

on Administrative Oversight and the Courts be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, September 6, 2000 at 2:00 p.m., in SD226.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Peter Washburn and Dan Utech, fellows on the Environment and Public Works Committee, be granted floor privileges during consideration of H.R. 4733.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent, on behalf of Senator BINGAMAN, that two fellows in his personal office, Dan Alpert and John Jennings, be allowed privileges of the Senate floor while the energy and water appropriations bill is the pending business.

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

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 106-45

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following convention transmitted to the Senate on September 6, 2000, by the President of the United States:

Convention for International Carriage by Air, Treaty Document No. 106-45.

I also ask that the convention be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for Senate advice and consent to ratification, the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, done at Montreal May 28, 1999 (the "Convention"). The report of the Department of State, including an article-by-article analysis, is enclosed for the information of the Senate in connection with its consideration of the Convention.

I invite favorable consideration of the recommendation of the Secretary of State, as contained in the report provided herewith, that the Senate's advice and consent to the Convention be subject to a declaration on behalf of the United States, pursuant to Article 57(a) of the Convention, that the convention shall not apply to inter-

national carriage by air performed and operated directly by the United States for noncommercial purposes in respect to its functions and duties as a sovereign State. Such a declaration is consistent with the declaration made by the United States under the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air, done at Warsaw October 12, 1929, as amended (the "Warsaw Convention") and is specifically permitted by the terms of the new Convention.

Upon entry into force for the United States, the Convention, where applicable, would supersede the Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Protocol to Amend the Warsaw Convention, done at Montreal September 25, 1975 ("Montreal Protocol No. 4"), which entered into force for the United States on March 4, 1999. The Convention represents a vast improvement over the liability regime established under the Warsaw Convention and its related instruments, relative to passenger rights in the event of an accident. Among other benefits, the Convention eliminates the cap on carrier liability to accident victims; holds carriers strictly liable for proven damages up to 100,000 Special Drawing Rights (approximately \$135,000) (Special Drawing Rights represent an artificial 'basket' currency developed by the International Monetary Fund for internal accounting purposes to replace gold as a world standard); provides for U.S. jurisdiction for most claims brought on behalf of U.S. passengers; clarifies the duties and obligations of carriers engaged in code-share operations; and, with respect to cargo, preserves all of the significant advances achieved by Montreal Protocol No. 4.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Convention and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to a declaration that the Convention shall not apply to international carriage by U.S. State aircraft, as provided for in the Convention.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 6, 2000.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE—S. 1608

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vitiation order with respect to the agreement for consideration of S. 1608 be extended until 12 noon on Friday.

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

GALVESTON HURRICANE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 134, submitted earlier today by Senators HUTCHISON and GRAMM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 134) designating September 8, 2000, as Galveston Hurricane National Remembrance Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this concurrent resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 134) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 134

Whereas September 8, 2000 marks the 100th anniversary of the hurricane that struck Galveston, Texas on September 8, 1900, the deadliest natural disaster in United States history;

Whereas an estimated 6,000 people died in a few hours in this thriving port of 37,000, dubbed the "Wall Street of the West" at the dawn of the 20th century;

Whereas vast waves, surging flood waters, and powerful winds of more than 120 miles an hour overtook the town, in an era without radar, satellites, or modern radio, making off-shore hurricanes difficult to track;

Whereas the residents of Galveston island showed much courage and sacrifice during the tempest, exemplified by 10 nuns who lost their lives along with the 90 children they were trying to save at St. Mary's Orphanage on the beach;

Whereas Galveston never lost her resilient spirit, built a sturdy 17-foot sea wall that staved off other fierce hurricanes, pumped in millions of tons of sand from the Gulf of Mexico in order to raise the level of the city and its buildings to a safer height, and became a beautiful and prosperous town yet again;

Whereas the city of Galveston is this year holding a ceremony commemorating the hurricane, launching educational efforts, and celebrating the rebirth of Galveston after the storm; and

Whereas our Nation, which benefits from modern weather technology and the lessons learned from the Galveston tragedy, should never cease to improve hurricane forecasting and make life safer and more secure along our coasts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) September 8, 2000 is designated as Galveston Hurricane National Remembrance Day; and

(2) the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation in memory of the thousands of Galvestonians and other Americans who lost their lives in the devastating hurricane of 1900 and the survivors who rebuilt Galveston.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2000

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate