

For further information, please contact Judy Pensabene of the Committee staff at (202) 224-1327.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in open and closed session to receive testimony on current and future world-wide threats to the national security of the United States.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. 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, March 17, 2005, at 11 a.m. to mark up an original bill entitled the Federal Public Transportation Act of 2005.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open Executive Session during the session on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., to consider favorably reporting the nomination of Daniel R. Levinson, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Office Building Room 226.

Agenda:

I. Nominations: William G. Myers, III, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit; Terrence W. Boyle, II, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit; Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina; James C. Dever, III, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina; Thomas B. Griffith, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Paul A. Crotty, to be U.S. District

Judge for the Southern District of New York; J. Michael Seabright, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

II. Bills: Asbestos—S. 378, Reducing Crime and Terrorism at America's Seaports Act of 2005, Biden, Specter, Feinstein, Kyl; S. 188, State Criminal Alien Assistance Program Reauthorization Act of 2005, Feinstein, Kyl, Schumer, Cornyn, Durbin, Specter; S. 119, Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005, Feinstein, Schumer, Durbin, DeWine, Feingold, Kennedy, Brownback, Specter; S. 589, a bill to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays, Cornyn, Leahy.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 17, 2005, for a committee hearing titled "Back from the Battlefield: Are We Providing the Proper Care for America's Wounded Warriors?"

The hearing will take place in Room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Coast Guard be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 17, 2005, at 10 a.m. on Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance/FY 2006 Budget Request in SR-253.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWERS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 17, 2005, at 3 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the posture of the U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mindy Lanie, a sign language interpreter from congressional support services, be granted the privileges of the floor during consideration of the budget resolution.

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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kathleen Strotzman be granted the privilege of the floor during consideration of the budget resolution.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR AND DISCHARGE

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk. Further, that Harold Damelin, PN87, be discharged from the Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Senate also proceed to its consideration.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, 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 en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

David B. Bolton, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries. (New Position)

Joseph R. DeTrani, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks. (New Position)

John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

C. David Welch, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Rudolph E. Boschwitz, of Minnesota, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of services as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION BOARD

George M. Dennison, of Montana, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

James William Carr, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

Kiron Kanina Skinner, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Claude R. Kehler, 6600