

on Crime and Drugs be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Making America's Streets Safer: The Future of the COPS Program," on Wednesday, December 5, 2001, at 1:30 p.m., in SD226.

Witness List

Panel I: Viet D. Dinh, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Policy, U.S. Department of Justice.

Panel II: Thomas P. Gordon, County Executive, New Castle County, Delaware; Colonel Lonnie Westphal, Chief, Colorado State Patrol, Vice President, International Association of Chiefs of Police; Steve Young, Lieutenant, Marion City Police Department, National President, Fraternal Order of Police; Mike Brown, Sheriff, Bedford County, Virginia, National Sheriffs' Association; Dr. Jihong Zhao, Professor, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska at Omaha; and David Muhlhause, Policy Analyst, Heritage Foundation.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, December 5, 2001, at 9 a.m., on the response of the technology sector in times of crisis.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Carol Olander, Dave White, and Benjamin Young, detailees to the Agriculture Committee from the Department of Agriculture, be granted privileges of the floor during the pendency of the farm bill.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period not to exceed 5 minutes each.

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

CONGRATULATIONS, VASSILI SULICH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Saturday evening, December 15, the Las Vegas Philharmonic will be recognizing the work of one of Nevada's true cultural treasures, Vassili Sulich. I am pleased to speak of the vision and the accomplishments of this fine man.

In 1981, Vassili Sulich received the State of Nevada Governor's Arts Award for "Outstanding Individual Artist," an award which recognized his role in es-

tablishing the Nevada Dance Theatre and for bringing classical ballet to southern Nevada. This award is only one of many that have been bestowed upon Mr. Sulich, but it represents what he has meant, and still means for the cultural evolution of my home state.

Born on the island of Brac, Yugoslavia, Vassili Sulich began imagining and improvising performances from an early age. As a refugee in Egypt, during World War II, he joined a Yugoslav children's theatre, which continued performing in Europe after the war. He received classical dance training with the Zagreb Opera Ballet, and he remained in the theatre ever since.

In 1952, he received a scholarship to study in London. One year later, he moved to Paris to be a member of the Ballet de France de Janine Charrat. Paris became his home for eleven years, where he rose to the status of Danseur Etoile; first with Ballet des Etoiles de Paris and later with other companies and opera houses.

During this time, he performed as a principal dancer in many ballets, partnering such famous ballerinas as Ludmilla Tcherina, Zizi Jeanmarie, and Colette Marchand. He made many appearances on television and film, and starred in "Geraldine" with Geraldine Chaplin.

In 1960, Vassili was named the principal dancer at the Lido de Paris, and he began his choreographic career with "Suite Lyrique," "The Wall," and "Oedipe-Roi" with Jean Cocteau and composer Maurice Thiriet. In 1964, he came to New York as a principal dancer with "Folies Bergere" on Broadway and to study with Martha Graham.

That same year, he was offered a three-month contract by the producer of the "Folies Bergere" at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. It turned out to be a collaboration that lasted nine years. He was also named as ballet master, rehearsing and employing replacements for dancers and showgirls. The management of the Tropicana was always available to help, and even recreated a studio atmosphere in the theatre for ballet instruction in the afternoons and between shows.

After several years in Las Vegas, Sulich missed the beauty and focus of classical ballet, and he approached the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, offering to teach classical dance. That same year, he organized his first "Dance Concert" in the UNLV Judy Bayley Theatre, choreographing three ballets for 26 voluntary dancers from shows on the Las Vegas Strip. The program received such enthusiastic acclaim that in May of 1973, he presented a second Dance Concert. The projects were labors of love: no one was paid, the dancers furnished their own costumes, and the university provided technical support.

In 1974, a board of directors was formed, and the Nevada Dance Theatre came into existence, with Vassili Sulich at the helms as Artistic Direc-

tor. Within a few years, the Nevada Dance Theatre was home to 23 professional dancers, providing classical ballet at home and touring the United States to critical acclaim. The Company was even recognized by Dance Magazine as one of the 10 best regional ballet companies in America.

