

the sense of the Congress that the EU is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and that the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union.

Mr. President, quite simply, it would be foolhardy for the United States to proceed with negotiations that avoid some of the issues that it has been seeking most desperately to advance. Without the leverage that is gained by simultaneously negotiating access in areas where the U.S. seeks greater access with the areas in which the EU would like greater access, the U.S. is positioning itself to hand over the keys to the bank. While leaving out the touchy issues in agriculture may allow the U.S. to quickly conclude an agreement, it is a strategy that would undermine the long-run economic interests of this country.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in sending a message to this Administration that the agriculture industry is not willing to be sold out for the sake of an chance to culminate a quick trade deal. We will not support any new trade negotiations unless agriculture issues are advanced on the same time frame as issues involving other sectors of the economy.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. in open session, to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years defense plan.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet at on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. on indecency on the Internet.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a business meeting to consider the nominations of Donald J. Barry, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of Interior, and Sallyanne Harper, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Tuesday, February 10, immediately following the 11 a.m. cloture vote, the President's Room, S-216, the Capitol.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Finance be permitted to meet Tuesday, February 10, 1998, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH-215, to conduct a markup.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on "The Tobacco Settlement."

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Tobacco Settlement IV during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be permitted to meet on February 10, 1998, at 10 a.m. for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Services and Technology of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, to conduct a hearing into the FDIC's year 2000 preparedness.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 9:30 a.m., in SD-342, to hold a hearing on Fraud on the Internet: Scams Affecting Consumers."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space be authorized to meet on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, at 2:30 p.m. on computer security.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ISRAELI AID

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I welcome the initiative on the part of Mr. Netanyahu and the Israeli government to significantly reduce the amount of aid we annually send to Israel. Our countries have a long-standing relationship which has been witness to the maturing of a fledgling democracy in an area intolerant of its presence. In a very real sense, we have supported Israel's right to exist as a nation and we have supported its economic development.

I note that Mr. Netanyahu's plan which calls for the complete elimination of \$1.2 Billion in economic aid, is testament to the successful implementation of our past years' investment. The funds we provided have not been squandered. The Israeli economy is strong and growing. Mr. Netanyahu is doing the right thing at the right time. We do not need to continue the current level of these funds into the future. However, Mr. President, we must also take care not to undermine the economic stability of this democracy and we must continue to insure its military strength. For those reasons, I support a gradual phasing out of the \$1.2 Billion of economic aid and the gradual increase to its military aid by \$600 Million. Israel has been and remains a strategic ally, both in the region and as an important partner in developing technologically advanced civilian and defense systems. We must do all in our power to not just merely maintain that relationship, but strengthen it. I firmly believe that a strong Israel is the cornerstone for a stable and peaceful Middle East region.

The cost of defending itself has been a tremendous burden on the Israeli economy. The threats to its borders and its people are very real. The Israelis have looked to the United States not only for funding assistance but for the hardware with which to defend itself. I note with pride that the new centerpiece of the Israeli Air Force is none other than the Boeing McDonnell Douglas F-15 I, known as the Stirke Eagle here, and as the Thunder, in Israel. This is the most advanced operational tactical aircraft in the world today. It will increase Israel's security and in turn promote regional stability. This is very much in our interest.

Mr. Netanyahu's proposal will solidify our military partnership and bring an end to Israel's status as an economic dependent. Mr. President, as Israel strengthens its economic house, we must remain committed to preserving that house so that it might remain as a democratic beacon in the region. A strong Israel is good for America. •