

needs of effected families. In fact, current law does not adequately address issues that have emerged over the past 25 years regarding how missing persons and their families are treated by Government officials. S. 256 would implement procedures which foster a sense of trust and credibility between the Government and families of missing personnel, while attempting to ensure fairness to all involved.

Considering the tremendous sacrifices our men and women make when facing combat, maintaining credibility and trust are crucial. Soldiers face the terrible prospect of capture and, in turn, their loved ones face the horrible possibility of intense anguish and heartache. We must assure our armed services personnel and their civilian counterparts that the United States will do everything possible to return them home safely in the event they turn up missing in action. At the same time, they must also be assured that more open and fair procedures will be established to determine their exact status. S. 256 takes concrete steps to achieve these objectives.

There are, however, some issues with the bill that I think still need to be reviewed. For instance, S. 256 restricts identification of recovered remains to licensed practitioners of forensic medicine. Utilization of personnel in disciplines other than medicine which may be appropriate are not permitted. According to DOD, such a requirement would be unreasonable during combat operations or on the battlefield. Moreover, as this legislation would be retroactive to World War II, DOD may be required to review thousands of cases.

The Defense Department has indicated that it does not have the personnel or budget to handle such a workload. These are some issues that I hope the Senate Armed Services Committee will look into when reviewing this legislation.

Overall, I believe that S. 256 is an important and noteworthy bill. The Government has been perceived as being unresponsive to the needs of families whose loved ones are classified as missing in action. This legislation would safeguard the rights of missing armed service members while addressing the concerns of their effected families and the Federal Government. I am pleased to cosponsor the Missing Service Personnel Act.●

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1995

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in recess until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 1995; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then immediately resume consideration of S. 534, the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the Solid

Waste Disposal Act tomorrow. Further amendments are expected to the bill, therefore Senators should anticipate rollcall votes throughout Thursday's session of the Senate, and a late night session could occur with votes into the evening. A cloture motion was filed on the substitute this evening. It is the hope of the leader, Senator DOLE, that the Friday vote could be vitiated if an agreement can be reached to conclude the bill by Friday. Otherwise, a cloture vote will occur Friday morning.

APPOINTMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h-276k, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate delegation to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group during the first session of the 104th Congress, to be held in Tucson, AZ, May 12-14, 1995: the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY]; the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI]; and the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON].

RECESS UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:08 p.m., recessed until Thursday, May 11, 1995, at 9:30 a.m.