Since founding the Nevada Dance Theatre, Sulich has choreographed fifty-one ballets, ranging from classical to contemporary to dramatic works with wide audience appeal. One of his works, "Mantodea," received international acclaim in Bulgaria and Russia and was filmed for Belgrade television. He has staged "Mantodea" for ballet companies in Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Hungary, and the United States. And just this year, he was again commissioned to stage the ballet in Brazil.

After twenty-five years, Vassili Sulich retired from the Nevada Dance Theatre, but he has not retired from cultural service. He was instrumental in the forming of the Las Vegas Philharmonic, and he has recently penned an autobiography, "Vision in the Desert: A Dancer's Life."

I am proud to take this opportunity to congratulate Vassili Sulich for a lifetime of artistic achievement. He is indeed a cultural treasure and an ambassador for the arts in Nevada, our nation and the world.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS

PAYMENT FOR WORK PERFORMED

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, regarding this week's Senate passage of the fiscal year 2002 Transportation appropriations conference report, Senator DURBIN and I have recently become aware that several of the major contractors on the Tren Urbano project have substantial disputes outstanding with Puerto Rico concerning payment for work performed on the project. I find this troubling given the extent of oversight we have come to expect of major transit projects like this one.

Mr. DURBIN. I certainly agree with Senator HUTCHISON. It is indeed important that these transit projects be managed efficiently, and preferably without dispute; otherwise, these projects are viewed by the contracting community as more risky, and thus they become more costly to deliver, to the detriment of the taxpayers who ultimately bear the financial burden of these projects.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I understand that the FTA is currently withholding approximately \$165M of funding for the Tren Urbano Project, and has required a more accurate cost estimate and schedule for the Project than has been previously furnished.

Mr. DURBIN. I want to encourage FTA to release only such funds as it considers appropriate in order to resolve outstanding disputes with respect to payment for work performed on the Tren Urbano project, and suspend all further Federal funding for the project.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I concur with the Senator and, if such disputes have not been resolved by March 1, 2002, would further request that the Inspector General promptly report back to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on FTA's assessment of (i) The reasons why such disputes remain unresolved, (ii) the cost impact of such disputes, and (iii) the IG's recommendation, if appropriate, for a more cost effective dispute resolution process.

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I inform the Senate that due to the funeral in New Haven, Connecticut of a long-time Connecticut aide and close friend, I was unable to be present for the votes scheduled on December 5, 2001.

James "Jimmy" O'Connell passed away on Saturday at the age 53. Jimmy, a former New Haven police officer, was like a brother to me. We worked together for over 30 years. I enjoyed his extraordinary intelligence, his warm wit and his wonderful loyalty. I will miss him dearly and believe it was only fitting for me to attend his funeral in New Haven.

Had I been present, I would have voted as set forth below. On none of the votes would my vote have affected the outcome.

On the motion to waive the Budget Act with regard to Daschle amendment No. 2170, I would have voted in favor. On the final passage of H.R. 10, I would have voted in favor of the bill. On cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1731, I would have voted in favor of cloture.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 11, 2001 in Milwaukee, WI. A lesbian woman, Juana Vega, was brutally assaulted and shot five times at point-blank range. Pablo Parrilla, the brother of Vega's then-girlfriend, has been arrested in connection with Vega's murder. Mr. Parrilla objected to his sister's relationship with Vega, and reportedly threatened to kill Vega for "turning his sister gay."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HOLD ON NOMINATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have placed a "hold" on the nomination of General Claude Bolton, Jr. for the position of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development, Acquisition, and Technology as questions asked by the Iowa/Illinois Senate delegation remain unanswered.

MILITARY BUILD-UP IN BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday marked-up H.R. 3338, the FY 2002 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill. I authored language in the report accompanying that bill requiring the Pentagon to report to Congress on Thailand's defense needs in the wake of Burma's recent purchase of 10 MiG-29 fighter aircraft from Russia. I did so because of my grave concerns with regional security and stability—and with the welfare of the people of Burma who endure hardships and indignities under the oppressive misrule of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). In terms of oppressive regimes, the SPDC ranks right up there with the Taliban.

