

on Technology, Terrorism and Government Information be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, November 6, 2001, at 10 a.m., in Dirksen 226, on "Germs, Toxins and Terror: The New Threat to America."

Panel I: J.T. Caruso, Deputy Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Jim Reynolds, Chief, Terrorism and Violent Crimes Section, Department of Justice; and Claude Allen, Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

Panel II: John Paraccini, RAND Corporation; Dr. Michael Drake, Co-Chair, California Task Force on Bioterrorism; and Ronald Atlas, National President, American Society of Microbiology.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for Kevin Avery of my staff to be given floor privileges.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 516 through 528; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

William Walter Mercer, of Montana, to be United States Attorney for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

Thomas E. Moss, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

J. Strom Thurmond, Jr., of South Carolina, to be the United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

Leura Garrett Canary, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Paul K. Charlton, of Arizona, to be United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of four years.

Jeffrey Gilbert Collins, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

William S. Duffey, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Maxwell Wood, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Dunn Lampton, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years.

Alice Howze Martin, of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Drew Howard Wrigley, of North Dakota, to be United States Attorney for the District of North Dakota for the term of four years.

Sharee M. Freeman, of Virginia, to be Director, Community Relations Service, for a term of four years.

Juan Carlos Benitez, of Puerto Rico, to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices for a term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m., Wednesday, November 7; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act.

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

STATUS OF HART OFFICE BUILDING REMEDIATION PROJECT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to update the Senate on a situation that is of interest to many people and of acute interest to many of us: the remediation of the Hart Senate Office Building.

It was 3 weeks ago yesterday that an envelope containing anthrax was opened in my Hart office by a member of my staff. It is the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency to recommend how the Hart Building is to be remediated. No other entity has the expertise to make those recommendations.

One week ago today, on October 30, the Environmental Protection Agency officially took control of the Hart Building and the Hart remediation project. At the time, EPA officials outlined for us what they said was an experimental but promising plan to use a chlorine dioxide fumigant throughout the building to kill the anthrax spores. Under that plan, the Hart Building could have reopened as early as November 13—1 week from today. Unfortunately, it is now clear that EPA will not be able to meet its initial optimistic schedule. EPA now says that the Hart Building will not re-open until at least November 21.

Earlier today, EPA officials came to the Hill to brief Senators who have offices in the Hart Building on the reasons for the delay. They also spoke

with chiefs of staff and office managers from those offices. Since this situation affects the entire Senate family, I want to share what the EPA officials told us. When EPA told us last week about their plans to remediate the entire Hart Building using chlorine dioxide as a fumigant, they said they believed it was the safest, most effective, most comprehensive, and least disruptive way to remediate Hart. At the same time, they said their plan would not be final until it had passed a peer review—until leading scientists in government and the private sector had examined it and agreed it was a reasonable way to go.

According to EPA, over the weekend, some of those scientists raised questions about the plan. While they all agreed that a chlorine dioxide fumigant will kill anthrax spores, some of the experts EPA consulted expressed concerns about using chloride dioxide gas on a building as large as the Hart Building. According to EPA officials, this is not a scientific issue. It is an engineering issue. As a result of these questions, EPA is now formulating a new plan for the Hart Building.

The Senate Sergeant at Arms has appropriately insisted that the entire Hart Building be tested for anthrax. The building will remain closed until the EPA deems that it is safe to reenter. I understand the frustration and disappointment of Senators and staff who have been displaced by the Hart Building closure. We have all been greatly inconvenienced, and we are anxious to get back to the regular order in our offices. But we are dealing with a deadly bacteria. Safety must come before convenience. Twenty members of my staff and 8 other members of the Senate family were exposed to anthrax when that letter was opened. I do not want one more person to have to face that situation.

It is important that we all understand the EPA, and only the EPA, has the expertise to declare the Hart Building safe. We will follow their lead and re-open Hart when they certify it is safe to do so. The safety and health of the people who work in the Hart Building and those who visit there must be our guide.

I appreciate the patience and the understanding of all our colleagues, their staffs, and those who find themselves as dislocated as my staff. I intend to continue to give periodic reports as they are necessary, and I will share whatever information is made available as soon as it is provided to me.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now stand in adjournment under the previous order.