

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House Committee ordered reported the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2297–S2404

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 570–586, S. Res. 76–78, and S. Con. Res. 16. **Pages S2383–84**

Measures Reported:

S. 134, to adjust the boundary of Redwood National Park in the State of California. (S. Rept. No. 109–23)

S. 205, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish in the State of Louisiana a memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 109–24)

S. 207, to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana. (S. Rept. No. 109–25)

S. 243, to establish a program and criteria for National Heritage Areas in the United States. (S. Rept. No. 109–26)

S. 250, to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2383**

Measures Passed:

Terrorist Attacks Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 76, expressing the sense of the Senate on the anniversary of the deadly terrorist attacks launched against the people of Spain on March 11, 2004. **Page S2304**

Condemning Terrorism: Senate agreed to S. Res. 77, condemning all acts of terrorism in Lebanon and calling for the removal of Syrian troops from Lebanon and supporting the people of Lebanon in their quest for a truly democratic form of government. **Pages S2304–05**

Bankruptcy Reform Act: Senate continued consideration of S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the

United States Code, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2306–42**

Adopted:

Feingold Amendment No. 87, to amend section 104 of title 11, United States Code, to include certain provisions in the triennial inflation adjustment of dollar amounts. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 91, to amend section 303 of title 11, United States Code, with respect to the sealing and expungement of court records relating to fraudulent involuntary bankruptcy petitions. **Page S2342**

Rejected:

By 42 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 31), Durbin Amendment No. 110, to clarify that the means test does not apply to debtors below median income. **Page S2311**

By 48 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 32), Harkin Amendment No. 66, to increase the accrual period for the employee wage priority in bankruptcy. **Pages S2307–09, S2311–12**

By 40 yeas to 60 nays (Vote No. 33), Boxer Amendment No. 62, to provide for the potential disallowance of certain claims. **Pages S2309–11, S2312**

By 42 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 34), Dodd Amendment No. 67, to modify the bill to protect families. **Pages S2310, S2311, S2325**

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 35), Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 68, to provide a maximum amount for a homestead exemption under State law. **Pages S2321–22, S2325–26**

Withdrawn:

Bingaman Amendment No. 51, to amend certain provisions regarding attorney actions on behalf of debtors. **Pages S2318–19**

Feingold Amendment No. 101, to amend the definition of small business debtor. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 100, to provide authority for a court to order disgorgement or other remedies relating to an agreement that is not enforceable. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 99, to provide no bankruptcy protection for insolvent political committees. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 98, to modify the disclosure requirements for debt relief agencies providing bankruptcy assistance. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 97, to amend the provisions relating to chapter 13 plans to have a 5-year duration in certain cases and to amend the definition of disposable income for purposes of chapter 13. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 94, to clarify the application of the term disposable income. **Page S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 88, to amend the plan filing and confirmation deadlines. **Page S2342**

Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 119, to amend section 502(b) of title 11, United States Code, to limit usurious claims in bankruptcy. **Page S2342**

Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 71, to strike the provision relating to the presumption of luxury goods. **Page S2342**

Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 72, to ensure that families below median income are not subjected to means test requirements. **Page S2342**

Dodd Amendment No. 53, to require prior notice of rate increases. **Page S2342**

Dodd Amendment No. 52, to prohibit extensions of credit to underage consumers. **Page S2342**

Reid (for Baucus) Amendment No. 50, to amend section 524(g)(1) of title 11, United States Code, to predicate the discharge of debts in bankruptcy by an vermiculite mining company meeting certain criteria on the establishment of a health care trust fund for certain individuals suffering from an asbestos related disease. **Page S2342**

Dorgan/Durbin Amendment No. 45, to establish a special committee of the Senate to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to conduct activities in Afghanistan and Iraq and to fight the war on terrorism. **Page S2342**

Pending:

Kennedy (for Leahy/Sarbanes) Amendment No. 83, to modify the definition of disinterested person in the Bankruptcy Code. **Pages S2306, S2328-42**

Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 69, to amend the definition of current monthly income. **Pages S2306, S2323-25**

Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 70, to exempt debtors whose financial problems were caused by failure to receive alimony or child support, or both, from means testing. **Pages S2306, S2322-23**

Akaka Amendment No. 105, to limit claims in bankruptcy by certain unsecured creditors. **Pages S2307, S2312-18**

Feingold Amendment No. 90, to amend the provision relating to fair notice given to creditors. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 92, to amend the credit counseling provision. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 93, to modify the disclosure requirements for debt relief agencies providing bankruptcy assistance. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 95, to amend the provisions relating to the discharge of taxes under chapter 13. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Feingold Amendment No. 96, to amend the provisions relating to chapter 13 plans to have a 5-year duration in certain cases and to amend the definition of disposable income for purposes of chapter 13. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Talent Amendment No. 121, to deter corporate fraud and prevent the abuse of State self-settled trust law. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Schumer Amendment No. 129 (to Amendment No. 121), to limit the exemption for asset protection trusts. **Pages S2307, S2342**

Durbin Amendment No. 112, to protect disabled veterans from means testing in bankruptcy under certain circumstances. **Pages S2307, S2342**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Thursday, March 10, 2005; that all time be considered expired under the provisions of Rule XXII; that votes occur on, or in relation to, certain amendments; that no further amendments be in order, other than the possibility of a further second-degree amendment offered by Senator Talent, which has been filed, and a Managers' amendment which has been cleared by both Leaders; and that following the disposition of the above-listed amendments, the bill be read a third time, with a vote to occur on final passage of the bill. **Page S2342**

Nominations Discharged: The following nominations were discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Edward L. Flippen, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Corporation for National and Community Service, which was sent to the Senate on January 24, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Measures Read First Time: **Pages S2382, S2404**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2382-83**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2383**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2384-85**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2385-S2403**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2381-82**

Amendments Submitted: Page S2403

Authority for Committees to Meet: Pages S2403–04

Privilege of the Floor: Page S2404

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—35) Pages S2311, S2312, S2325, S2326

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 8:32 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 10, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2404.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Army, after receiving testimony from Francis J. Harvey, Secretary, and General Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff, both of the Army.

DEFENSE: AIR FORCE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Defense science and technology budget and strategy, after receiving testimony from Ronald M. Sega, Director, Defense Research and Engineering; Thomas H. Killion, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research and Technology, Chief Scientist; Rear Admiral Jay M. Cohen, USN, Chief of Naval Research; James B. Engle, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Science, Technology, and Engineering; and Anthony J. Tether, Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

SECURITIES INDUSTRY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of the securities industry, focusing on recent initiatives regarding market structure, credit rating agencies, mutual funds and the implementation of the Sarbanes-Oxley requirements, after receiving testimony from William H. Donaldson, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission.

NOMINATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

2006 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee met to mark up a proposed concurrent resolution setting forth the fiscal year 2006 budget for the Federal Government, but did not complete consideration thereon, and will meet again tomorrow.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, who was introduced by Senator Hutchison, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee completed its markup of S. 131, to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce air pollution through expansion of cap and trade programs, to provide an alternative regulatory classification for units subject to the cap and trade program, following which a tie vote occurred, therefore the committee was unable to report the bill.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill entitled the "Personal Responsibility and Individual Development for Everyone (PRIDE) Act"; and

The nominations of Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, and Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Homeland Security, after receiving testimony from Michael Chertoff, Secretary of Homeland Security.

NOMINATION

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Michael Jackson, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 250, to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 525, to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to reauthorize the Act, to improve early learning opportunities and promote school preparedness;

S. 172, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of all contact lenses as medical devices; and

S. 544, to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for the improvement of patient safety and to reduce the incidence of events that adversely effect patient safety.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 147, to express the policy of the United States regarding the United States relationship with Native Hawaiians and to provide a process for the recognition by the United States of the Native Hawaiian governing entity, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 536, to make technical corrections to laws relating to Native Americans.

INDIAN TRUST REFORM

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine trust management reform within the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from James Cason, Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Ross O. Swimmer, Special Trustee for American Indians, both of the Department of the Interior; Tex G. Hall, National Congress of American Indians, and Keith Harper, Native American Rights Fund, both of Washington, D.C.; Jim Gray, Intertribal Monitoring Association on Indian Trust funds, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Charles C. Colombe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, Rosebud; and Darrell Hillaire, Lummi Indian Nation, Bellingham, Washington, on behalf of the California Tribal Trust Reform Consortium.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 1181–1210; 1 private bill, H.R. 1211; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 88–90, and H. Res. 145, were introduced. **Pages H1263–64**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1264–65**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 144, providing for further consideration of H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs (H. Rept. 109–15). **Page H1263**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller of Michigan to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H1027**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rev. Mary E. Moore, Pastor, New Salem Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. **Page H1027**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Sense of the House that a National Tartan Day should be established: H. Res. 41, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as “National Tartan Day” to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States; and **Pages H1029–31**

Recognizing the contributions of the U.S. Marine Corps and other units of the Armed Forces on the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima: H. Res. 119, recognizing the contributions of the United States Marine Corps and other units of the United States Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II. **Pages H11031–34**

Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users: The House began consideration of H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Further proceedings will resume tomorrow, March 10. **Pages H1038–H1205**

Agreed that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the

bill and modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 109–14 be adopted; and further that the bill, as amended, is considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment.

Pages H1055–H1184

Accepted:

Moran of Kansas amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) amends the exemption for maximum driving and on duty time for drivers of motor carriers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies at the time of planting or harvest for a 100 air mile radius to the distribution point of the source of the commodities by including in the definition of “agricultural commodities”, livestock, food, feed, and fiber, and other farm products (by a recorded vote of 257 ayes to 167 noes, Roll No. 57);

Pages H1187–88, H1189–90

Kuhl amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that names a portion of Interstate 86 in upstate New York in the vicinity of the City of Corning, the “Amo Houghton Bypass”, after Former Congressman Amo Houghton who retired from Congress in 2004 after serving 18 years;

Pages H1190–91

Cox amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that clarifies that states are not preempted under federal law from requiring one or both of the following from tow-truck operators when they are removing a vehicle from private property without the consent of the vehicle owner or operator: first, a state can require that the tow-truck operator have written permission from the owner of the private property authorizing the non-consensual tow; and second, a state can require that the owner of the private property be present at the time the vehicle is towed from the private property.

Pages H1192–94

Osborne amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that exempts the State of Nebraska from the ISTEA 1991 truck length freeze, subject to a change in state statute, to allow the operation of commercial vehicle combinations not exceeding 81 feet, six inches for custom harvesters operating in the State of Nebraska (by a recorded vote of 236 ayes to 184 noes, Roll No. 58); and

Pages H1191–92, H1202–03

Graves amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that eliminates liability under state law for an owner of a motor vehicle or their affiliate who is engaged in the business of renting and leasing motor vehicles provided there is no negligence or criminal wrongdoing on the part of the motor vehicle owner or affiliate (by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 201 noes, Roll No. 60).

Pages H1199, H1202, H1204

Rejected:

Conaway amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that sought to exempt commercial

motor vehicle operators working in field operations for the natural gas and oil industry from the hours of service rules issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (by a recorded vote of 198 ayes to 226 noes, Roll No. 56); and

Pages H1186–87, H1188–89

Kennedy of Minnesota amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that sought to streamline tolling authority to charge tolls on new lanes, and dedicates those revenues to the user fee purpose (by a recorded vote of 155 ayes to 265 noes, Roll No. 59).

Pages H1194–99, H1203–04

Withdrawn:

Boozman amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have allowed operators of a property carrying motor vehicle to take up to two hours of off-duty time, as defined by FMSCA, during their 14 hours on duty, so as not to exceed 16 hours; and

Pages H1184–86

Kuhl amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 109–14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have amended the exemption for maximum driving and on duty time for drivers of motor carriers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies at the time of planting or harvesting for a 100 air mile radius to the distribution point of the source of the commodities, by increasing the air mile radius to 150.

Page H1187

H. Res. 140, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote.

Pages H1034–38

Recess: The House recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

Page H1225

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1188–89, H1189–90, H1203, H1203–04, and H1204. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Committee Meetings

CFTC REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management continued hearings on Reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on the National Intelligence Program Budget. Testimony

was heard from Larry Kindsvater, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Community Management, CIA.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on FEMA. Testimony was heard from Mike Brown, Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on NIH. Testimony was heard from Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D. Director, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Secretary of Energy. Testimony was heard from Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Energy.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Fish and Wildlife Service. Testimony was heard from Steven A. Williams, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Air Force Budget. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Air Force: GEN John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff; and Fred Kuhn, Acting Assistant Secretary, Installations, Environment and Logistics.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Budget. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: ADM Vern Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps; and B.J. Penn, Assistant Secretary, Installations and Environment.

SCIENCE, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, AND COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Secretary of State. Testimony was heard from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Continued hearings on the Fiscal Year National Defense Authorization budget request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: GEN James Jones, USMC, Combatant Commander, U.S. European Command; ADM William J. Fallon, USN, Combatant Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; and GEN Bantz J. Craddock, USA, Combatant Commander, U.S. Southern Command.

Will continue tomorrow.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006— SPACE ACTIVITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request for space activities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Peter B. Teets, Under Secretary, Air Force, Space; GEN Lance W. Lord, USAF, Commander, U.S. Air Force Command; LTG Larry Dodgen, USA, Commander, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command; VADM Joseph Sestak, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs; and BG Thomas Benes, USMC, Director, Strategy and Plans Division, U.S. Marine Corps.

