

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today Senator ROBERTS and I are submitting a resolution on civic participation. The resolution has three provisions: 1. It proclaims the week beginning September 15, 2002 as National Civic Participation Week; 2. It proclaims National Civic Participation Week as a week of programs and activities that encourage greater participation in elections and the political process; and 3. It requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on organizations and the people of the country to promote the use of technology in fostering civic participation through the dissemination of information.

The thrust of this resolution is to encourage activities among Americans, especially young people, to use technology to become more involved in the country's civic life.

As our Nation's leaders, it is our job to show Americans, especially young people, the importance of being involved in local, State, and national affairs.

Civic participation is the arena in which citizens can express their views and engage in dialogue and actions that, influence public policy and guide public officials to carry out the citizen's views and recommendations.

With advances in Internet technology and other computerized forms of communication, today we can offer citizens new and innovative ways of learning about and interacting with their local, State and Federal Government in an easily accessible way.

With only 65.9 percent of all Americans registered to vote in the 1996 Presidential election, according to the Federal Election Commission, the Civic Participation Week resolution will try to make more people aware of their right and responsibility to take an active role in government.

There is no question that we need more Americans involved in their government. In fact, our democracy depends on it. In the most recent Presidential election last year in the United States, only 50.7 percent of the registered voters actually voted, according to the November 9, 2000 Washington Post. This compares to 49 percent in the 1996 and 50.1 percent in the 1988 Federal elections.

Among young people, the voter turnout in this country is considerably lower. In the 18–21 age group, only 43.6 percent are registered to vote, and a dismal 18.5 percent actually voted in 1998, according to Federal Election Commission data.

In many other countries, the voter turnout is considerably higher than in the United States. According to the Federal Election Commission, in Kazakhstan's 1999 Presidential election, there was a 87.05 percent voter turnout. In Iceland, there was a 85.9 percent voter turnout in the 1996 Presidential election. The 1995 Presidential

election in Argentina had a 80.9 percent turnout of registered voters.

Internet technology may be an especially effective way to reach young Americans because information is highly accessible. Available at the click of a mouse, and young people seem to prefer computers as an information-gathering tool over more traditional methods.

This use of new technology can help bring people together and can promote citizen participation in the political process through more volunteerism, easier access to information, and heightened activism in our Nation's civic life.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK V. ADELA HOLZER

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas, the District Attorney of the County of New York in the State of New York is seeking testimony before the Grand Jury of the County of New York from Garry Malphrus, an employee on the staff of the Committee on the Judiciary, in a criminal action prosecuted by the People of the State of New York against Adela Holzer;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics of Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Garry Malphrus is authorized to testify in People of the State of New York v. Adela Holzer, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Garry Malphrus in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on July 31, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this

hearing will be to discuss conservation on working lands for the next federal farm bill.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on August 2, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to discuss rural economic development issues for the next federal farm bill.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Thursday, August 2, 2001, at 9 a.m., in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, to consider the following legislation: S. 565, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2001"; an original resolution providing for members on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library; S.J. Res. 19 and 20, providing for the reappointment of Anne d'Harnoncourt and the appointment of Roger W. Sant, respectively, as Smithsonian Institution citizen regents; S. 829, the "National Museum of African American History and Culture Act of 2001"; and other legislative and administrative matters ready for consideration at the time of the markup.

For further information regarding this markup, please contact Kennie Gill at the Rules Committee on 224-6352.

SUBCOMMITTEE PRODUCTION AND PRICE COMPETITIVENESS

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness will meet on August 1, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to consider the U.S. Export Market Share.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam 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 Friday, July 27, 2001, to conduct the second in a series of hearings on "Predatory Mortgage Lending: The Problem, Impact, and Responses."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday,