

2003, at 10 a.m., for a hearing titled "Terrorism Financing: Origination, Organization, and Prevention."

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet for a hearing on solutions to the problem of health care transmission of HIV/AIDS in Africa during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 31, 2003, at 10 a.m., in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, July 31, 2003, at 10:30 a.m. in Dirksen Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations

Steven M. Colloton to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; P. Kevin Castel to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; Sandra J. Feuerstein to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; Richard J. Holwell to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; R. David Proctor to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Stephen C. Robinson to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York; Rene Alexander Acosta to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice; Daniel J. Bryant to be Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, United States Department of Justice; and Paul Michael Warner to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah.

II. Bills

S.J. Res. 1, A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims [Kyl, Chambliss, Cornyn, Craig, DeWine, Feinstein, Graham, Grassley].

S. 1177, Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act [Hatch, Grassley, Kohl].

S. 1451, Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act [Hatch, Leahy].

S. Res. 30, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week beginning September 14, 2003, as "National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week" [Graham].

S. Con. Res. 25, A concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring America's Jewish community on the occasion of its 350th anniversary, supporting the designation of an "American Jewish History Month," and for other purposes [Voinovich, Chambliss, DeWine, Feingold, Schumer, Sessions, Specter].

S. 204, National Veterans Awareness Week [Biden, Chambliss, Hatch, DeWine, Durbin, Feingold, Grassley, Kennedy, Kohl, Leahy, Sessions].

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 31, 2003, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a closed hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT
AND THE COURTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Thursday, July 31, 2003, at 2 p.m., in the Dirksen Senate Office building Room 226 on "Department of Justice Oversight: Funding Forensics Sciences—DNA and Beyond."

Witness List

Panel I: Sarah Hart, Director, National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Ms. Susan Hart Johns, President, American Society of Crime Lab Directors, Springfield, IL; Dr. Michael Baden, Co-Director, Medicolegal Investigative Unit, New York State Police, New York, NY; Randy Hillman, Esq., Executive Director, Alabama District Attorneys Association, Montgomery, AL; Frank Clark, Esq., District Attorney, Erie County, Buffalo, NY; Peter Neufeld, Esq., Co-Director, Innocence Project, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY; and Ms. Rosemary Serra, Victim, New Haven, CT.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Communications be authorized to meet on Thursday, July 31, 2003, at 2:30 p.m. on the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ken Ende, a fellow with Senator MURKOWSKI's office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the consideration of the Energy bill.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, in a few minutes the Senate will consider the supplemental. I wish to say a few words about the issue around AmeriCorps and other issues within the

supplemental. The hour is late, so I will be brief.

The outcome is preordained, but I wish to say the fight will go on. This urgent supplemental does not meet the compelling human needs of the United States of America. The supplemental the Senate is about to pass will replenish the urgent need that FEMA has at only 50 percent of what the Federal Emergency Management Agency needs to be ready for the hurricane season. They need about \$1.6 billion, and there is about \$900 million included.

The supplemental also will not include money for wildfires ravaging the West. It will not include the funds to complete the NASA investigation of what went wrong on Columbia, so NASA will have to forage for funds within their agency. It will not include additional money for AmeriCorps.

I have been waiting and willing to compromise to get the emergency funding for AmeriCorps. I was willing to compromise to save the school-based programs that start in September. I knew I could not save the AmeriCorps ship because of the penny-pinching attitude of the House towards AmeriCorps.

I want to be clear that although the House left town with a take-it-or-leave-it attitude and we had to swallow it, the needs of our community will not go away. The fight will not go away, and I will continue in September to fight for the full funding for AmeriCorps, both in an emergency supplemental and even in the way of the Budget Act, if I have to, in order to get the help for AmeriCorps.

AmeriCorps, because of the clumsy and inept headquarters, overenrolled 20,000 volunteers, but we should not punish those volunteers because of the people at headquarters.

In my home State, Maryland will lose 400 volunteers. Let me tell you what they are: In rural western Maryland, an AmeriCorps program called Star, in which 34 volunteers participate. They serve 6,000 people, meeting the needs of the mountain counties of: Allegany, Garrett, and Washington.

Do you know what they do? They tutor children, they help children to read, and they help them get ready for school. Without these 34 volunteers, over 6,500 people will lose the help they need.

In Baltimore City there are 50 Jump Start volunteers. These are AmeriCorps volunteers who work in Head Start to make sure the kids get a head start. And they also recruit other volunteers. That means, again, there will be over 400 preschoolers who will not get the help they need.

I could go on in these school-based programs. Nationally, 2,700 volunteers, ready to go to work for Teach America, will not be able to go and start in September because we are leaving town without AmeriCorps funding.

I thank Senator STEVENS for trying to help on this program. He understood

the needs we had. He worked very hard with me. I regret we had a take-it-or-leave-it with the House.

Also in Baltimore, we have 40 Notre Dame volunteers.

These 40 Notre Dame volunteers help 1,842 elementary school children. They work in Baltimore schools tutoring children and providing after-school activities to help kids learn and keep them out of trouble.

Notre Dame is a success story of a faith-based organization making a difference for our communities. But without additional AmeriCorps funding, Baltimore will lose 40 Notre Dame volunteers. And 1,842 children in Baltimore will not be tutored or mentored. These are some examples in Maryland. But communities all around the country will be hurt because the House leadership would not approve emergency funding for AmeriCorps.

How did we get here? The leadership of the House of Representatives has blocked adequate emergency funding for FEMA disaster relief, fighting wildfires, the NASA *Columbia* investigation, and AmeriCorps.

