

and Pensions be authorized to meet in Executive Session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 19, 2003. The following agenda will be considered:

S. ____, Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2003

S. ____, Medical Device Technical Corrections Act of 2003

S. 741, Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003 and Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2003 (manager's amendment to be filed)

S. 573, Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act

Presidential Nominations

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, November 19, 2003, at 2:30 a.m., on "Judicial Nominations," in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List:

Panel I: Senators.

Panel II: Williams James Haynes II to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Louis Guirola, Jr. to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi; Virginia E. Hopkins to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; and Kenneth M. Karas to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 19, 2003 at 2 p.m. to hold closed Conference on the Fiscal Year 04 Intelligence Authorization.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent a legislative fellow in my office, Kevin Vranes, be granted the privilege of the floor during the duration of consideration of the conference report on the Energy bill.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Jonathan Epstein, a legislative fellow in Senator BINGAMAN's office, be given floor privileges during the pendency of H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003 conference report and any votes thereupon.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in my office, Ms. Barbara Peichel, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of the Energy bill.

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

Mr. INHOFE. I ask unanimous consent Matthew Griles be granted the privilege of the floor during the pendency of this debate.

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

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to the following fellows in my staff: Robyn Golden and William Rom.

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

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 313, which is at the desk.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 313) to urge the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, in recognition of his significant, enduring, and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace and to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Holiness' inauguration of his ministry as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 313) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

TEMPORARY EXTENSIONS OF THE PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1895, introduced earlier today by Senator SNOWE.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1895) a bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through March 15, 2004, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to support passage of the Small Business Administration Continuation Act of 2003. This bill provides a short-term extension of the Small Business Administration and all of its programs. In particular, it ensures the continuation of the SBA's 504 loan program, Small Business Investment Company program, and other activities currently conducted by the SBA, which must be extended before Congress adjourns this year. I am pleased to be joined by Senator KERRY, the ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, in supporting this bill.

On September 26, 2003, the Senate unanimously approved the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, S. 1375, which I introduced as the chair of the Committee on Small Business. That bill provides for the 3-year reauthorization of the SBA and its small business programs, including the 504 loan program and the SBIC program.

The reauthorization bill will continue the SBA's role in assisting American small business to thrive and grow, through the agency's lending, entrepreneurial development, and government contracting programs and services. Most importantly, it will enable the agency to help small businesses continue creating new jobs for our economy. According to the SBA, for the years covered by the reauthorization bill, an estimated 3.34 million jobs will be created or retained as a result of the reauthorization programs.

While the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act provides for the continuation of these programs, the other body has been delayed in its consideration of legislation to reauthorize the agency. The SBA's programs that rely on appropriations will be continued once the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary appropriations legislation for Fiscal Year 2004 is enacted. However, several of the SBA's programs and activities, like the 504 loan and SBIC programs, do not rely on appropriations. As a result, they are in jeopardy of shutting down without the bill before us today, and that's a result America's small businesses simply cannot afford.

I am confident that we can enact legislation to reauthorize the SBA once the other body has completed work on its version of the bill. In the interim, we must ensure that the SBA can continue to offer the entire range of its programs to our nation's small businesses, which are the driving force behind our current economic recovery. With small businesses comprising 99.7 percent of all businesses in the United States, employing 57 percent of the total private-sector workforce, and accounting for approximately 40 percent of the Gross Domestic Product, they deserve nothing less!

The 504 loan program, one of the agency's flagship lending programs, allows small businesses to obtain long-term, fixed-rate financing to purchase