

have the opportunity to do so again this year.

At a time when we are exposed to a constant stream of violence, profanity, and immorality—both through the media and in every day life—the issue of character is of vital importance. Those of us in this Chamber spend a great deal of time trying to develop ways to improve the Nation. I can think of few things we could do to better achieve this goal than to emphasize the importance of character to younger generations.

Those of us in positions of leadership, especially in the Government, have a special duty when it comes to character. Whether we realize it or not, we are role models and we have a duty to demonstrate those same attributes of character—trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, justice and fairness, caring, and civic virtue and citizenship—which National Character Counts Week highlights. Unfortunately, far too many Americans have come to believe, wrongly in most cases, that these qualities no longer exist in the Government. I urge all of my colleagues to begin today to make that extra effort to show the people we serve that the faith they demonstrated when they voted for us has not been misplaced. In the words of President George Washington, "Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair."

Mr. President, I recently chaired an Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee hearing in which the issue of character was prominent. During the hearing I was deeply disturbed to hear that the lack of character, values, and discipline is making it harder and harder for the Armed Forces to recruit the high quality people we need to serve in our military. Testimony supplied at the hearing indicated that an ever-increasing number of potential recruits are unacceptable, in terms of ethics, education, and values, for the armed services. I am not talking about difficult kids who simply lack discipline, the military has always done a fine job handling those recruits. I am talking about young people who have no respect for authority, no respect for their peers, no respect for our society, and often, no respect for themselves. As a result, they lack basic values such as compassion, honesty, and integrity. Our military commanders cannot be expected to instill those kind of values in individuals who have lacked them throughout their entire lives. That process must begin at birth and in the home.

Mr. President, with this resolution, we are taking a step forward in trying to teach younger generations about the importance of character. I am pleased to note that schools, churches, and civic organizations around the Nation are also seizing the initiative on this important issue. But our efforts, whether on the national or local level, must not end here. Actually, to be more precise, our efforts must not begin here. While there are certainly things we can do as a government, or as a community, to teach character to

young people, these lessons must begin at home. We cannot hope to improve the overall character of the Nation unless the fundamental values described in National Character Counts Week are instilled in the home. No amount of moral instruction from outside the home can replace the guidance of a loving and supportive family.

Recognizing a national week to stress the importance of character is but a small step in addressing the crisis of ethics the Nation faces. At the same time, it is an important step which I believe all of us should support. I would like to thank Senator DOMENICI for his continued leadership on National Character Counts Week, and urge my colleagues to cosponsor the resolution.

NOTICE OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, on Thursday, March 20, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. to hold an oversight hearing on the operations and budget of the Congressional Research Service and the Library of Congress.

For further information concerning this hearing, please contact Ed Edens of the Rules Committee staff at 224-6678.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding agriculture research reauthorization.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, 1997, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategies and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1998 and the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, for purposes of conducting a Full Committee Business Meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this Business Meeting is to consider S. 104, to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to address the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss needs, requirements and innovative programs that will ensure the Park Service will continue to meet its many responsibilities well into the next century.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 13, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, March 13, 1997, beginning at 2 p.m. in room SD-215.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Committee on the Judiciary requests unanimous consent to hold an executive business meeting on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 10 a.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Government Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services to meet on Thursday, March 13, at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing on "National Missile Defense and Prospects of United States—Russia ABM Treaty Accommodation".

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 10 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on the nomination of Anthony Lake to be Director of Central Intelligence.

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

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Committee on Printing be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, beginning at 2 p.m. until business is completed, to hold an organizational meeting of the Joint Committee on Printing and an oversight hearing on the Government Printing Office.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, March 13, at 9:20 a.m., hearing room SD-406, on the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA] and program eligibility.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Operations of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MERCHANT MARINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine be authorized to meet on March 13, 1997, at 2 p.m. on the future of intercity passenger rail service.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMITMENT TO INVEST IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, as a nation we have a deep commitment to a decent home and suitable living environment for every American family. Housing is the cornerstone for healthy communities, a vibrant economy, and a competitive nation. Although we have significantly improved housing conditions in the last 60 years, we still have a long way to go. The latest figures in HUD's Report to Congress on the worst case housing needs estimate that 5.3 million very low-income renter households pay more than half of their income in rent or live in poor-quality housing. They receive no help. Many of those people are elderly or people with disabilities.

Today, four of the leading non-profit affordable housing producers—The Enterprise Foundation, LISC—the Local

Initiatives Support Corp.—Habitat for Humanity International, and the National Neighborworks Network—are committing to a \$13 billion investment in low-income communities across the country over the next 4 years. Each have built successful partnerships, leveraging both public and private resources. These partnerships have been critical in supporting local nonprofits to not only build affordable housing but also provide services and encourage economic development to revitalize these neighborhoods. The success of these organizations reverberates in low- and moderate-income communities across the country as they address our widespread affordable housing needs. Their work is supported by Federal programs such as HOME, the Community Development Block Grant, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

The Enterprise Foundation, based in Columbia, MD, is a true success story in the affordable housing industry. Founded by Jim Rouse in 1982, Enterprise has raised and committed more than \$1.8 billion in grants, loans, and equity to finance the development of 61,000 affordable homes. They have a number of initiatives including the Enterprise Social Investment Corp. [EISC] which works with 176 major American corporations to help them find new ways to invest in affordable housing. Much of this activity has been made possible by the low-income housing tax credit. In addition, Enterprise, along with Fannie Mae, has created the Cornerstone Housing Corp., a nonprofit that buys and preserves large blocks of multifamily rental housing for low-income families. Enterprise also runs an intensive training program to assist nonprofit organizations in increasing their technical and management abilities.

Habitat for Humanity International, since 1976, has provided approximately 55,000 homes through 1,336 local affiliates across the country. Using volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations, Habitat builds new homes and rehabilitates existing homes. An average three-bedroom Habitat home costs approximately \$38,300, making homeownership for many low-income families a reality.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation, established in 1979, supports 1,400 community development corporations throughout the country. This partnership has created over 64,000 homes and 9.6 million square feet of commercial and industrial space.

Neighborworks is a network of local resident-led partnerships supported by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, a public nonprofit chartered by Congress in 1978. The Neighborworks Network has produced 38,831 units of affordable housing since its inception and in the last 5 years has leveraged \$1.5 billion in investment within communities.

In Maryland, I have seen these partnerships work. The Enterprise Founda-

tion, along with its subsidiaries, have developed more than 3,700 units of affordable housing and have committed more than \$12.3 million in loans and \$90.3 million in equity. In Sandtown-Winchester, Enterprise's Neighborhood Transformation Program has rebuilt more than 700 abandoned homes through a comprehensive community revitalization effort that works in partnership with local residents and the city of Baltimore. Neighborworks has three neighborhood housing services affiliates in Maryland—in Baltimore, Salisbury, and Cumberland. Between 1994 and 1996 alone these three Neighborworks affiliates produced over 600 units of affordable housing and leveraged over \$24 million in investments within these Maryland communities. Habitat for Humanity has 16 affiliates in Maryland which have built 89 new homes and rehabilitated another 227 homes.

Today these four organizations are challenging themselves and challenging us to continue our successful partnerships through the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. These are programs I have supported and programs which have been critical in the production of affordable housing. The HOME Investment Partnership, for example, is an initiative I championed. HOME provides flexible grants to States and units of general government to implement local housing strategies designed to increase homeownership for low-income people. By requiring a 25 percent match, HOME encourages the public-private partnerships that have proven so successful in the production of affordable housing.

Mr. President, I commend the work of these organizations and applaud Enterprise, LISC, Habitat, and Neighborworks for their commitment to invest \$13 billion in our low-income communities. I fully support our continued role in this effective and successful partnership through Federal programs like HOME, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, and the Community Development Block Grant and urge my colleagues to do the same. This is an excellent step in the right direction, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to highlight the work of these organizations and the Federal programs that support them. ●

A PROMISING DAY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND OUR NATION'S COMMUNITIES

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today four of this Nation's most remarkable nonprofit organizations are announcing the largest private sector investment in our Nation's affordable housing of all time. The Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Habitat for Humanity, the Enterprise Foundation and the National NeighborWorks Network have joined together and pledged to create 13 billion dollars' worth of housing over the next 4 years. This investment in