

Trust Management Practices in the Department of the Interior will immediately follow the markup). The Meeting/Joint Hearing will be held in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 3, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a Joint Hearing with the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on American Indian Trust Management Practices in the Department of the Interior. The hearing will be held in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND FORCES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland Forces of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 3, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. in open session, to receive testimony on Army modernization.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, AND DRINKING WATER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Drinking Water be granted permission to conduct an oversight hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's implementation of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act Wednesday, March 3, 9 a.m., hearing room (SD-406).

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 3, for purposes of conducting a Water & Power Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to consider the President's proposed budget for FY2000 for the Bureau of Reclamation and the Power Marketing Administrations.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RABBI ALVIN WAINHAUS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, Connecticut. On March 19th and 20th, he will be honored by Congregation Or Shalom on his 18th anni-

versary as spiritual leader of the synagogue.

This is a significant milestone for Rabbi Wainhaus and his congregation. Through his leadership at Congregation Or Shalom he has constantly worked to reach out to every member of the congregation, young and old, and keep them involved in all aspects of congregation life. He has particularly reached out to young adults as they have left home for college and careers in order to keep them connected to their families and community.

He has helped provide guidance and insight to innumerable people not just at Congregation Or Shalom but within the community as a whole. We currently face difficult times, and it is our families and friends, combined with our churches and synagogues, that provide the support systems which allow us to confront and overcome the challenges set before us. Through his service, Rabbi Wainhaus has helped many families over the years surmount these obstacles and make positive contributions to their communities.

As this congregation has grown over the years, with God's divine assistance, Rabbi Wainhaus has touched many lives throughout the community. The people of Connecticut thank Rabbi Wainhaus for his service, dedication, and contribution to our state.●

TAX TREATMENT FOR DOMESTIC DISTILLERIES

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I signed on as a cosponsor of S. 434, Senator BREAUX's proposal to equalize the tax treatment for domestic distilleries compared to their foreign competitors.

This is a good bill, and I hope it passes Congress. It would help cut unnecessary taxes for our domestic distilleries, and eliminate a competitive advantage that our current tax rules give to foreign distilleries. I will certainly do what I can to help pass Senator BREAUX's bill.

Mr. President, I am submitting this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to make one thing perfectly clear. In supporting this bill, I want the Administration, and officials at the Treasury Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to understand that by doing so I reject the connection that some have tried to make between the All in bond issue and Section 5010 of the tax code, the wine and flavors tax credit. I know that the suggestion has been made that any revenue loss to the U.S. Treasury caused by changes to the All in Bond rules be offset by repealing Section 5010. I reject that notion because there is no logical link between the two issues; the "connection" is a bureaucratic fiction.

Some who served with me on the conference committee that helped write the tax provisions in the 1995 Balanced Budget Act will probably remember my successful efforts to eliminate a provision in the Senate bill that would have repealed Section 5010. My position on

this matter has not changed, and it is one issue on which I continue to keep a close eye because of its importance to Kentucky.●

BLIND PERSONS EARNINGS EQUITY ACT

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I rise in support of the Blind Persons Earnings Equity Act, a bill that will open up a world of opportunities for blind persons and greatly improve their lives. Currently, the blind are discouraged from working by an overly restrictive provision in the Social Security Act that limits the amount of income they may earn for themselves. The Blind Persons Earnings Equity Act would raise that earnings restriction and lessen the burden of at least one of the many obstacles to employment faced by the blind today.

Blindness has profoundly adverse social and economic consequences, and Social Security benefits are needed to offset the disadvantages suffered by the blind. However, these same laws that are meant to help, must be revised when it becomes clear they are hindering blind persons from joining the workforce and discouraging them from becoming fully engaged in society.

Instead of encouraging the blind to develop job skills and become productive members of their communities, the law addressed by this bill penalizes them. Once their earnings rise above an amount that is barely sufficient to cover the most basic living expenses, their Social Security benefits are cut completely. No wonder it is estimated that over seventy percent of the employable blind population is either unemployed or underemployed.

This statistic, however, does not represent an unwillingness to work. On the contrary, the blind want to work and take great pride in developing the necessary skills that enable them to contribute to society.

I had the honor of knowing personally a great American leader who just happened to be blind. His name was Dr. Kenneth Jernigan and for over 25 years he led the organized blind movement in the United States. As President for the National Federation of the Blind, he moved the national headquarters to Baltimore where I had the opportunity to meet him. Sadly, Dr. Jernigan passed away last year.

Dr. Jernigan may have been blind in the physical sense, Mr. President, but he was a man of vision nonetheless. In his leadership of the National Federation of the Blind, he taught all of us to understand that eyesight and insight are not related to each other in any way. Although he did not have eyesight, his insight on life, learning, and leading has no equal. Dr. Jernigan devoted his life to empowering the blind and encouraging them to be active members of society. He fought to improve their access to information, education, jobs, and public facilities.