

Whereas no narrative on the construction of the Capitol that does not include the contributions of enslaved African Americans can fully and accurately reflect the history of the Capitol; and

Whereas recognition of the contributions of enslaved African Americans brings to all people of the United States an understanding of the continuing evolution of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate authorizes and directs—

(1) the Senate Commission on Art to procure an appropriate plaque acknowledging the role of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol; and

(2) that, under the direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the plaque shall be placed near the original exterior wall that was constructed between 1793 and 1800 in the East Front corridor on the third floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate, that the hearing scheduled before Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, for Thursday, February 26, 2009, will begin at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide recommendations for reducing energy consumption in buildings through improved implementation of authorized DOE programs and through other innovative federal energy efficiency policies and programs.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224-5360 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to examine the progress on smart grid initiatives authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and funded in the stimulus bill, and to learn of opportunities and impediments to timely installation of smart grid technologies.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Gina.Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Leon Lowery at (202) 224-2209 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the infor-

mation of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to review future directions of energy research and development and to identify key scientific and technological hurdles that must be overcome in order to pursue these new directions.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Epstein at (202) 224-4971 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has rescheduled its February 24th hearing, "Tax Haven Banks and U.S. Tax Compliance—Obtaining the Names of U.S. Clients with Swiss Accounts," to Wednesday, March 4th. This hearing will continue the Subcommittee's examination of financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by U.S. clients. One of the banks featured in a July 2008 hearing on this topic is UBS, a major financial institution headquartered in Switzerland. The hearing will examine issues related to a John Doe summons served by the IRS on UBS seeking the names of U.S. clients with UBS Swiss accounts that have not been disclosed to the IRS. In July, UBS representatives estimated that about 19,000 U.S. clients had about \$18 billion in assets in such Swiss accounts. The hearing will examine a recent deferred prosecution agreement involving UBS, the status of the John Doe summons, the role of U.S.-Swiss tax and legal assistance treaties, and the effect of Swiss secrecy laws on U.S. information requests. A witness list will be available Friday, February 27, 2009.

The Subcommittee hearing has been rescheduled for March 4, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Bob Roach of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 202-224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2009, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Addressing Underinsurance in National Health Reform" on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2 p.m., in a Joint Hearing with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive testimony from the Disabled American Veterans. The Committee will meet in room 345 of the Cannon Building beginning at 2 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Ticketmaster/Live Nation Merger: What Does it Mean for Consumers and the Future of the Concert Business?" on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Kim McIntier of my staff have floor privileges for the duration of the debate on S. 160.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MCCASKILL). The Senator from North Dakota

 ORDER FOR RECESS AND ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8:30 p.m., and that at 8:40 p.m., the Senate proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States; that upon disposition of the joint session, the Senate adjourn until 9:30 Wednesday, February 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 106, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act.

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

RECESS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5 p.m., recessed until 8:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BENNET).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

 AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. this evening.

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

 JOINT SESSION OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-1)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives to receive a message from the President of the United States.

Thereupon, the Senate, preceded by the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Drew Willison, the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Vice President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address by the President of the United States, Barack H. Obama.

(The address delivered by the President of the United States to the joint session of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

 ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

At the conclusion of the joint session of the two Houses and in accordance with the order previously entered, at 10:18 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, February 25, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.