

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 18, Concurrent Budget Resolution.

The House passed H. Con. Res. 95, Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006.

The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 103, Adjournment Resolution.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2875–S2897

Measures Introduced: Forty bills and eleven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 646–685, S. Res. 84–91, and S. Con. Res. 20–22. (See next issue.)

Measures Reported:

S. 48, to reauthorize appropriations for the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 109–41)

S. 182, to provide for the establishment of the Uintah Research and Curatorial Center for Dinosaur National Monument in the States of Colorado and Utah, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 109–42)

S. 188, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2005 through 2011 to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

S. 589, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays.

S. 667, to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care. (See next issue.)

Measures Passed:

Condemning Violence and Criminality by the Irish Republican Army: Senate agreed to S. Res. 84, condemning violence and criminality by the Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland. (See next issue.)

Private Relief: Senate passed S. 653, for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. (See next issue.)

Concurrent Budget Resolution: By 51 yeas to 49 yeas (Vote No. 81), Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 18, setting forth the congressional budget for the

United States Government for fiscal year 2006 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005 and 2007 through 2010, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S2875–97 (continued next issue)

Adopted:

By 52 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 58), Bingaman (for Smith) Amendment No. 204, to create a reserve fund for the establishment of a Bipartisan Medicaid Commission to consider and recommend appropriate reforms to the Medicaid program, and to strike Medicaid cuts to protect states and vulnerable populations. **Pages S2875–86 (continued next issue)**

Hutchison Amendment No. 218, to fully fund the level of Border Patrol Agents authorized by the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and as recommended by the 9/11 Commission. **Pages S2875 (continued next issue)**

Salazar/Conrad Amendment No. 215, to provide additional funding for rural education, rural health access, and rural health outreach programs. **Pages S2875 (continued next issue)**

By a unanimous vote of 100 yeas (Vote No. 62), Landrieu Amendment No. 219, to establish a reserve fund in the event that legislation is passed to provide a 50 percent tax credit to employers that continue to pay the salaries of Guard and Reserve employees who have been called to active duty. **Pages S2875 (continued next issue)**

Vitter Amendment No. 223, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should provide dedicated funding for port security enhancements. **Pages S2875 (continued next issue)**

Subsequently, the amendment was modified. (See next issue.)

By 63 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 64), Collins (for Lieberman/Collins) Amendment No. 220, to protect

the American people from terrorist attacks by restoring \$565 million in cuts to vital first-responder programs in the Department of Homeland Security, including the State Homeland Security Grant program, by providing \$150 million for port security grants and by providing \$140 million for 1,000 new border patrol agents. **Pages S2875 (continued next issue)**

Vitter Amendment No. 224, to restore funding for Corps of Engineers environmental programs to fiscal year 2005 levels.

Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

By 68 yeas to 31 nays (Vote No. 66), Coleman Amendment No. 230, to fully fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Pages S2894–97 (continued next issue)

By 73 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 67), Cochran Amendment No. 208, to modify the designation authority for an emergency requirement.

(See next issue.)

By 51 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 68), Kennedy Modified Amendment No. 177, relative to education funding.

(See next issue.)

Feinstein Amendment No. 188, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should enact a long-term reauthorization of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and appropriate \$750,000,000 for the program in fiscal year 2006.

(See next issue.)

Obama Amendment No. 159, to prevent and, if necessary, respond to an international outbreak of the avian flu.

(See next issue.)

Leahy Amendment No. 160, to increase funding for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international organizations.

(See next issue.)

Grassley/Kennedy Amendment No. 164, to provide a reserve fund for the Family Opportunity Act.

(See next issue.)

Hatch Amendment No. 194, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for the restoration of SCHIP funds.

(See next issue.)

Cochran/Byrd Amendment No. 209, to modify a provision defining advance appropriations subject to limit.

(See next issue.)

Thomas/Conrad Amendment No. 226, to restore discretionary funding levels for crucial rural health programs, such as the rural health outreach grant program, the rural hospital flexibility grant program, the small hospital improvement program, telehealth, trauma programs, and rural AED programs to fiscal year 2005 levels.

(See next issue.)

Mikulski Modified Amendment No. 180, to provide a deficit neutral reserve fund for the Hope credit.

(See next issue.)

Allen Amendment No. 198, to express the sense of the Senate regarding funding for the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration for subsonic and hypersonic aeronautics research. **(See next issue.)**

Lott Amendment No. 182, to express the sense of the Senate on the acquisition of the next generation destroyer (DDX).

(See next issue.)

DeWine/Dodd Modified Amendment No. 153, to express the sense of the Senate concerning the care and treatment of children with HIV/AIDS.

