increase to 25 million by 2010. According to recent projections from the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, if the pandemic spreads at its current rate, there will be 45 million new infections by 2010 and nearly 70 million deaths by 2020. Sub-Saharan Africa has been hardest hit by the disease, with more than 75 percent of the people infected with HIV living in the region.

The U.S. is leading global efforts to combat the pandemic through its $15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and its commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. But the human and economic toll of the HIV pandemic demands that these activities be complemented by accelerated efforts to develop an HIV vaccine. An HIV vaccine would prevent new HIV and AIDS cases, which could save millions of lives and dramatically reduce the negative social and economic consequences of the disease. Yet, HIV vaccine development is still not prominent on national or international public health agendas.

Developing an HIV vaccine is particularly challenging because HIV is one of the most complicated viruses ever identified. In addition, many private sector biotechnology companies have not invested money and expertise in the search for an HIV vaccine. Developing an HIV vaccine, therefore, is unlikely to occur without a well-coordinated and focused global research effort.

The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise is mobilizing such an effort. The Enterprise is an alliance of the world's leading scientists and independent organizations around the world committed to accelerating the development of a preventive vaccine for HIV/AIDS. The Enterprise, like the Human Genome Project, seeks to promote a new level of coordination and information-sharing to address a complex scientific problem. In addition, the HIV Vaccine Enterprise is intended to accelerate progress by promoting international public-private collaboration.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, IAVI, has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Enterprise. The IAVI is an international organization that collaborates with developing countries, governments, and international agencies dedicated to accelerating the development of a vaccine to halt the AIDS epidemic. The IAVI, however, cannot accomplish this task alone. Here in the United States, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation have joined forces to help address the financial problems faced by small biotechnology companies. They founded BIO Ventures for Global Health to help small biotechnology companies address the problems they confront in developing new medical products for poor countries. The wider application of this model would greatly improve the development of vaccines and other medicines aimed at improving health in the developing world.

Under President Bush's leadership, the Members of the Group of Eight Industrialized Nations, G–8, during their meeting at Sea Island last June, endorsed the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. At the meeting, President Bush announced plans to establish a second HIV Vaccine Research and Development Center in the United States, in addition to the one already operating at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Recently, the President announced funding for that second center, the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology, CHAVI, which will become a key component of the Enterprise.

I commend the President's leadership on this critically important issue. The G–8's endorsement of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise is a big step forward in the development of an HIV vaccine. My resolution acknowledges the President's and the G–8's actions towards this goal and urges them to continue to cooperate with other countries, particularly those hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to achieve this important objective.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct its organization meeting for the 109th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Susan Wells at the Rules and Administration Committee on 224–6352.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, February 7, 2005, at a time and location to be determined to hold a business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security, and Allen Weinstein to be Archivist of the United States.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be extended to the following staffers for the duration of S. 5: Harold Kim, Ryan Triplette, Hannibal Kemerer, Nathan Morris, Rita Lari Jocum, Kevin O'Scannlain, Brendan Dunn, and Scott Will, all from the Judiciary Committee.

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

Mr. ALLEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, and after consultation with the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106–286, appoints the following members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS; the Senator from Michigan, Mr. LEVIN; the Senator from California, Mrs. FEINSTEIN; and the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 41, submitted earlier today by Senators KENNEDY, KERRY, and REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 41) congratulating the New England Patriots on their victory in Super Bowl XXXIX.

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

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to congratulate the New England Patriots for winning yesterday's exciting Super Bowl against the Philadelphia Eagles, 24–21.

What a year our sports teams in New England have had. The Patriots won the Super Bowl and the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. It doesn't get much better than that.

The Patriots deserve great credit for another brilliant season. They have shattered the NFL record by winning 21 straight games. The previous record was held by the Miami Dolphins in 1972, who won 15 straight games.

With nine seconds left in the game yesterday, Rodney Harrison intercepted his second pass of the day, clinching the Patriot's second straight Super Bowl and their third Super Bowl championship in 4 years.

All three of those Super Bowl victories were by the same narrow margin—three points. In their two previous Super Bowl victories, they won by last-second field goals. This year, the field