My colleagues should take note of the November 28 edition of Jane's Defence Weekly which states that Burma has "significantly expanded the country's military strength while most other [countries] in the region are pursuing force reductions . . . military modernization since 1988 has been heavily tied to China as the principal source of equipment—variously valued at between \$1 billion and \$2 billion. [The purchase of the MiGs from Russia] following up its 1996 purchase of Mi-17 helicopters, suggests that a new dimension could dominate the next phase of development . . . [the SPDC] has stated publicly that armed forces strength has been targeted to expand by a further 25 percent, to 500,000."

Lest my colleagues fail to understand what is happening in Rangoon today, let me sketch a quick outline:

The legitimately elected leader of Burma—Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of the National League for Democracy (NLD)—continues to be under house arrest in Rangoon, with up to 1,800 political prisoners languishing in Burmese prisons. While SPDC thugs and Suu Kyi are engaged in "talks", the junta is building up its military strength and purchasing billions of dollars of military hardware from Russia and China. To say that the defense build-up sends conflicting messages to the NLD and the world is a gross understatement.

Meanwhile, the people of Burma suffer from neglect and abuse at the hands of the SPDC who attached absolutely no importance to the welfare of Burmese citizens. None. And to make matters worse, Japan appears to be rewarding the SPDC by providing a grant aid to Burma for the repair of the Baluchaung Hydroelectric Power Plant in Karenni State. The Japanese govern-

ment must understand that such assistance is not only premature, it is also misguided. Money is certainly the language of the thugs and thieves in Burma, but it cannot buy peace and stability in that mafia state.

I encourage my colleagues to read Fred Hiatt's excellent op-ed in Monday's edition of the Washington Post, and ask that it appear in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Dec. 3, 2001]

EYES WIDE OPEN

(By Fred Hiatt)

One inevitable reaction, as we hear now of the depredations of the Taliban regime, is: Where were we all while this was going on?

Oh, some feminists and human rights activists tried to call our attention to Afghanistan's gender apartheid. Journalists, including The Post's Pam Constable, reported from Kabul. We took note briefly when religious minorities were ordered to wear identifying marks and when those ancient statues were destroyed.

But for most of us, the recent revelations of Taliban brutality—of forced conscription, point-blank murder, scorched-earth destruction and merciless impoverishment of widows and children—have been just that, revelations. As the Bush administration rails righteously against a regime it barely seemed to notice before Sept. 11, we have to ask: Where were they—where were we—these five long years? How could we have let it happen?

One way to answer the question is to look at places where it is happening still.

This week past Nobel Peace Prize winners will gather in Oslo to honor one missing laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, the rightful leader of the Southeast Asian nation of Burma, wasn't allowed to pick up her prize in 1991, and a decade later she remains under house arrest and cut off from the world. Her countrymen—some 48 million of them, more or less double Afghanistan's population—are preyed upon by their leaders much as Afghans were by theirs.

The facts are depressingly familiar to the relatively few who follow events in Burma (renamed Myanmar by the junta). A promising, resource-rich nation with a well-educated and peaceable population has been ground gradually toward poverty and ignorance by a succession of malevolent and misguided rulers.

In 1990 the ruling junta, apparently deluded about its popularity, as dictators frequently are, staged elections. The National League for Democracy, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, won four out of every five parliamentary seats, even though she was already under house arrest. Instead of letting the parliament meet, the generals put many of the winners in jail, where some remain to this day.

Among juntas, Burma's is particularly famous for its use of forced unpaid labor. As many as 1 million Burmese, by the estimate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, have been press-ganged into building roads, railroads and military installations. Many of the conscripted are children. Many are forced to act as porters for the army, often in dangerous circumstances.

The generals, fearing the people they rule, maintain an army of 400,000. They have shuttered the country's universities for most of the past decade. People are jailed for possession of unlicensed fax machines. Media are controlled by the state. Some 1,500 people