The Senate acted quickly on the President's supplemental request.

The Senate approved \$1.55 billion for FEMA, \$253 million to fight wildfires, \$50 million for the NASA *Columbia* investigation, and \$100 million for AmeriCorps. But the House sent us a supplemental that is totally inadequate. There is only \$984 million for FEMA.

At the last minute before recess the House supplemental did not include funding for fighting wildfires, the NASA *Columbia* investigation, or AmeriCorps. Then, the House left town for the month of August.

In April this year, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee became very concerned about a shortfall of FEMA disaster relief funding. Senators COCHRAN and BYRD asked President Bush to request emergency funding for FEMA disaster relief. But the President didn't request funding until July 7. When he did, the Senate acted quickly.

We passed it within 4 days. The President asked for \$1.55 billion and we approved it. But the House only wants to give FEMA \$984 million, only 60 percent of what the President says is needed.

We have never let FEMA's Disaster Relief account fall to such a low level. Right now, FEMA only has \$89 million to respond to disasters. It is irresponsible to shortchange FEMA when we are at the height of hurricane season.

The House bill also eliminates funding to help Western states fight wildfires. The President requested \$253 million and the Senate approved it.

But the House provided nothing. Right now, there are 42 major fires burning in 12 Western states consuming over 400,000 acres. The Forest Service is \$420 million short of what they need to fight these fires, but the House didn't provide any funding.

The House also eliminates funds to complete the investigation into the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. The President requested \$50 million. The Senate approved it. This funding is to keep our promises to the families of the 7 astronauts killed that we will find out what went wrong and we will fly again. Without the \$50 million NASA will have to borrow from other programs in order to finish the investigation.

The House supplemental does not include funding to save 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers. I offered the amendment to add \$100 million for AmeriCorps to this urgent supplemental. With bipartisan support of Senators BOND, STEVENS, BYRD and many others, the AmeriCorps funding was voted on by the full Senate and was sustained by an overwhelming 71 to 21 votes. But the House refused to follow the usual and customary process to resolve differences. The House didn't want to face the Senate in conference.

Because a small minority of House members want to scuttle the \$100 million for AmeriCorps even though an overwhelming majority of the Senate supports it, a majority of the House supports it, and 43 Governors support it.

I want to give my sincerest thanks to my colleagues in the Senate who supported emergency funding for AmeriCorps. I appreciate it and so do our volunteers and the communities they serve.

How did the AmeriCorps shortfall happen? There was a bureaucratic boondoggle. AmeriCorps overenrolled 20,000 volunteers.

Every year, the VA-HUD subcommittee funds 50,000 AmeriCorps volunteers but AmeriCorps enrolled 70,000.

How did we know about it? Senator BOND chaired the subcommittee leading the fight for reform in fiscal responsibility and uncovered the mismanagement at our April 10 hearing.

We started GAO and IG investigations. Senator BOND called for a new Chief Financial Officer. I called for new leadership. And we wrote a bipartisan bill to fix the accounting and mismanagement problems.

Our bill passed the Congress in 2 days and was signed into law.

So while the House puts out press releases about how they want to punish volunteers and communities they serve, the Senate puts out performance.

This is an emergency today. The law says funding for volunteers and the awards that help pay off their student debt must be in the Federal checkbook when the volunteers begin their service. Without emergency funding AmeriCorps can't sign up volunteers now to start in school-based programs in September.

Teach America, for example, will lose education awards for 2,700 volunteers who are going to start teaching in September.

We cannot wait until October for fiscal year 2004 and I won't wait until October.

I will continue to fight in September for AmeriCorps.

The President has called for a new spirit of voluntarism.

Young people have responded, but the House leadership wants to squander volunteer opportunities to punish volunteers and communities because of a bureaucratic boondoggle.

Mr. President, it is regrettable that the House leadership won't resolve differences in the usual and customary way. But I will continue to fight for our communities that need disaster assistance and depend on help from volunteers.

The needs won't go away and I will continue the fight in September.

I want to reiterate that the need continues. Because the need continues, the fight will go on. I promise every AmeriCorps volunteer, every community that is dependent on those volunteers, and every member of the American family looking to those volunteers, I am going to fight for them and I will stand up for them. I am going to turn to the Senate and say let's not take what the House says when they give it a take-it-or-leave-it stamp.

I yield the floor.

AMERICORPS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am appalled at the House's refusal to provide needed emergency supplemental funding to AmeriCorps.

There was an editorial in the Wall Street Journal yesterday describing their rationale for the House position. The WSJ says, "the concept of federally subsidized volunteerism strikes us as something the country can't afford" and "if Congress lacks the nerve to kill AmeriCorps, then we're glad it at least won't throw good money after bad."

The Wall Street Journal can say that this is something the country can't afford. But I know differently. AmeriCorps is something the country can't afford to do without.

I will be the first to say that the administration's mismanagement of funds is disappointing to say the least. It is further upsetting that they are unwilling to put up the money it takes to keep those mistakes from hurting the volunteers.

I am also disappointed that the President promised to promote and grow the program, but is unwilling to put up the money to do so. It is really unfair for the President and the House to talk out of both sides of their mouths, supporting volunteerism, but then refusing to pay the comparatively small cost involved in keeping volunteerism afloat.

But this is not a problem with AmeriCorps volunteers, or with the communities they serve. Senators MIKULSKI and BOND in the "Strengthen AmeriCorps Act" are doing the things that need to be done to prevent future financial discrepancies.

These funding cuts don't punish those who are guilty for the problems.