

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 4, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

##### COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee Special Investigation to meet on Thursday, September 4, at 10 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHTS AND THE COURTS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 4, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing in room 226, Senate Dirksen Building, on: "Conserving Judicial Resources: A Review of the Judicial Allocations for the Second and Eighth Circuit Courts of Appeal."

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### MARIE BLUM RECEIVES HONORS FROM NATIONAL INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, with the help of a telesensory screenpower Braille display and a Braille tape on the phone, Marie Blum takes hundreds of customer reservations for Ramada Hotels each day. Blind since birth, Marie's perseverance has brought her to a successful career as a reservations agent for Hospitality Franchise Systems in Phoenix, Arizona.

"If people would just apply themselves," says Marie, "they might surprise themselves at what they can really accomplish." This philosophy and Blum's exemplary work performance brought her recognition from National Industries for the Blind (NIB) as the 1997 Private-sector Employee of the Year.

Blum, 46, sought to reenter the work force in 1994 upon the death of her husband. Previously a homemaker, Blum needed a way to support both herself and her teenage daughter. She sought training at the work adjustment program at Arizona Industries for the Blind in Phoenix, where she assembled, collated, and packed various products. Just three months later, armed with confidence and new skills, Blum was hired by Laboratory Environmental Support, Inc. where she did production and packaging work.

A year later, Blum decided to change careers and attended a 10-week unpaid customer service training program offered by Discover Card in conjunction with the group Business Organization Office Services Training (B.O.O.S.T). Again armed with new skills, Blum used her training to land her current job at Hospitality Franchise Systems.

The Private-sector Employee of the Year award is given annually by NIB. The award recognizes outstanding individuals who receive training and work experience in an NIB associated agency and then enter careers in the private sector.

National Industries for the Blind is a not-for-profit corporation whose mission is to enhance the economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment. There are 119 independent industries throughout the United States, including Arizona Industries for the Blind, that are associated with NIB. Industries associated with National Industries for the Blind employ people who are blind in manufacturing, office, supervisory, telecommunications, executive positions and other careers. Products and services are provided by NIB-associated agencies to the federal government under the guidelines of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c). These industries also provide vocational training to people who are blind that provides them with the necessary skills to obtain gainful employment within the private sector. ●

#### CONGRATULATING THE SOUTH MISSION VIEJO LITTLE LEAGUE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the South Mission Viejo Little League team, the U.S. national champions, for their outstanding 1997 season. All Americans, and all Californians, are very proud of them.

The Little League World Series has become a national tradition. Every year, the best Little Leaguers from all over the world come to Williamsport, PA to compete in the world championship. Participants leave with lifelong memories and lasting friendships.

The journey to the Little League World Series is a rigorous one. It demands the highest levels of teamwork, talent, and perseverance. South Mission Viejo reached the World Series by winning 21 of 22 games over a 3-month stretch against the toughest competition in the United States.

Manager Jim Gattis and coaches Allen Elconin, and Ed Sorgi guided these 11- and 12-year-olds first through the Division 55 tournament in San Clemente, then through the sectional playoffs in Santa Ana, and finally through the Division 2 playoffs in La Puente to determine the southern California champions. After winning all three of these tournaments, South Mission Viejo was on their way to San Bernardino, the site of the western regional championship.

After trouncing New Mexico 11-1, South Mission Viejo went on to defeat Arizona and Oregon to reach the western regional semifinals—a rematch with Oregon. A 3-run home run in the top of the fourth inning gave South Mission Viejo a 11-1 lead, and the game ended under the league's 10-run mercy rule.

The final game, against the team from Sunnyvale, CA, was a classic pitching duel. South Mission Viejo pitching rang up 11 strike-outs while Sunnyvale countered with 7 of their own. But in the end, South Mission Viejo squeezed by with a 2-1 victory, earning them a chance to compete in the Little League World Series.

They dominated the tournament from day one, winning all three of their first-round games. In the second game, against Dyer, IN, South Mission Viejo once again displayed the depth of its pitching talent. Three teammates nearly made Little League World Series history by pitching a combined perfect game—the pitching staff missed scoring a no-hitter by a single in the last inning.

The game for the national championship was a rematch of a first-round game against Bradenton, FL. It was another typical South Mission Viejo victory, a mix of consistent hitting, solid fielding, and strong pitching. Their victory earned South Mission Viejo the right to compete in the world championships.

The final game was played before 37,000 fans and an international television audience. As most Americans know, South Mission Viejo jumped to an early lead, only to fall to a heart-breaking rally in the last inning by Guadalupe, Mexico. For only the second time in 3 months, South Mission Viejo lost a baseball game.

In defeat, as in victory, South Mission Viejo represented our Nation with honor and dignity. They played hard and they played fair, earning the respect of Americans everywhere.

But they couldn't have done it without the unflagging support and enthusiasm of their parents, their families, and the thousands of volunteers who put so much time and effort into making Little League a reality. These people are at the heart of the success of the Little League—not just in Mission Viejo but all across the nation. It is not an easy job, and too often goes unheralded. I applaud the commitment of the Mission Viejo community to their team, and I congratulate them on a job well done.

I wish every member of the South Mission Viejo team the best of luck in the coming school year, and in future seasons. Congratulations.

Mr. President, I ask that the complete roster of the U.S. National Little League Champions be printed in the record.

The roster follows:

Taylor Bennett, Mike Cusick, Adam Elconin, Gavin Fabian, Gary Gattis, Brian Kraker, Chad Lucas, Nick Moore, Andrew