

to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 12) expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to the collection on data on ancestry in the decennial census; as follows:

In the preamble, in the fifth clause, insert “, but is not intended to be used for racial preference programs” before the colon.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my support as a co-sponsor to S. Con. Res. 12. This resolution expresses the sense of the Congress that the decennial census should collect data on the ancestral backgrounds of all Americans. Ours is a nation of immigrants, of people with many different ethnic origins and backgrounds. People came here from around the world to become a part of a nation of opportunity and freedom. They did not come here to forget who they are and where they came from.

The Census Bureau has collected information on ancestry and ethnic composition in the past two decennial censuses. Thus, it collects the only complete information on the ethnic makeup of the United States and provides very useful data pertaining to numbers, household income, and educational status of Americans from numerous backgrounds. This data, in turn, is used by a wide variety of people and organizations in both the public and the private sector—including researchers, businesses, community organizations, ethnic institutions, and policymakers.

It is important to note that the ancestry data does not relate in any way to questions of race as defined by civil rights statutes, and therefore is not utilized for preference programs. To make this point crystal clear, I have offered an amendment to S. Con. Res. 12 stating that this data is not intended to be used for racial preference programs.

When the Census Bureau approaches Congress for approval of its recommendations for the 2000 Census, I and my colleagues who co-sponsored this resolution hope that the ancestry question will be included in the recommendations and contained on the long form the Census Bureau asks Americans to fill out.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on March 19, 1997, at 2 p.m. on PRO-CODE (S. 377).

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

##### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary would request unanimous consent to hold a hearing on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 2 p.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Building, on “What Works: The Efforts of Private Individuals, Community Organizations, and Religious Groups to Prevent Juvenile Crime.”

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

##### COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Food and Drug Administration reform, during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 9:30 a.m.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. NICKLES. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs would like to request unanimous consent to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to receive the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans. The hearing will be held on March 19, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, in open session, to review the status of acquisition reform in the Department of Defense.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on March 19, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. on universal service.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, at 2 p.m. in open session, to receive testimony on the President's budget request for the operation and maintenance, spare parts, and ammunition accounts for fiscal year 1998.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Com-

mittee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 1997, in open session, to receive testimony 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.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be granted permission to conduct a hearing Wednesday, March 19, 9:30 a.m., hearing room (SD-406), on the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act [ISTEA] and environmental programs and statewide and metropolitan planning.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### FAMILY HERITAGE PRESERVATION ACT OF 1997

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, as a co-sponsor of S. 75, the Family Heritage Preservation Act, I urge my colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure before more family businesses and farms are lost.

They say the only things that are certain in life are death and taxes. The Government has done a perverse job of combining the two in the Federal estate and gift taxes and the tax on generation-skipping transfers, known as the death taxes. These are the taxes assessed on assets passed from one generation to another, such as family businesses, ranches, and farms. The tax rate starts at 37 percent and quickly rises to a whopping 55 percent, often forcing the liquidation of assets just to pay the tax.

S. 75, introduced by Senator KYL, will repeal the death taxes. It is clear that these taxes do more harm than good, raising only 1 percent of Federal revenues but consuming 8 percent of annual savings. What's more, enforcement and compliance with these taxes takes up 65 cents for each dollar collected. The effects of the taxes on the economy are equally stark: Over an 8-year period without the taxes, the gross domestic product would have been \$80 billion higher and 228,000 more jobs would have been created.

These death taxes punish hard work and wealth accumulation and drive many family businesses into the ground by forcing them to sell assets to pay the tax. Family farms are hit especially hard—over 90 percent of farms and ranches are sole proprietorships or family partnerships, subjecting most to the taxes when ownership is transferred.

I want to note that S. 75 is endorsed by a broad range of small business groups as well as the American Farm Bureau Federation. I thank Senator KYL for his leadership on this issue. •