

Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 10, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., to hold a confirmation hearing on the nomination of Montie Deer to be the Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 202/224-2251.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SENATE LEGISLATIVE CLERK SCOTT BATES

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, the United States Senate experienced a great and sudden loss on Friday night with the untimely death of our legislative clerk, Scott Bates. Mr. Bates was, in many ways, a symbol of the endurance and integrity of our institution, and his passing is a time of sadness for our Senate family.

For thirty years, Scott Bates was a faithful, dedicated and passionate servant of the United States Senate. He devoted his life to ensuring that our legislative body operated with efficiency, precision and dignity. Neither I nor my colleagues, nor any of our predecessors here will ever forget the clear, powerful voice of Scott Bates—calling the roll, announcing our votes, or just saying “hello.”

Scott Bates was a man of honor and humility. He was a mainstay of our sacred institution for three decades. I join my colleagues in mourning his passing and celebrating his life. To his wife, Ricki, who is still recovering in the hospital, we wish you a speedy recovery—please know that you and your three children, Lori, Lisa and Paul, are in our thoughts and prayers. You will remain a cherished part of the Senate family.●

KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN

• Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of a great man, King Hussein of Jordan.

Today the world said goodbye to King Hussein and the great outpouring of grief by his people and the presence today in Amman of almost all of the world's leaders, is testament to his greatness and to the real honor and affection in which he was held; it was a testament to the enormous contribution he made to world peace and stability.

King Hussein was very young when he became king 47 years ago, in a tough neighborhood where wits and courage and character are quickly tested—and tested often. During his reign, he dodged at least 12 assassination attempts and 7 plots to overthrow him.

Though he took over a shaky throne, his perseverance, his vision and his

great faith carried him through and resulted in a much stronger nation of Jordan and a more stable Middle East. He took his country far down the path of democratic reforms—reforms which he had hoped to continue to improve upon and to broaden.

His rule saw his country acquire stability and make peace with Israel. He modernized Jordan and created a situation in which Jordanians enjoy a degree of political freedom not found in most other Arab nations.

He did all this by living his faith and his ideals: he practiced political tolerance and even reached a peace and pardoned those who had tried to kill him.

He was a true friend and ally of the United States but his true devotion was to his people and to the cause of peace. He took great risks to achieve this peace.

He was a lynchpin in Middle East Peace Process. Only a few months ago, he left his sickbed and came to Wye to help broker the Wye River accord that revived the failing peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. It was his presence and his commitment that brought a successful resolution to this agreement.

He did this at great personal sacrifice when he was near death. He fought illness with grace, courage and faith in the same way he had lived his life.

A stronger Kingdom of Jordan and a more stable Middle East, capable of eventually sustaining a lasting peace will be one of his great legacies.

Mr. President it is vitally important for the United States and Jordan to continue our close ties and to deepen our mutual commitment.

I join my colleagues in expressing my support and best wishes to King Hussein's son and successor, King Abdullah.

I met with King Abdullah this past November. He is very capable, knowledgeable and his is a strong leader. He is now a key to peace in the world and he is up to the task. We all wish him God's speed and great blessings.●

THE NATIONAL SALVAGE MOTOR VEHICLE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

• Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to talk about America's used car buyers. They are looking to this Congress to take prompt action on legislation that will curtail the fraudulent practice of “title washing.” A deceptive scheme that costs consumers and the automobile industry over \$4 billion annually and places millions of structurally unsafe vehicles back on America's roads and highways.

Last week I brought to your attention a January 8, 1999, Washington Post article entitled “Wrecked Cars, On the Road Again.” This is scary—government crash test cars—deliberately destroyed cars—are being rebuilt and sold

to unsuspecting consumers as undamaged vehicles. One of these crash cars could have been next to any one of us on the way to work today.

I ask my colleagues to think about how they would feel if their son or daughter unknowingly purchased a NHSTA crash test car. Aside from the significant monetary loss, buyers of these previously totaled cars or trucks are also unwittingly risking life and limb. As well as everyone with whom they share the road.

As my colleagues are well aware, Senator Ford and I coauthored legislation in the 105th Congress with the intent of putting dishonest rebuilders out of business. Our bill would have provided greater disclosure to potential used car buyers by establishing national uniform definitions for salvage, rebuilt salvage, nonrepairable, and flood vehicles. As everyone knows, especially the crooks and charlatans who prey on unsuspecting victims, that it is the lack of uniformity and the inconsistencies in state automobile titling procedures that allows title laundering to flourish unabated.

Mr. President, the provisions of the National Salvage Motor Vehicle Consumer Protection Act mirrored the recommendations of the Motor Vehicle Titling, Registration and Salvage Advisory Committee. This congressionally mandated committee, overseen by the U.S. Department of Transportation, included State motor vehicle officials, motor vehicle manufacturers, dealers, recyclers, insurers, salvage yard operators, scrap processors, federal and state law enforcement representatives, and others. While I would like to claim credit for authoring the definitions in the title branding legislation, they were in fact based on the knowledge and experience of the Salvage Committee and the recommendations offered in their final report. So these are not my definitions, they are the expert advisory committee's definitions.

Mr. President, too often Congress lets recommendations from commissions we mandate sit on a shelf gathering dust.

Mr. President, I do not want this to happen here. Title washing is a pervasive problem. The salvage advisory group provided a wealth of information and recommendations to address this national problem. Congress needs to act.

Aside from promoting the use of uniform definitions, the bill requires rebuilt salvage vehicles to undergo a theft inspection in addition to any required state safety inspection. These vehicles would also have a decal permanently affixed to its window and the driver's doorjamb to provide even greater disclosure. Equally important, the vehicle's brand would be carried forward to each state where the vehicle is retitled. And, the Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) of irreparably