

Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 10 a.m. to hear testimony regarding Medicare Reform: Issues and Options.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 10 a.m., in SD226.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, beginning at 9 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request for the Small Business Administration."

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 2 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Governmental Affairs Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, 9:30 a.m., for a hearing entitled "Day Trading: Everyone Gambles But The House."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Lands of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing. The subcommittee will receive testimony on S. 1722, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium

that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes; and its companion bill, H.R. 3063, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes; and S. 1950, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 to ensure the orderly development of coal, coalbed methane, natural gas, and oil in the Power River Basin, Wyoming and Montana, and for other purposes.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. 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 Thursday, February 24, 2000, to conduct a hearing on "HUD's community Builders Program."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 2:30 p.m. in open session to receive testimony on Department of Defense Policies pertaining to recruiting and retention in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2001 and the future years defense program.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure be authorized to conduct a hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers FY 2001 budget on Thursday, February 24, 2000, at 10 a.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ben Hubbard of my staff be given privileges of the floor throughout the day and for any subsequent votes today.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privilege of the floor be granted to Scott Kindsvater, an outstanding pilot. He is a major in the Air Force who happens to come from Dodge City, KS, America. He is a congressional fellow from the Air Force, serving in my office in regard to this particular issue.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE NEED FOR RESPONSIBLE MILITARY HEALTH CARE REFORM

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to express the need to support responsible, significant, military health care reform. I commend the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee and Republican leadership for making enactment of military health care reform a top priority in the Senate.

Our nation's military health care delivery system cries out for strong, meaningful reform. The military health care delivery system is facing some very unique challenges.

One of the critical challenges is how best to reconfigure the military health care delivery system so that it might continue to meet its military readiness and peace-time obligations at a time of continuous change for our base and force structure. In the process of deciding how to proceed, I met with and heard from many military family members, veterans and military retirees from around the country. I was inundated with suggestions for reform. In every meeting and every letter, I encountered retired service men and women who have problems with every aspect of the military medical care system—with long waiting periods, with access to the right kind of care, with access to needed pharmaceutical drugs, and with the broken promise of lifetime health care for military retirees and their spouses. I heard these concerns expressed as I have traveled across the United States over the past several months.

My distinguished colleagues, the Republican Leader, Senator LOTT, Armed Services Committee Chairman, Senator WARNER, and Ranking Member, Senator LEVIN, introduced a bill that also addresses the military health care system. The bill is S.2087, the "Military Health Care Improvements Act of 2000." I applaud my colleagues in rising to this challenge, and I am pleased to see that portions of legislation I introduced last month were included in their bill. However, I can not cosponsor this legislation because it does not do enough to reform the military health care delivery system for our veterans, especially our oldest veterans, retirees, and survivors.

I have several concerns with the legislation introduced yesterday.

One of the areas of greatest concern among military retirees and their families is the "broken promise" of lifetime medical care, especially for those over-age 65. S. 2087 fails to meet what I think is the most important requirement, the restoration of the broken promise of free lifetime medical care promised to retirees and their families who entered the service prior to June 7, 1956. The major veteran service organizations share my view that the number