

for the Southern District of Texas; Steven G. Bradbury to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; Sharee M. Freeman to be Director, Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice; Jeffrey L. Sedgwick to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

II. Bills: S. 1768, A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings—Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Grassley, Schumer, Feingold, Durbin; S. 829, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2005—Grassley, Schumer, Cornyn, Leahy, Feingold, Durbin, Graham, DeWine, Specter; S. 489, Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act—Alexander, Kyl, Cornyn, Graham, Hatch; S. 2039, Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act of 2005—Durbin, Specter, DeWine, Leahy, Kennedy, Feinstein, Feingold, Schumer; S. 2292, A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges—Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Feinstein, Biden; S. 2453, National Security Surveillance Act of 2006—Specter; S. 2455, Terrorist Surveillance Act of 2006—DeWine, Graham.

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment—Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback; S. Res. 398, A resolution relating to the censure of George W. Bush; Feingold.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2006, to hear the legislative presentations of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, the AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Vietnam Veterans of America. The hearing will take place in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 10 a.m.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 10 a.m., for a hearing entitled "Neutralizing The Nuclear and Radiological Threat: Securing the Global Supply Chain (Part Two)."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 30, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREDICTION

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee

on Disaster Prevention and Prediction be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 11 a.m., on National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Oversight.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing entitled, "Fulfilling the Promise? A Review of Veterans' Preference in the Federal Government?"

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 30, 2006, at 2 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on reserve component personnel policies in review of the Defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1577, to facilitate the transfer of Spearfish Hydroelectric Plant Number 1 to the city of Spearfish, SD; S. 1962 and H.R. 4000, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to revise certain repayment contracts with the Bostwick Irrigation District in Nebraska, the Kansas Bostwick Irrigation District No. 2, the Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District, and the Webster Irrigation District No. 4, all a part of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program; S. 2028, to provide for the reinstatement of a license for a certain Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project; S. 2035, to extend the time required for construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Idaho; S. 2054, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of water resources in the State of Vermont; S. 2205, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain parcels of land acquired for the Blunt Reservoir and Pierre Canal features of the initial stage of the Oahe Unit, James Division, SD, to the Commission of Schools and Public Lands and the Department of Game, Fish, and Parks of the State of South Dakota for the purpose of mitigating lost wildlife habitat, on the condition that the current preferential leaseholders shall have an option to purchase the parcels from the Commission; and H.R. 3812, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a

feasibility study with respect to the Mokolumne River, and for other purposes.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Judiciary Committee detailees and interns be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of debate on S. 2454, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006: Kenneth Cohen, George Farmakides, and Robert Newell.

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

AMERICAN DIABETES ALERT DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this week, the National Medical Association sponsored American Diabetes Alert Day, with the purpose of bringing the public's attention to this distressingly prevalent disease.

Approximately 20.8 million people in the United States have diabetes; 6.2 million, or about a third of that number, are unaware that they suffer from the disease, although they have it.

Among African Americans, approximately 3.2 million people, age 20 or older, have diabetes, with as many as one-third of that number remaining undiagnosed. Yet the ravages of that disease, which can be quite silent at first, continue.

These disparities also mean higher rates of heart disease, amputations, loss of eyesight, and a host of other serious complications caused by diabetes.

African Americans are over two times as likely as non-Hispanic Whites to die from the disease. Today, nobody knows exactly why, and it needs to be explored and it needs to be eliminated.

I strongly believe that the troubling persistence of health disparities, these gaps and differences that are based on race, and even where you live at times, based on socioeconomic status—diabetes being one example—is a national issue that almost by definition affects us all.

I congratulate the National Medical Association, a very active organization, a tremendous organization, for their outreach, which they have explored through conferences and through e-mail and direct mail, for raising this awareness. A third of the people don't know they have diabetes.

All this is an issue of our common humanity, our oneness, and our commitment to one another as deserving, equal, and comparable citizens. Yet these disparities exist. Even if a person disagrees with my reasons, as others have pointed out, we all suffer the economic consequences in higher insurance rates and a compromised health system.

As a doctor, I have had the opportunity to interact with hundreds, actually thousands, of patients with a