

at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing entitled, "Does CMS Have the Right Prescription? Implementing the Medicare Prescription Drug Program."

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 8, 2004, at 10:30 a.m., in open and closed session to receive testimony on the Military Implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Review of Current Investigations and Regulatory Actions Regarding the Mutual Fund Industry."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, be authorized to meet on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 11 a.m., in SR-253, for a hearing to consider pending committee business.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing on Anti-Semitism.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 10 a.m. on Judicial Nominations in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Senators.

Panel II: William Duane Benton, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

Panel III: Robert Bryan Harwell, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina; George P. Schiavelli, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; Curtis V. Gomez, to be Judge for the District Court of the Virgin Islands.

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

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, April 8, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. on "Keeping America's Mass Transportation System Safe: Are the Laws Adequate?" in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness List

Panel I: Harry S. Mattice, Jr., United States Attorney, Eastern District of Tennessee, Chattanooga, TN; S. Mark Lindsey, Chief Counsel, Federal Rail Administration, United States Department of Transportation, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Ernest R. Frazier, Sr., Chief, System Security and Safety, National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), Washington, DC; Brian Jenkins, Director, National Transportation Security Center, Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose, CA.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Karen Volker, a foreign policy fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 581, 585, and 597.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Rhonda Keenum, of Mississippi, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, vice Maria Cino, resigned.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Brian Carlton Roseboro, of New Jersey, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Susan Johnson Grant, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Donald Korb, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I might just say for the RECORD that I have appreciated the opportunity to work through some of these nominations. This has been a matter of concern and interest to us for some time. This first installment accommodates some of our needs and I know some of the needs the White House has as well.

I hope we can do more in the coming weeks. This is one indication that we are making some progress.

I am pleased to note that we were able to do this prior to the recess.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2290

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk which is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2290) to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for bodily injury caused by asbestos exposure, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceedings on the measure at this time in order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, many Members have been troubled by the fact that we are, apparently, after all of the work we have made to get to a point where we have a finite list, more extensive perhaps than either of us would like on the FSC bill, we are actually not going to go to the FSC bill; we are going to the asbestos bill.

As the majority leader knows from conversations I have had with him, it is unlikely this legislation will be able to move—not because we do not want to work on a bill that ultimately can become law to address the very legitimate concerns both of us have, all of us have with regard to asbestos, but as we have seen with malpractice, this is not the way to do it.

One would think that perhaps this is just another effort politically that will not have any result legislatively. I am not ascribing motives, but I hope there could be a real bona fide effort to work through the issues prior to the time we force votes on the floor, especially when we have other legislation for which many of us have been working hard to move, including the FSC bill.

Having said that, obviously, I am not in a position to stop the majority leader from moving as he has parliamentarily, and I will continue to express the hope that we can find some constructive solutions that reflect a