DOD—UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE AND JOINT UNMANNED COMBAT AIR SYSTEM INVESTMENT PROGRAMS BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request on Department of Defense unmanned aerial vehicle and Joint Unmanned Combat Air System investment programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Sharon Pickup, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management; and Mike Sullivan, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Glen Lamartin, Director, Defense Systems, Office of the Secretary; LTG Ronald E. Keys, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air and Space Operations; BG Jeff Schloesser, USA, Director, Army Aviation Task Force; RADM Andy Winns, USN,

Deputy N78 Aviation Requirements Officer, USN; and BG Martin Post, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Aviation.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on the Budget: Ordered reported the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 366, Vocational and Technical Education for the Future Act.

SPY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 29, Spy Act.

GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "The Implementation of GEOSS: A Review of the All-Hazards Warning System and its Benefits to Public Health, Energy and the Environment." Testimony was heard from VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., USN (Ret.), Under Secretary, Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator, NOAA, Department of Commerce; Allen Drearry, Associate Director, Division of Research Coordination Planning and Translation, National Institute of Environmental Health Science, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services; Gary Foley, Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory, EPA; Ari Patrinos, Associate Director, Biological and Environmental Research, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

GSE REFORM AND THE FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "GSE Reform and the Federal Home Loan Bank System." Testimony was heard from Ronald A. Rosenfeld, Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board; David H. Hehman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank, Cincinnati, Ohio; and public witnesses.

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION STRUCTURE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee Management, Integration and Oversight held a hearing entitled "CBP and ICE: Does the Current Organizational Structure Best Serve U.S. Homeland Security Interests?" Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on International Relations: Authorized the Chairman to seek consideration under suspension of the rules for the following measures, with amendments deemed agreed to, H. Con. Res. 18, Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic; H. Con. Res. 32, Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic; H. Con. Res. 34, Honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhanan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing; H. Con. Res. 81, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the two-year anniversary of the human rights crackdown in Cuba; H. Con. Res. 82, Expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the arrest of Ayman Nour, the leader of the al-Ghad party, by the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the support of Congress for continued progress toward democracy in Egypt; H. Res. 101, Urging the European Union to add Hezbollah to the European Union's wide-ranging list of terrorist organizations; H. Res. 120, Commending the outstanding efforts by members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development in response to the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004; H. Res. 135, Providing for the establishment of a commission in the House of Representatives to assist parliaments in emerging democracies; H. Con. Res. 83, Urging the appropriate representative of the United States to the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to introduce a resolution calling upon the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its human rights violations in China; H. Res. 99, Expressing condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid that occurred one year ago, on March 11, 2004, and expressing deepest sympathy to the individuals injured in those attacks and to the people of the Kingdom of Spain; and H. Res. 108, Commemorating the life of the late Zurab Zhvania, Prime Minister of the Republic of Georgia.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held a hearing on Combating Human Trafficking: Achieving Zero Tolerance. Testimony was heard from John R. Miller, Director, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Department of State; and public witnesses.

U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats held a hearing on Developments in U.S.-Russia Relations. Testimony was heard from Representative Weldon (PA); and public witnesses.

U.S.-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia held a hearing on U.S. Policy Toward the Palestinians in the Post-Arafat Era. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: David M. Satterfield, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; and James Kunder, Assistant Administrator, Asia and the Near East, AID.

LATIN AMERICA DEMOCRACY

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing on The State of Democracy in Latin America. Testimony was heard from following officials of the Department of State: Roger F. Noriega, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs; and Adolfo Franco, Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, USIA; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following measures: S. 167, amended, Family Entertainment and Copyright Act of 2005; H.R. 683, amended, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005; H.R. 1037, To make technical corrections to title 17, United States Code; H.R. 1036, To amend title 17, United States Code, to make technical corrections relating to copyright royalty judges; H.R. 1038, Multidistrict Litigation Restoration Act of 2005; and H. Con. Res. 53, Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the issuance of the 500,000th design patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

OVERSIGHT—BUDGET REQUEST FOR FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held an oversight hearing on FY'06 President's Budget for the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Testimony was heard from Kathleen B. Clarke, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; and Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a structured rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users. The rule provides for no further general debate (except for the final period of ten minutes contemplated in House Resolution 140). The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution. The rule provides that the amendments printed in the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. No testimony was heard.

NSF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Research held a hearing on the NSF Budget and Management Challenges. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the NSF: Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director, Mark S. Wrighton, Chairman, Audit and Oversight Committee, National Science Board; and Christine C. Boesz, Inspector General.

FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY

Committee on Ways and Means: Held a hearing on the Future of Social Security. Testimony was heard from David M. Walker, Comptroller General, GAO; and the following Public Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund: Thomas R. Saving; and John L. Palmer.

BUDGET

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on the Budget. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

Hearings continue tomorrow.

Joint Meetings**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs concluded joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative recommendations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, after receiving testimony from John Furgess, Veterans of

Foreign Wars of the United States, Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to continue hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Environmental Management and Radioactive Waste Management in the Department of Energy, 10 a.m., SD-116.

Subcommittee on District of Columbia, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for funding for Federal foster care initiatives in the District of Columbia, 2 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the review of Department of Defense detention operations and detainee interrogation techniques, 9:30 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine recent developments involving the security of sensitive consumer information relating to identity theft, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

Committee on the Budget: business meeting to resume markup of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, 9:30 a.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 148, to establish a United States Boxing Commission to administer the Act, S. 361, to develop and maintain an integrated system of ocean and coastal observations for the Nation's coasts, oceans and Great Lakes, improve warnings of tsunamis and other natural hazards, enhance homeland security, support maritime operations, S. 39, to establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, S. 362, to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United States Coast Guard to help identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety, in coordination with non-Federal entities, S. 364, to establish a program within the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to integrate Federal coastal and ocean mapping activities, S. 50, to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, S. 268, to provide competitive grants for training court reporters and closed captioners to meet requirements for realtime

writers under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, National Telecommunication and Information Administration authorization, Coast Guard nominations, NOAA Corps nominations, and adoption of committee rules for the 109th Congress, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nomination of William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, 11 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research, hearing to access the Methyl Bromide Critical Use Exemption (CUE) process under the Montreal Protocol, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, on Navy/Marine Corps Posture, 10 a.m., and executive, on Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition, 1:30 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security, on U.S. Coast Guard, 10 a.m., and on Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, on Secretary of Education, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, executive, on Department of Energy-National Nuclear Security Administration, 10 a.m., 2362B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on National Endowment for the Arts, 10 a.m., and on National Endowment for the Humanities, 11 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on European Command, 9:30 a.m., and on Pacific Command, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Science, The Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, on NOAA, 10:30 a.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, to continue hearings on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request, 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Projection Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—The Navy's Future Fleet: Assessing the Strength of Today's Navy for Tomorrow, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Defense Science and Technology in support of the War on Terrorism, and Beyond, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, to mark up H.R. 940, Recreational Marine Employment Act of 2005, 11:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection and the Subcommittee on Health, joint hearing entitled “Steroids in Sports: Cheating the System and Gambling Your Health,” 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, hearing entitled “Funding Options for the Yucca Mountain Repository Program,” 2:30 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled “Preparing Consumers for the End of the Digital Television Transition,” 1 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, oversight hearing of the Rural Housing Service, including the Service’s budget request for fiscal year 2006,” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Due Diligence in Mortgage Repurchases and Fannie: The First Beneficial Case,” 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following measures: H.R. 185, Program Assessment and Results Act; and S. 384, To extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled “FY 2006 Drug Control Budget and the Byrne Grant, HIDTA, and Other Law Enforcement Programs: Are We Jeopardizing Federal, State and Local Cooperation?” 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on House Administration, to consider funding requests of the Committees of the House of Representatives, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on International Relations, hearing on The Korean Peninsula: Six Party Talks and the Nuclear Issue, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, to mark up H.R. 972, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, 1 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, hearing on Indonesia in Transition: Recent Developments and Implications for U.S. Policy, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-proliferation, hearing on Eliminating Terrorist Sanctuaries: The Role of Security Assistance, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, oversight hearing on the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division: A Review of the Civil Rights Division for the Purpose of the Reauthorization of the U.S. Department of Justice, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, to meet for organizational purposes; to consider pending Subcommittee business; followed by an oversight hearing entitled “Interior Immigration Enforcement Resources,” 12 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, oversight hearing entitled “The Interior Budget for FY 2006 in Energy and Mineral Programs,” 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and NOAA, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, oversight hearing on Agency Budgets and Priorities for Fiscal Year 2006, with emphasis on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the TVA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, Budget hearing, 12 p.m., and, executive, Budget hearing, 1:30 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Meetings: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Blinded Veterans Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Jewish War Veterans, 10 a.m., 345 CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 10

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any routine morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will continue consideration of S. 256, Bankruptcy Reform Act, with votes on, or in relation to, certain amendments, and a vote on final passage of the bill.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (structured rule, complete consideration).

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