

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Trici Heninger, Staff Assistant, or Colleen Deegan, Counsel, at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2000. The purpose of this hearing will be to review the operation of the Office of Civil Rights, USDA, and the role of the Office of General Counsel, USDA.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, September 12, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. on Firestone tire recall.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on proposed U.S. Department of Transportation regulations on planning and environment.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2000 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing (agenda attached).

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12, 2000, to conduct a hearing on "congressional proposals impacting F.H.A. reserves."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be

authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 12 at 2:30 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on the status of the Biological Opinions of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the operations of the Federal hydropower system of the Columbia River.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Marty Gensler, who is a fellow in my office, have floor privileges during the rest of the debate.

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 354 submitted earlier by Senator LOTT and Senator DASCHLE.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 354) amending paragraphs 2 and 3(a) of Rule XXV and providing for Senator appointments to the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, the Finance Committee, the Small Business Committee, and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the immediate consideration of the resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 354) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 354

Resolved, That notwithstanding any other provision of Rule XXV, paragraph 2 of Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended as follows:

Strike the figure after "Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry" and insert in lieu thereof "20".

Strike the figure after "Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs" and insert in lieu thereof "22".

SEC. 2. That Rule XXV, paragraph 3(a) of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended as follows:

Strike the figure after "Veterans' Affairs" and insert in lieu thereof "14".

SEC. 3. That on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) is hereby appointed to serve as a majority member; that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) is hereby appointed to serve as a minority member; and that the Majority Leader is hereby authorized to appoint one majority member to that committee.

SEC. 4. That on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) is hereby appointed to serve as a minority member, and that the Majority Leader is hereby authorized to appoint one majority member to that committee.

SEC. 5. That on the Committee on Finance, the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) is hereby appointed to serve as a majority member.

SEC. 6. That on the Committee on Small Business, the Majority Leader is hereby authorized to appoint one majority member to that committee.

SEC. 7. That on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) is hereby appointed to serve as a minority member, and that the Majority Leader is hereby authorized to appoint a majority member to that committee.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENTS NOS. 106-46 AND 106-47

Mr. THOMPSON. I ask unanimous consent that the Injunction of Secrecy be removed from the following treaties transmitted to the Senate on September 12, 2000, by the President of the United States: Protocol Amending Investment Treaty with Panama (Treaty Document 106-46); and Investment Treaty with Azerbaijan (Treaty Document 106-47).

I further ask that the treaties be considered as having been read the first time, that they be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations in order to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The messages of the President are as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Protocol Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama Amending the Treaty Concerning the Treatment and Protection of Investments of October 17, 1982. This Protocol was signed at Panama City, on June 1, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Protocol.

The 1982 bilateral investment treaty with Panama (the "1982 Treaty") was the second treaty to be signed under the U.S. bilateral investment treaty (BIT) program. The 1982 Treaty protects U.S. investment and assists Panama in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thereby strengthening the development of its private sector.

As explained in the Department of State's report, the Protocol is needed in order to ensure that investors continue to have access to binding international arbitration following Panama's 1996 accession to the Convention