

to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Off-Reservation Gaming. The Process for Considering Gaming Applications lands eligible for gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Consolidation in the Energy Industry: Raising Prices at the Pump?" on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Hart Senate Office Building room 226.

Witness list

Panel I: The Honorable Bill Kovacic, Commissioner and former General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC; James Wells, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, United States Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Hartford, CT; R. Preston McAfee, Stanley Johnson Professor of Business, Economics and Management, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA; Tyson Slocum, Acting Director, Energy Program, Public Citizen's, Washington, DC; Tim Hamilton, Founder and Executive Director, Automotive United Trades Organization, Seattle, WA.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "An Examination of the Death Penalty in the United States" on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in SD226.

Witness list

Panel I: Mrs. Ann Scott, Tulsa, OK; Ms. Vicki Schieber, Chevy Chase, MD.

Panel II: Dr. John McAdams, Professor of Political Science, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; Mr. Stephen Bright, President and Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Paul Rubin, Professor of Economics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Jeffrey Fagan, Professor of Law and Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following fellows and interns with the Finance Committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the debate on the tax reconciliation bill:

Mary Baker, Robin Burgess, Tiffany Smith, Tom Louthan, Richard Litsey, Stuart Sirkin, Zachary Henderson, Lesley Meeker, Britt Sandler, and Lauren Shields.

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

RESTRICTING ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 79, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 79) expressing the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains the position calling for the destruction of Israel.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 79) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 79

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.*

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2006 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH"

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 363, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 363) designating February 2006 as "Go Direct Month."

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it's a privilege to join my colleague Senator GRASSLEY in submitting this important resolution commemorating February 2006 as Go Direct Month.

In 2004, the Treasury Department issued over 70,000 checks worth \$61 million that were illegally signed for. The Treasury receives approximately half a million phone calls each year from people having problems with paper checks.

Go Direct encourages Americans to use direct deposit for their Federal

checks, such as Social Security. Under direct deposit, the Federal Government transfers its payments directly to a person's bank account, eliminating the risk of lost or stolen checks. Since 1986, direct deposit has also saved the Federal Government \$5 billion in administrative costs—\$120 million a year for Social Security checks alone.

Now, the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve have launched Go Direct to encourage Americans to protect their Federal benefits and take more control of their money. Go Direct Month, promoted by the Federal Government and by State and local governments and the private sector as well, will inform as many citizens as possible about the advantages of direct deposit and help them adopt direct deposit for the future.

I urge my colleagues to approve this worthwhile resolution and to encourage their constituents to take advantage of this time-saving and problem-avoiding initiative.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 363) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 363

Whereas the Department of Treasury issued over 70,000 checks worth approximately \$61,000,000 that were illegally signed for in 2004;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 500,000 telephone calls each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas the use of direct deposit has resulted in approximately \$5,000,000,000 in savings for the Federal Government since 1986;

Whereas 1 out of every 5 newly eligible Social Security recipients has yet to sign up for direct deposit;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$120,000,000 in annual savings if all federal beneficiaries used direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost effective method of payment because the use of direct deposit—

(1) eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks;

(2) helps protect against fraud; and

(3) provides citizens of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank has launched "Go Direct", a national campaign organized to encourage citizens of the United States to use direct deposit for the receipt of Social Security and other Federal benefits; and

Whereas, by working with financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations, the sponsors of "Go Direct" educate citizens of the United States about the advantages of using direct deposit and assist them during the enrollment process: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, That the Senate—*

(1) supports the goals and ideas of "Go Direct";

(2) proclaims February 2006 as "Go Direct Month";

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector, for promoting February as "Go Direct Month"; and

(4) encourages all citizens of the United States to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of Social Security or other Federal benefits.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 364, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 364) honoring the valuable contributions of Catholic schools in the United States.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 364) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

##### S. RES. 364

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States have received international acclaim for academic excellence while providing students with lessons that extend far beyond the classroom;

Whereas Catholic schools present a broad curriculum that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in the young people of the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States today educate 2,420,590 students and maintain a student-to-teacher ratio of 15 to 1;

Whereas the faculty members of Catholic schools teach a highly diverse body of students;

Whereas more than 27.1 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13.6 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools saved the United States \$19,000,000,000 in educational funding during fiscal year 2005;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The edu-

cational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives." Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops that recognizes the vital contributions of thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the vital role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

#### PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 332, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 332) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that 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. 332) was agreed to, as follows.

##### H. CON. RES. 332

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 1, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 8, 2006, or Thursday, February 9, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

#### STATE HIGH RISK POOL FUNDING EXTENSION ACT OF 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP

Committee be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4519.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4519) to amend the Public Health Service Act to extend funding for the operation of State high risk health insurance pools.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4519) was read the third time and passed.

#### WATER NEEDS OF THE DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 355, S. 1219.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1219) to authorize certain tribes in the State of Montana to enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights to meet the water needs of the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Inc.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1219) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

##### S. 1219

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. TEMPORARY CONVEYANCE OF WATER RIGHTS TO DRY PRAIRIE RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana (referred to in this section as the "Tribes") may, with the approval of the Secretary, enter into a lease or other temporary conveyance of water rights recognized under the Fort Peck-Montana Compact (Montana Code Annotated 85-20-201) with the Dry Prairie Rural Water Association, Incorporated (or any successor non-Federal entity) for the purpose of meeting the water needs of that association, in accordance with section 5 of the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-382; 114 Stat. 1454).

(b) CONDITIONS OF LEASE.—With respect to a lease or other temporary conveyance described in subsection (a)—

(1) the term of the lease or conveyance shall not exceed 100 years; and

(2)(A) the lease or conveyance may be approved by the Secretary without monetary compensation to the Tribes; and