

Natural Resources to receive testimony regarding S. 1844, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to direct a study of the opportunities for enhanced water based recreation and for other purposes.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, June 13, 1996, it will begin at 9:30 a.m., and will take place in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call James P. Beirne, senior counsel or Betty Nevitt, staff assistant.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that the hearing scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to receive testimony regarding S. 1804, a bill to make technical and other changes to the laws dealing with the territories and freely associated States of the United States, amendment No. 4039 and oversight into the law enforcement initiative in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, have been postponed from Tuesday, June 25, 1996, to Wednesday, June 26, at 9:30 a.m. and will take place in room SD-336 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call James P. Beirne, senior counsel or Betty Nevitt.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, in executive session, to mark up a proposed SASC amendment to S. 1718, the intelligence authorization bill for fiscal year 1997, and to vote to report S. 1718 to the Senate.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. 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, June 6, 1996, to conduct a hearing on S. 1317, the "Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1995."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be allowed to meet during the Thursday, June 6, 1996, session of the Senate for the purpose of conducting an executive session and markup.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous

consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, June 6, 1996, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in room SD-215. Most-favored-nation renewal for China.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 6, 1996, 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, June 6, at 10 a.m., for a hearing on "Oversight on IRS Financial Management."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 6, 1996, at 5 p.m. to hold a closed markup on the DOD authorization bill.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 6, 1996, at 10 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 6, 1996, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider S. 1703, a bill to amend the act establishing the National Park Foundation.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAMILY PROTECTION ACT

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague and friend the Senator from Maryland, Senator MIKULSKI, in introducing legislation to correct an inequity that exists in our Social Security system.

The Social Security Family Protection Act that we are introducing today

expands upon legislation I have introduced since 1992 which calls for the prorating of Social Security benefits in the month in which the recipient dies. Currently when a Social Security beneficiary dies—regardless of whether it is the first day of the month or the 29th day of the month, his or her last monthly benefit check must be returned to the Social Security Administration. The current system ignores the fact that the beneficiary runs up expenses during that last month and that the survivors are left to pay for those expenses, without the assistance of the Social Security check. In many cases, the loss of this benefit causes serious financial problems for the surviving family members because they are unable to financially subsidize the expenses accrued by the late beneficiary in their last month of life.

My original legislation prorates the Social Security benefit based on the date of death and allows the check to go to the surviving spouse. Under the Social Security Family Protection Act, the beneficiary's check will be prorated and it will go to the surviving family members. Under the prorated system in the bill, if the beneficiary dies before the 15th, the family will receive 50 percent of the benefit, if the beneficiary dies after the 15th, the family will receive the entire check. The expansion of this bill is based on Senator MIKULSKI's own family experience with Social Security after her widowed mother died, at the end of the month.

The Social Security Family Protection Act will correct the inappropriate assumption in current law that a beneficiary has not incurred expenses during his or her last month of life. I know that my colleagues have heard, as have Senator MIKULSKI and I, from constituents who have lost a husband or wife, father or mother toward the end of the month, received the Social Security check and spent all or part of it to pay the bills only to receive a notice from Social Security that the check must be returned. Under our bill, the surviving family members—whether it is a spouse, a son, or a niece—would be able to use the check to help pay the final bills incurred by their loved one.

I would like to read a part of a letter I received from a constituent about the experience of his family when his brother-in-law died. This letter, along with Senator MIKULSKI's own experience, serves to highlight why this bill is necessary.

On February 29, 1996 at 9:20 p.m. He passed away. The way I figure it, the month of Feb. has 696 hours in it. He was alive for 693 hrs and 20 min. of the month, missing a full month by 2 hours and 40 min. Or to put it another way, he was alive for 99.99617 percent of the month missing a full month by 0.0038314 percent. With this evidence in hand, the SSA then decided that his check for the month of Feb. had to be returned to them. Unfortunately, his debts for the month didn't disappear just because he failed to live the extra 0.0038314 percent of the month.

And since they waited till April to let anyone know of this policy, we paid his out-

standing bills with this money. Now they want their money back. . . . I really don't expect to see this resolved to my benefit, but it would be nice to see some kind of pro-rating system put into place for the rest of the people who are going to encounter this ghoul practice. These people have, at this time, no recourse what-so-ever in this matter.

I know that my colleagues have all received letters like this. For many of these people that Social Security check is the only financial resource available to deal with the costs incurred during their loved one's last days of life. Without it, they are left struggling to find the money to pay back the Social Security Administration.

I believe that pro-rating Social Security checks for the month of death provides a solution to what is an unfair situation and I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this bill.●

TRIBUTE TO HERMAN STAROBIN

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, it is a fortunate man who can know at the end of his life that he not only earned the respect of others, but that he dedicated himself to a cause in which he believed. Herman Starobin was certainly one of those men. He died recently at the age of 75, having led a full and inspirational life. Herman was a longtime friend of mine, whose compassion for and dedication to the American worker set an example for us all. A true renaissance man, he distinguished himself in many fields over the course of his lifetime.

