Act of 1965, which restored and protected voting rights, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing;

Whereas the integration of the Armed Forces enhanced the combat effectiveness of the military 60 years ago, and that still holds true to the current day;

Whereas the efforts of the Armed Forces to ensure equality of treatment and opportunity for their personnel significantly assisted in the advancement of that goal for all Americans; and

Whereas, in 2008, members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as commissioned and warrant officers, as senior noncommissioned officers, and as civilian leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the integration of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to ensuring diversity in the military; and

(3) commends African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and service members of all races and nationalities for their remarkable achievements, sacrifices, and contributions to our Armed Forces in all conflicts in United States history in the face of discrimination, hostility, and other obstacles.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public the hearing previously scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Thursday, July 24, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building has been canceled.

The purpose of the hearing was to discuss current policy related to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

For further information, please contact Tara Billingsley at (202) 224–4756 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224–5039.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, ''An Update on the Science of Global Warming and its Implications.''

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.to conduct a hearing entitled ''Energy Security: An American Imperative.''

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 22, 2008, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Improving Performance: A Review of Pay-for-Performance Systems in the Federal Government.''

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Winoka Begay, Max von Bargen, Zach Manning, Erin Griffin, Matt Padilla, Meaghan Stern, Byron Hurlbut, and Jessica Jaramillo, who are interns in my office and in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, be permitted the privileges of the floor today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Andrew Kinard, a fellow in Senator GRAHAM's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Veysey, a congressional fellow in my office, be granted privileges of the floor for the duration of debate on S. 3268.

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

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTEGRATION OF THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 94 submitted earlier today by Senator BROWN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 94) recognizing the 60th anniversary of the integration of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place, as if read.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 94) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 94

Whereas service members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities have fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, on July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ordering the racial integration of the Armed Forces;

Whereas President Truman declared that there should be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the Armed Forces, without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin;

Whereas the United States could not maintain an all-volunteer force without the service of, and critical role played by, service members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities;

Whereas service member diversity brings a unique perspective and experience to the Armed Forces;

Whereas the Armed Forces led the way in social integration prior to the signal achievement of the legal victory in the Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), which rejected separate white and colored schools;

Whereas the Armed Forces led the way in social integration prior to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned discrimination in employment practices and public accommodations, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which restored and protected voting rights, and the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which banned discrimination in the sale or rental of housing;

Whereas the integration of the Armed Forces enhanced the combat effectiveness of the military 60 years ago, and that still holds true to the current day;

Whereas the efforts of the Armed Forces to ensure equality of treatment and opportunity for their personnel significantly assisted in the advancement of that goal for all Americans; and

Whereas, in 2008, members representing a wide diversity of races and nationalities serve in senior leadership positions throughout the Armed Forces, as commissioned and warrant officers, as senior noncommissioned officers, and as civilian leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 60th anniversary of the integration of the Armed Forces of the United States;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the Federal Government to ensuring diversity in the military; and

(3) commends African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and service members of all races and nationalities for their remarkable achievements, sacrifices, and contributions to our Armed Forces in all conflicts in United States history in the face of discrimination, hostility, and other obstacles.

STAR PRINT—S. 3268

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 3268, the Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act of 2008, be star printed with the changes at the desk.

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

TRADEMARK ACT OF 1946 ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3295, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3295) to amend title 35, United States Code, and the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, shall appoint administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is considering legislation today that will leave no doubt about the constitutional propriety of the appointment of administrative patent judges and administrative trademark judges within the Patent and Trademark Office. I thank my cosponsor, Senator SPECTER, for his work with me on this. These judges are currently appointed to their positions by the Director of the PTO. Our bill will change this process, so that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director of the PTO, will appoint these judges, thus bringing the process more clearly in line with the appointments clause of the Constitution. This legislation will also allow the Secretary of Commerce to ratify the appointment of the current judges. A companion bill was introduced in the House.

It is important to ensure that the decisions made by these judges are allowed to stand on their merits, and that they are not nullified by a potential constitutional challenge to the appointment process somewhere down the line. By making this small change to the existing law, Congress can leave no doubt that the appointment of these judges complies fully with the process set out by the Constitution.

I am pleased that the Senate will adopt this measure today, and I hope that the House of Representatives will quickly take it up and pass it so that it can be sent to the President for his signature without delay.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 3295) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3295

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

SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE PATENT JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRADEMARK JUDGES.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE PATENT JUDGES.—Section 6 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking ''Deputy Commissioner'' and inserting ''Deputy Director''; and

(B) in the last sentence, by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Commerce may, in his or her discretion, deem the appointment of an administrative patent judge who, before the date of the enactment of this subsection, held office pursuant to an appointment by the Director to take effect on the date on which the Director initially appointed the administrative patent judge.

''(d) DEFENSE TO CHALLENGE OF APPOINTMENT.—It shall be a defense to a challenge to the appointment of an administrative patent judge on the basis of the judge's having been originally appointed by the Director that the administrative patent judge so appointed was acting as a de facto officer.''.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE TRADEMARK JUDGES.—Section 17 of the Act entitled ''An Act to provide for the registration and protection of trademarks used in commerce, to carry out the provisions of certain international conventions, and for other purposes'', approved July 5, 1946 (commonly referred to as the ''Trademark Act of 1946''; 15 U.S.C. 1067), is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting ''Deputy Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office'', after ''Director,''; and

(B) by striking ''appointed by the Director'' and inserting ''appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Director''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Commerce may, in his or her discretion, deem the appointment of an administrative trademark judge who, before the date of the enactment of this subsection, held office pursuant to an appointment by the Director to take effect on the date on which the Director initially appointed the administrative trademark judge.

''(d) DEFENSE TO CHALLENGE OF APPOINTMENT.—It shall be a defense to a challenge to the appointment of an administrative trademark judge on the basis of the judge's having been originally appointed by the Director that the administrative trademark judge so appointed was acting as a de facto officer.''.

TOM LANTOS BLOCK BURMESE JADE (JUNTA'S ANTI-DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS) ACT OF 2008

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to now lay before the Senate a House message to accompany H.R. 3890.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message:

H.R. 3890

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill (H.R. 3890) entitled ''An Act to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to impose import sanctions on Burmese gemstones, expand the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, expand the blocking of assets and other prohibited activities, and for other purposes'', with the following House amendments to Senate amendments:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta's Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Beginning on August 19, 2007, hundreds of thousands of citizens of Burma, including thousands of Buddhist monks and students, participated in peaceful demonstrations against rapidly deteriorating living conditions and the violent and repressive policies of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the ruling military regime in Burma—

(A) to demand the release of all political prisoners, including 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi; and

(B) to urge the regime to engage in meaningful dialogue to pursue national reconciliation.

(2) The Burmese regime responded to these peaceful protests with a violent crackdown leading to the reported killing of approximately 200 people, including a Japanese photojournalist, and hundreds of injuries. Human rights groups further estimate that over 2,000 individuals have been detained, arrested, imprisoned, beaten, tortured, or otherwise intimidated as part of this crackdown. Burmese military, police, and their affiliates in the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA) perpetrated almost all of these abuses. The Burmese regime continues to detain, torture, and otherwise intimidate those individuals whom it believes participated in or led the protests and it has closed down or otherwise limited access to several monasteries and temples that played key roles in the peaceful protests.

(3) The Department of State's 2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices found that the SPDC—

(A) routinely restricts freedoms of speech, press, assembly, association, religion, and movement;

(B) traffics in persons;

(C) discriminates against women and ethnic minorities;

(D) forcibly recruits child soldiers and child labor; and