

Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, at 2 p.m., to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT  
AND THE COURTS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, at 2 p.m., to hold an executive business meeting.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider S. 128, a bill to establish the Thomas Cole National Historical Site in the State of New York; S. 695, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas; and S. 1476, a bill to establish the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, in open session, to receive testimony on the privatization of Department of Defense depot maintenance and other commercial activities.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VETERANS AND SPENDING  
REDUCTIONS

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I wanted to take a few additional minutes today to talk through my recent discussions with veterans' organization from Pennsylvania about legislation recently introduced by Senator SIMPSON.

Senator SIMPSON, at the request of four major veterans organizations, has introduced legislation addressing various inequities in the manner in which we treat the health of our Nation's veterans. Many of those issues addressed in the bill speak to issues I have witnessed, discussed, and worked on during my 5 years in Congress and as a former member of the House Veterans'

Affairs Committee. Issues relating to the care and treatment of veterans and efforts to improve the veterans' health delivery system are very familiar and important to me.

Mr. President, I was born and raised on the grounds of a VA hospital facility, and I understand the concerns of veterans in this matter. My mother and father spent their careers working for veterans in Veterans' Administration hospitals. Our veterans fought on many battlefields to preserve the liberty of succeeding generations of Americans.

Today, one of the greatest threats to our children and grandchildren is not as much the imminent outbreak of war and the subsequent call to service, but rather the massive national debt and annual Federal deficits. If nothing is done, the next generation will face a future of diminished opportunity and a declining standard of living.

While service to our country has entitled veterans to very unique benefits that are available to no other single group of Americans, these benefits are by no means the root cause of our huge Federal deficits. I have fought against unnecessary cuts in veterans' programs that would have compromised our Nation's commitment to those who have served in defense of our freedom.

At the same time, however, any new spending on veterans' programs or benefits must be treated with an equal eye toward fiscal responsibility—sufficient spending reductions must occur within the Veterans' Administration itself or in other areas of Federal spending. At this time, the Simpson bill carries with it a revenue effect of \$13 billion in new spending. I believe that the sponsor and I would both acknowledge that this bill should not move through the legislative process without a corresponding \$13 billion in spending reductions.

These rules and budget realities are the same that I have operated under during my entire service in Congress. Recently, I fought on the Senate floor for sufficient spending reductions of \$1.2 billion to cover and offset the costs of Federal disaster assistance, a large portion of which would benefit Pennsylvania communities as we rebuild from a blizzard and flood-ravaged winter. And in continuing to address the needs of our Nation's veterans, I will maintain this same standard.

Until such spending reductions are finalized and presented, Mr. President, I will temporarily withhold my own efforts and development on S. 1543. I understand that the administration is working on a legislative proposal similar to the Simpson bill, and that they are working through the same budget realities in producing a revenue neutral package. I remain committed to supporting our Nation's veterans. I support the direction and concept of the Simpson bill, and I will work with the sponsor to find cuts to pay for the costs of the bill. •

BOSTON'S ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, on Thursday, April 25, 1996, the English High School in Boston, MA, will be celebrating its 175th anniversary. The oldest public high school in the United States, English High School has changed with the times but has always maintained a high standard of education and compassion for its students. With award-winning teachers, students, and graduates, Boston English High is among the finest educational institutions in our Nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the English High School and join with the Boston Public Schools in celebrating its 175th anniversary. •

MISSED VOTES ON APRIL 16, 1996

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, while the Senate was in session yesterday, I was unable to participate in our proceedings because I was attending the funeral of my late uncle, Harry Murkowski, in Washington State.

My late uncle, Harry was 92 when he passed away late last week. He was the last of my relatives who was of my parents' generation and I felt it was important that I share my mourning with members of my family.

Harry, who was widowed several years ago, lived in Puyallup and Enumclaw, WA, worked his entire life as a fire fighter on the McChord Air Force Base. He is survived by his daughter, Beth Newman.

Mr. President, yesterday I missed two rollcall votes because of my attendance at the funeral. The April 16, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflects how I would have voted, had I been here to participate in the Senate debate. As the RECORD reflects, my vote would not have changed the outcome of either vote. •

BAD LAW ON AFFIRMATIVE  
ACTION

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the recent decisions that was a most unfortunate one was the decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals that colleges and universities cannot keep in mind diversity as they put together a student body.

No one was advocating quotas in this case, nor advocating that people who are not qualified should be admitted.

But to deny that diversity is part of the learning experiences of colleges and universities is to deny reality.

I hope the decision will be overturned.

We have enough backsliding in the field of race relations. We do not need to add the handicap of a bad court decision as another barrier.

Recently, Anthony Lewis had a column titled, "Handcuffs on Learning"; and the New York Times had an editorial titled, "Bad Law on Affirmative Action". I ask that both articles be printed in the RECORD and I urge my colleagues to read them.