

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 4, 2004, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting to consider the proposed Federal Public Transportation Act. The meeting will be held in room S-219 of the Capitol.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., to hear testimony on the administration's Health and Human Services Budget Priorities. The meeting will be held in room B318 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, at 2 p.m., for a hearing titled "Preserving a Strong United States Postal Service: Workforce Issues, Day 2." The meeting will be held in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in Senator HILLARY CLINTON's office, Joshua Shank, be granted the privilege of the floor during the pendency of this action.

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

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Nick Karellas of my staff be granted floor privileges during the remaining consideration of S. 1072.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to S. Con. Res. 130 (106th Congress), appoints the following individual to the Task Force on Slave Laborers: Virginia Walden-Ford of Washington, DC.

REFERRAL of H.R. 1446

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Calendar No. 318, H.R. 1446, the California missions bill, be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

HOMELAND SECURITY TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 416, S. 1612.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1612) to establish a technology, equipment, and information transfer program within the Department of Homeland Security.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

S. 1612

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Homeland Security Technology Improvement Act of 2003".]

SEC. 2. HOMELAND SECURITY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

[(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 430 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 238) is amended—

[(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

[(2) in subsection (c)—

[(A) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

[(B) in paragraph (8), by striking the period and inserting "; and"; and

[(C) by adding at the end the following:

["(9) overseeing and coordinating a multi-agency homeland security technology, equipment, and information transfer program to allow for the transfer of technology, equipment, and information to State and local law enforcement agencies."; and

[(3) by adding after subsection (c) the following:

["(d) TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, AND INFORMATION TRANSFER PROGRAM.—

["(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

["(A) identify counterterrorism technologies, equipment, and information developed or proven to be effective by—

["(i) consulting with the Undersecretary for Science and Technology;

["(ii) establishing an advisory committee comprised of retired and active-duty law enforcement officials from geographically diverse regions;

["(iii) consulting with State and local law enforcement agencies; and

["(iv) entering into agreements and coordinating with other Federal agencies to maximize the effectiveness of the technologies, equipment, and information available to law enforcement agencies;

["(B) make these technologies, equipment, and information available to State and local law enforcement agencies on an annual basis;

["(C) accept applications from the head of State and local law enforcement agencies

that wish to acquire such technologies, equipment, and information to improve the homeland security capabilities of those agencies, and review such applications in coordination with the advisory committee established under subparagraph (A)(ii); and

["(D) transfer the approved technology, equipment, and information, and provide the appropriate training to the State or local law enforcement agency pending the approval of the application of the State or local law enforcement agency under subparagraph (C).

["(2) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE.—No more than 10 percent of the budget of the technology, equipment, and information transfer program under this subsection may be used for administrative expenses.

["(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2014 to carry out this subsection.".]

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Homeland Security Technology Improvement Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. HOMELAND SECURITY TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 313 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 193) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

“(6) The establishment of a multi-agency homeland security technology, equipment, and information transfer program to allow for the transfer of technology, equipment, and information to State and local law enforcement agencies.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM.—In developing the program described under subsection (b)(6), the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall—

“(1) in close cooperation with the Office of Domestic Preparedness, conduct, on an ongoing basis—

“(A) research and development of new technologies;

“(B) surveys and reviews of available appropriate technologies; and

“(C) tests, evaluations, and demonstrations of new and available technologies that significantly improve the capability of law enforcement agencies in countering terrorist threats;

“(2) in support of the activities described in paragraph (1)—

“(A) consult with State and local law enforcement agencies and others determined by the Secretary, including the advisory committee established under section 430(d).”;

“(B) work with the National Institute for Standards and Technology and any other office or agency determined by the Secretary;

“(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, enter into agreements and coordinate with other Federal agencies to maximize the effectiveness of the technologies, equipment, and information; and

“(3) provide a comprehensive list of available technologies, equipment, and information to the Office for Domestic Preparedness which shall administer a technology transfer program described under section 430(d).”.

(b) OFFICE FOR DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS.—Section 430 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 238) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, AND INFORMATION TRANSFER PROGRAM.—

“(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and

Technology, shall establish and administer a technology transfer program through which the Director shall—

“(A) make the counterterrorism technology, equipment, and information available to State and local law enforcement agencies each year based on—

“(i) the comprehensive list of available technologies, equipment, and information described under section 313(c); and

“(ii) the needs identified by the advisory committee established under this subsection;

“(B) consult with State and local law enforcement agencies and others, as determined by the Secretary;

“(C) accept applications from the head of State and local law enforcement agencies that wish to acquire such technologies, equipment, and information to improve the homeland security capabilities of those agencies, and review these applications with the advisory committee established under this subsection; and

“(D) transfer the approved technology, equipment, and information and provide the appropriate training to the State or local law enforcement agencies to implement such technology, equipment, and information.

