

competitors to catch up to U.S. industry capabilities.

To address the development of tech talent in this country, NSF provides a wide array of support to preK-12, undergraduate, and graduate level schools. One new important tool is the Math and Science partnership program—a new joint program between NSF and the Department of Education. This program encourages partnerships among local school systems, higher education entities, and other organizations to improve student outcomes in math and science for all students.

Another important tool that I support is the tech talent program. This program was initiated at the urging of me and my Senate colleagues—Senators LIEBERMAN, FRIST, MIKULSKI, and DOMENICI. Last year, we introduced S. 1549, the Tech Talent Act to improve undergraduate education in math, science, engineering, and technology. We provided \$5 million in the Fiscal Year 2002 VA-HUD and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act to jumpstart this important initiative and another \$20 million was added in the fiscal year 2003 bill that passed the Appropriations Committee last week. NSF has already received 177 applications requesting an aggregate sum of almost \$60 million.

Lastly, I am very supportive of efforts to improve the accountability of NSF's programs and activities—especially those projects funded through the major research equipment and facilities construction account. The bill includes a number of provisions to ensure that funding decisions on large research facilities are done in a rationale and understandable manner.

Before the bill reaches the floor, I hope to work with my colleagues on addressing other issues related to the National Science Board. As the budget for NSF grows, it is important that the Board has the tools it needs to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. Specifically, we need to provide the chairman of the Board the authority to hire its own staff to support the Board's oversight and policy-making responsibilities and to ensure that it can provide the Congress and the President with independent science policy advice. These tools will also ensure that the Board is not a "rubber stamp" for the Director of NSF.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I understand that some of my colleagues have concerns about the bill, but I believe that overall, this is a good bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and the House in moving a strong bipartisan NSF reauthorization bill and in advancing our effort to double NSF's budget.

I thank the Chair.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Tuesday,

July 30, 2002, at 10 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on a Legislative Proposal of the Department of Interior/Tribal Trust Fund Reform Task Force; to be followed immediately by a second hearing on S. 2212, A bill to establish a direct line of authority for the Office of Trust Reform Implementations and Oversight to oversee the management and reform of Indian trust funds and assets under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and to advance tribal management of such funds and assets, pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act and for other purposes.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, August 1, 2002, at 10 a.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on the Interior Secretary's Report on the Hoopa Yurok Settlement Act.

The Committee will meet again on Thursday, August 1, 2002, at 2 p.m. in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Problems Facing Native Youth.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Friday, August 2, 2002, at 2 p.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 958, A bill to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, 326-K, and for other purposes.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 884, 885, 886, 890, 891, 892, 893, 904, 905, 910, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, and 920; that the nominations be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then return to legislative session, with the preceding all occurring without any intervening action or debate.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Jeffrey D. Wallin, of California, to be a Member of the National Council on the Hu-

manities for a term expiring January 26, 2006.

Wilfred M. McClay, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006.

Thomas Mallon, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Lawrence A. Greenfield, of Maryland, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Anthony Dichio, of Massachusetts, to be United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

Michael Lee Kline, of Washington, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Washington for the term of four years.

James Thomas Roberts, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Fred L. Dailey, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Grace Trujillo Daniel, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

J. Russell George, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Marcos D. Jimenez, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Miriam F. Miquelon, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.

James Robert Dougan, of Michigan, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years.

George Breffni Walsh, of Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE

Peter J. Hurtgen, of Maryland, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY

Robert Davila, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on Disability for a term expiring September 17, 2003.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Earl A. Powell III, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006.

Naomi Shihab Nye, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006.

Michael Paek, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

PERSIAN GULF WAR POW/MIA ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 452, S. 1339.