discrimination, just as Americans who are fired on the basis of their religion, national origin or gender. Massachusetts has recognized the problems of anti-gay and lesbian discrimination in the workplace and already has an ENDA-like law.

Mr. President, last year, I joined 65 of our colleagues in signing a pledge that I would not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in hiring, promotion and firing. I personally will not tolerate discrimination in my office. Like the majority of our colleagues, signing this pledge came easy to me. I have always had openly gay and lesbian staff and they have served the people of Massachusetts with effective and committed distinction.

So, now, Mr. President, I urge our colleagues to live up to the pledge they signed and support this important legislation. It is my hope that the Committee will report the bill out as soon as possible and I call upon the Majority Leader to find time to bring this important legislation to the floor for debate. It was voted on last year and wound up in a de facto tie. This year, I am confident it will pass.

Mr. President, for years, groups like the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, as well as members of the religious communities across this country, have educated us on the need for this bill. They have worked tirelessly with us to improve this legislation, and I applaud their tenacity and appreciate their friendship. They are dogged advocates for justice and fairness.

Voices as eloquent as those of Coretta Scott King and Senator Barry Goldwater have spoken up in support of ENDA. The President of the United States has signaled his approval of the bill. Let us debate it and pass it soon, Mr. President. Let us send a strong message that all Americans matter, and that no one should suffer discrimination in the work place. Let us move forward in the fight for civil rights.●

BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS WEEK

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, Americans from around the country gathered here at the Capitol to hold a rally in conjunction with Brain Tumor Awareness Week. I want to add my voice to those calling attention to this debilitating disease and to the calls for continuing to increase our funding for medical research.

It sounds wrong to call one debilitating disease more important than another. After all, a life-threatening disease is a life-threatening disease. However, as a society, we often get caught up in the rhetoric and publicity surrounding one of these terrible afflictions and forget that, unfortunately, there are a number of other terminal illnesses. While brain tumors do not receive as much press as other terminal illnesses, their impact on the lives of brain tumor patients and their families is equally devastating.

One of those people is a constituent of mine, Ms. Kathy Delledonne-Minutola. She and her husband attended the rally on Tuesday because, four years ago, their son Joseph was diagnosed with a brain stem tumor. The roots of the tumor have wrapped around Joseph's brain stem, a condition which makes removal of the tumor impossible.

Mr. President, there are thousands of people across this country who have been diagnosed with brain tumors, just like Joseph. In fact, each year approximately 100,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a brain