“(2) TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Under the authority of section 871, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, shall establish an advisory committee, or designate an existing advisory committee comprised of retired and active duty State and local law enforcement officers, to advise the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness and the Under Secretary for Science and Technology regarding the homeland security technology transfer program established under this subsection.

“(3) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM.—Upon the approval of the Secretary, the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness may expand the program established under this subsection to transfer technology, equipment, and information to first responders other than law enforcement agencies and revise the advisory committee accordingly.

“(4) LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE.—Not more than 10 percent of the budget of the technology, equipment, and information transfer program established under this subsection may be used for administrative expenses.

“(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2014 to carry out this subsection.”.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read the third time and passed; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1612), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

THE DAY'S EVENTS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will be closing very shortly but I want to make a couple of remarks on the events of the day. The highlight of the day for me personally was the joint session we had earlier today with the presentation by President Aznar of Spain. His address to Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives very much captured the essence of what makes Spain and the United

States of America strong allies and friends in the much broader defense of liberty.

For much longer than many other nations and most other nations, Spain has been a part of United States history and indeed we have been a part of Spain's history. As we look back over the time, that history has been one full of discovery for both sides. It has been an experience rich in harmony and discord.

I was able to talk to the President before as we reviewed that history and after his speech today. It has been a history that has been characterized by wars fought against each other and wars fought alongside each other.

We have had the opportunity to celebrate together the creation of new democracies. We have celebrated together the defense of existing democracies, of old democracies. Together, as we look back over the last several years, we have faced the gravest threats to the security of free people, and through that togetherness and that partnership we have prevailed, advanced, and progressed.

In our hour of need, our response to the acts of terrorism, September 11, 2001, acts that the President referred to—he referred to that day as a terrible day, reflecting, as he did today, that the principles that were attacked that day were the principles Spain had and the United States had, both countries have, and those very principles and values were attacked. I believe he used the words “brutally attacked.” In our hour of need, the Spanish people showed us a solidarity, a friendship, and a compassion that very much were the medicine for the soul of our Nation.

Spain—and the President reflects this—has very much been our ally in every sense of the word. It was wonderful for us to be able to welcome him today and to listen to his comments in the Halls of the Capitol of the United States of America.

For me and many others, in the course of the day, as business has progressed on the floor, we have been centered on the response to the ricin attack in the Dirksen Building now a little over 48 hours ago. I am happy to report that everybody is doing fine. A few hours ago I made an announcement that the postal system and that people in the postal system, both inside our buildings and inside our grounds, but also outside, are doing fine, which is very good news. I say that because it is important to realize that this agent ricin is a deadly agent. It is a life-threatening agent and, through exposure, could have hurt many people.

As I said earlier but want to reinforce, we are making great progress in the collection of mail and in examining the Senate office buildings. Officials have moved aggressively. They have moved in an almost symphonic fashion to respond to this insult. As I previously announced, the Russell Office Building will open tomorrow at noon, the Hart Office Building will open Fri-

day at 9 a.m., and the Dirksen Office Building, Monday at 7 a.m. Staff have been patient. Staff have been understanding. Staff have adapted to this terrible incident, working at home and working wherever they can find a space, sometimes in the hallways. I do want to thank my colleagues and the staff for responding in this fashion.

I have previously mentioned that every time I go through the list in my own mind, I leave people out, but all the various people who are working together through the Sergeant at Arms' Office, the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, especially the Capitol Police, the U.S. Marines who are here with us, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, the various law enforcement agencies that have responded, the postal workers, the postal system across the United States of America in what has truly been remarkable when we think of what we have gone through, with anthrax 2½ years ago and a number of other incidents.

Looking back over the 200-year history of this wonderful celebrated building, probably the most celebrated building in the world, the place has been burned down essentially, has been attacked, has been assaulted again and again, but the institution itself, just like the people who are here, who are working here every day, has responded with a resiliency that is truly remarkable. There is a toughness and an ability to bounce right back.

We have not missed a step in terms of conducting the Nation's business in spite of the really tragic occurrence of the last several days.

I will close on this particular issue, again talking about my own staff who responded so admirably. I have my own staff who are in the mailroom, and when they see something is not quite right, they use procedures that they have been trained in and that we have all focused on very much in terms of our procedures. They immediately responded appropriately and handled that operation in an appropriate way with evaluation of the room, notification of the appropriate personnel, and the appropriate response. Without that, people could have been hurt and could have died.

It is nice to be able to see that and commend the people working in such an environment. Unfortunately, these are the realities we have seen, anthrax 2½ years ago, ricin today, Capitol Police officers assaulted in this building and killed not too long ago. The resiliency is truly remarkable in this great institution.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9 a.m.,