

to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, June 24, 2004, at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Building Room 226.

Tentative Agenda

I. Nominations

Claude A. Allen to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit and Michael H. Watson to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio

II. Legislation

S. 1735, Gang Prevention and Effective Deterrence Act of 2003 [Hatch, Feinstein, Grassley, Graham, Chambliss, Cornyn, Schumer, Biden];

S. 1635, L-1 Visa, Intracompany Transferee, Reform Act of 2003 [Chambliss];

S.J. Res. 4, Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States Act of 2003 [Hatch, Feinstein, Craig, Sessions, DeWine, Grassley, Graham, Cornyn, Chambliss, Specter, Kyl];

S. 1700, Advancing Justice through DNA Technology Act of 2003 [Hatch, Biden, Specter, Leahy, DeWine, Feinstein, Kennedy, Schumer, Durbin, Kohl, Edwards]; and

S. 2396, Federal Courts Improvement Act of 2004 [Hatch, Leahy, Chambliss, Durbin, Schumer]

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Aviation be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 24, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., on Security Screening Options for Airports.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, CONSERVATION, AND RURAL REVITALIZATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2004. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the implementation of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 24, 2004, at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 2543, to establish a program and criteria for national heritage areas in the United States, and for other purposes.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 24, 2004, at 2:30 p.m., on H.R. 2608—National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2003.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Steven Wackowski, an intern with the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Pete McAleer, a Defense fellow in Senator GREGG's office, and Brian Glackin, a Defense fellow in Senator COCHRAN's office, be granted privileges of the floor during the consideration of the fiscal year 2005 Defense appropriations bill.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Paul Thanos, a legislative fellow in the offices of MARIA CANTWELL, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of the Defense appropriations bill.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Reb Brownell, a detailee on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, be granted the privilege of the floor throughout the Senate's consideration and voting on the resolution renewing sanctions against Burma.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 218

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 218 is at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 218) to amend title 18 United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

Mr. FRIST. I now ask for its second reading in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV and object to further proceedings on this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

ESTABLISHING A DEMOCRACY CAUCUS WITHIN THE U.N.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 83) promoting the establishment of a democracy caucus within the United Nations.

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

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their support of S. Con. Res. 83, a resolution that I introduced in support of the establishment of a Democracy Caucus within the United Nations. In particular, I thank Senators LUGAR, HAGEL, LIEBERMAN, and COLEMAN for their co-sponsorship of this resolution. I also want to thank Chairman LUGAR for permitting the resolution to come to the floor today.

I am pleased that the Bush administration also supports the establishment of a U.N. Democracy Caucus, and that significant progress was made on this front in Geneva at this year's Commission on Human Rights. In particular, Peru, Romania, East Timor, Poland, Chile, South Korea, India and Italy have been very engaged in collaborative democracy-promotion initiatives. I am encouraged by such joint efforts. The broader the international support for a caucus, the more effective it will be.

The establishment of a U.N. Democracy Caucus is not merely a project supported by Congress and the State Department. It is also endorsed by a broad-based coalition of U.S.-based organizations and advocacy groups such as Freedom House, Human Rights Watch, the American Jewish Committee, the American Bar Association and the Council for Community of Democracies. I also thank them for their work and advocacy on this issue.

The idea of establishing a Democracy Caucus within the United Nations makes extraordinary good sense. The basic principal is this: democratic nations share common values, and should work together at the United Nations to promote those values. We will be more effective in doing so.

Working together with like-minded nations in the United Nations and other multilateral organizations is a logical and practical way to conduct foreign policy. We build coalitions in American politics, in legislatures across the land and here in the Congress. Similarly, we should build coalitions of like-minded states in the United Nations, particularly to bolster global democratic principles, advance human rights, and promote international security and stability.

The administration has recently rediscovered the virtues of working in cooperation with other nations at the United Nations. There we are just one nation, though a very powerful one. We only have one vote, whether in the General Assembly or the Security Council. Other democratic states should be natural allies on many