During the Second World War, Herman covered the European theater as a freelance journalist. After the war, he took over the family business from his father, and manufactured steel doors. While running the business Herman studied economics at New York University, where he went on to earn a doctorate. In 1969, he joined Harman Industries as corporate economist, and eventually rose to the presidency. Along the way, he garnered the well-deserved reputation as an expert on international trade.

Herman's experience at Harman Industries left an indelible impression on him. It led him in 1984 to pursue his next career with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, where he fought valiantly for the future of American working men and women. At the time Herman had joined Harman Industries, the United States was the preeminent manufacturer of consumer electronics, but when he left 15 years later, the United States had lost its lead in manufacturing. Herman had witnessed the devastation of communities and tearing asunder of families that resulted from the deluge of imports, and that lit the fire under him. His firsthand experience and knowledge led him to devote the rest of his life to fighting to save our manufacturing base.

In his position as Director of Research for the I.L.G.W.U., Herman was

at the forefront of every major trade debate of the last decade. When Herman spoke, he spoke with authority. He did not live in the esoteric world of economic modeling; he possessed the conviction of one who understands how the real world operates in this era of global competition.

We will miss his vigor, his humor, his encyclopedic knowledge and his endearing charm. On behalf of Peatsy and my staff, I would like to express our deepest sympathies to his wife Carol and his daughter Christina. Herman was a true champion of the people, and it was an honor to have known him.●

NATIONAL ARBORETUM OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I was pleased this morning to honor the work of the Agricultural Research Service and the U.S. National Arboretum by planting a newly developed disease-resistant American elm on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. Joining me was Dr. Floyd Horn, Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service; Larry Coughlin, President of the Friends of the National Arboretum and former Congressman from Pennsylvania; my good friend, fellow tree junkie, and liberally utilized advisor, Dr. Tom Elias, Director of the National Arboretum; and Dr. Denny Townsend, the scientist who has spent a lifetime studying and developing new trees for cities and towns and the person responsible for developing this new American elm.

I also want to thank the Architect of the Capitol, Mr. William Ensign and the Landscape Architect in his office, Mr. Matthew Evans for their professional assistance in facilitating this event.

The Dutch elm disease has ravaged our native American elms for over 65 years and has largely eliminated these magnificent trees from cities and towns throughout the eastern and Midwestern United States. But now, with the help of Dr. Townsend, and the National Arboretum, we stand a great chance of seeing a return of the stately and valuable American elm.

I am delighted to be the congressional sponsor of the tree planting ceremony to honor the many accomplishments of the National Arboretum and the ARS in their contributions to the city and town landscapes in the United States.

The purpose of the ceremony was to recognize the National Arboretum of the Agricultural Research Service. Over 645 new and improved varieties of ornamental and floral plants have been developed and released. Truly a remarkable record. The Arboretum has given us hundreds of Glen Dale hybrid azaleas, several flowering pear trees, the very popular and widely grown hybrids and selections of crape myrtles and viburnums, a disease resistant sycamore suitable for city streets, new red maples, numerous hollies and magno-

lias, and now a series of new elms including Valley Forge and New Harmony.

There is no question that the Arboretum has contributed greatly to the growth of the nursery and floral industries in the U.S. Their introductions, releases, and discoveries have helped to make the green industries the number one growth industry within Agriculture in America.

I am especially proud of the new cooperative agreement recently entered into between the Arboretum and the University of Missouri. On February 7, 1996, a memorandum of understanding was signed to establish a U.S. National Arboretum Midwest Plant Research and Education Site at the Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center in New Franklin, MO.

The new program will provide significant research and educational opportunities for all of us in our mission to discover, develop, and disseminate knowledge for the stewardship and sustainable use of human and natural resources. With this in mind, our planting at MU will be arranged to enable visitors, such as homeowners, and nurserymen to make easy comparisons between selections for their use. This relationship with the Arboretum will provide practical benefits to many ordinary Americans, while providing the research community at Missouri access to numerous vegetative types that can be used for scientific study and educational purposes. In Missouri, we are very excited about this new relationship with the Arboretum.

I offer a hearty congratulations to Dr. Horn, Dr. Elias, and Dr. Townsend. Our country is grateful for people like you and your work in developing new and better trees, shrubs and other flower plants for the benefit of our national landscape and our environment.●

BORDER DRUG PROSECUTIONS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago the Senate agreed to an amendment to the budget resolution urging the Attorney General to ensure that drug prosecutions along the United States-Mexico border are vigorously prosecuted.

In the interest of time and cooperation in moving the budget forward, I did not oppose the amendment. However, I strongly disagreed with several findings which imply that the current U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California routinely failed to prosecute major drug cases. The source of information for those findings was an article in the Los Angeles Times that made several dubious claims about drug prosecutions in the Southern District.

After the Senate passed the amendment, the Los Angeles Times published a lengthy correction that retracted many of the charges made in the original article. Specifically, the correction