(See next issue.)

By 81 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 72), Talent Amendment No. 225, to provide the flexibility to consider all available transportation funding options.

(See next issue.)

By 94 yeas to 6 nays (Vote No. 73), Conrad Amendment No. 243, to express the sense of the Senate that the tax cuts assumed in the budget resolution should include the repeal of the 1993 increase in the income tax on Social Security benefits.

(See next issue.)

By 55 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 74), Bunning Amendment No. 241, to repeal the 1993 tax increase on Social Security benefits.

(See next issue.)

Boxer Amendment No. 259, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the need for a comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated national ocean policy.

(See next issue.)

Leahy Amendment No. 203, to express the sense of the Senate in support of full funding and availability of the Crime Victims Fund.

(See next issue.)

Santorum Amendment No. 169, to reaffirm that the United States maintain a one-to-two ration for contributions to the Global Fund, that the United States not exceed contributing more than 33 percent of the Global Fund's revenue.

(See next issue.)

Lincoln Modified Amendment No. 192, to restore funding the COPS Methamphetamine Enforcement and Clean Up Program to 2005 levels.

(See next issue.)

Baucus Amendment No. 253, to support full funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

(See next issue.)

Clinton Amendment No. 155, to establish a deficit neutral reserve fund for influenza vaccine shortage prevention.

(See next issue.)

Snowe/Kerry Modified Amendment No. 216, to increase funding for Small Business Administration's programs.

(See next issue.)

Bayh Modified Amendment No. 157, to express the sense of the Senate regarding the amount of United States debt that is foreign-owned.

(See next issue.)

Santorum Amendment No. 163, to express the sense of the Senate regarding tax relief to encourage charitable giving incentives.

(See next issue.)

Chafee Amendment No. 261, to express the sense of the Senate that the total amount of payments to

States from the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund should be increased to \$1,350,000,000. (See next issue.)

Baucus Amendment No. 167, to express the sense of the Senate that the full amount of the President's request for the administrative costs of the Social Security Administration for fiscal year 2006 should be funded. (See next issue.)

Clinton Modified Amendment No. 154, to express the sense of the Senate concerning comparative effectiveness studies. (See next issue.)

Kohl Modified Amendment No. 217, to restore \$1 billion to juvenile justice and local law enforcement programs funded by the Department of Justice. (See next issue.)

Salazar Modified Amendment No. 254, to restore funding for the payment in lieu of taxes program (PILT), in order to compensate rural counties for decreased tax revenues as a result of non-taxed federally owned county lands. (See next issue.)

Pryor Modified Amendment No. 252, to create a reserve fund for extension of the treatment of combat pay as earned income for purposes of the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit. (See next issue.)

By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. 80), Levin Modified Amendment No. 238, to promote innovation and U.S. competitiveness by expressing the sense of the Senate urging the Senate Committee on Appropriations to make efforts to fund the Advanced Technology Program, which supports industry-led research and development of cutting-edge technologies with broad commercial potential and societal benefits. (See next issue.)

Leahy Modified Amendment No. 237, to increase funding for Boys and Girls Clubs. (See next issue.)

Gregg (for Grassley) Amendment No. 262, to express the sense of the Senate with respect to pension reform. (See next issue.)

DeWine/Leahy Modified Amendment No. 161, to increase funding for Child Survival and Maternal Health Programs. (See next issue.)

Rejected:

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 57), Gregg (for Frist) Amendment No. 229, to express the sense of the Senate regarding Medicaid reconciliation legislation consistent with recommendations from the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Pages S2886 (continued next issue)

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 59), Carper Amendment No. 207, to provide for full consideration of tax cuts in the Senate under regular order.

Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

By 49 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 60), Snowe Amendment No. 214, to ensure that any savings associated with legislation that provides the Secretary

of Health and Human Services with the authority to participate in the negotiation of contracts with manufacturers of covered part D drugs to achieve the best possible prices for such drugs under part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, that requires the Secretary to negotiate contracts with manufacturers of such drugs for each fallback prescription drug plan, and that requires the Secretary to participate in the negotiation for a contract for any such drug upon request of a prescription drug plan or an MA-PD plan, is reserved for reducing expenditures under such part. Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

By 44 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 61), Harkin Amendment No. 172, to restore the Perkins Vocational Education program and provide for deficit reduction paid for through the elimination of the phase out of the personal exemption limitation and itemized deduction limitation for high-income taxpayers now scheduled to start in 2006.

Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

By 40 yeas to 59 nays (Vote No. 63), Conrad (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 210, to repeal the tax subsidy for certain domestic companies which move manufacturing operations and American jobs offshore. Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 65), Sarbanes Amendment No. 156, to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Pages S2286-94 (continued next issue)

By 46 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 69), Baucus/Conrad Amendment No. 234, to ensure that legislation to make cuts in agriculture programs receives full consideration and debate in the Senate under regular order, rather than being fast-tracked under reconciliation procedures. (See next issue.)

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 70), Biden Amendment No. 239, relative to funding to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. (See next issue.)

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 71), Byrd/Baucus Amendment No. 240, relative to transportation funding. (See next issue.)

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 75), Reid (for Clinton) Modified Amendment No. 244, to expand access to preventive health care services that reduce unintended pregnancy (including teen pregnancy), reduce the number of abortions, and improve access to women's health care. (See next issue.)

By 45 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 76), Lautenberg Amendment No. 187, to strike the debt ceiling reconciliation instruction. (See next issue.)

By 44 yeas to 54 nays (Vote No. 77), Boxer Amendment No. 257, to establish a point of order. (See next issue.)

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 78), Dorgan Amendment No. 211, to restore funding for tribal

programs and provide necessary additional funding based on recommendations from Indian country.

(See next issue.)

Feingold Amendment No. 258, to ensure that savings associated with legislation that reduces overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans is reserved for deficit reduction and to strengthen the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

(See next issue.)

By 37 yeas to 63 nays (Vote No. 79), **Dayton Amendment No. 202**, to provide full funding for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) part B grants over five years.

(See next issue.)

Pryor Amendment No. 213, to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

(See next issue.)

Withdrawn:

Allen Modified Amendment No. 197, to increase by \$1,582,700,000 over fiscal years 2006 through 2010 funding for Transportation (budget function 400) with the amount of the increase intended to be allocated to the Vehicle Systems account of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for subsonic and hypersonic aeronautics research.

Pages S2875 (continued next issue)

National Asbestos Awareness Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 43, designating the first day of April 2005 as “National Asbestos Awareness Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

(See next issue.)

Frist Amendment No. 264, to amend the preamble.

(See next issue.)

Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund: Senate passed H.R. 1270, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate, clearing the measure for the President.

(See next issue.)

Financial Literary Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 88, designating April 2005 as “Financial Literacy Month”.

(See next issue.)

Montana Future Farmers of America: Senate agreed to S. Res. 89, congratulating the Montana FFA on its 75th Anniversary and celebrating the achievements of Montana FFA members.

(See next issue.)

Holocaust Commemoration Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 90, to designating the Week of May 1, 2005, as “Holocaust Commemoration Week”.

(See next issue.)

Arms Export Embargo on China: Senate agreed to S. Res. 91, urging the European Union to main-

tain its arms export embargo on the People’s Republic of China.

(See next issue.)

Concurrent Budget Resolution: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that when the Senate receives H. Con. Res. 95 from the House, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, the Senate begin its consideration; that all after the resolving clause be stricken and the text of S. Con. Res. 18, Concurrent Budget Resolution, as agreed to be inserted in lieu thereof; that the resolution then be agreed to as amended, the Senate insist on its amendment, request a conference with the House thereon, and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees on the part of the Senate.

(See next issue.)

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

(See next issue.)

Authority for Committees: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, all committees were authorized to file legislative and executive matters on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

(See next issue.)

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that during this adjournment of the Senate, the Majority Leader, Assistant Majority Leader and Senator Warner, to be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

(See next issue.)

Appointments:

United States Holocaust Memorial Council: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84 and Public Law 106–292, appointed the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Senators Feingold and Lautenberg.

(See next issue.)

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

George M. Dennison, of Montana, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

James William Carr, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury.

David B. Balton, of the District of Columbia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries.

Joseph R. DeTrani, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Special Envoy for the Six Party Talks.

John Thomas Schieffer, of Texas, to be Ambassador to Japan.

Kiron Kanina Skinner, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Security Education Board for a term of four years.

R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

C. David Welch, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Rudolph E. Boschwitz, of Minnesota, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

35 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

37 Army nominations in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy. (See next issue.)

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Joseph H. Boardman, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Stephen L. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John D. Negroponte, of New York, to be Director of National Intelligence.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps. (See next issue.)

Messages From the House: (See next issue.)

Measures Referred: (See next issue.)

Measures Read First Time: (See next issue.)

Executive Communications: (See next issue.)

Executive Reports of Committees: (See next issue.)

Additional Cosponsors: (See next issue.)

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: (See next issue.)

Additional Statements: (See next issue.)

Amendments Submitted: (See next issue.)

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: (See next issue.)

Authority for Committees to Meet: (See next issue.)

Privilege of the Floor: (See next issue.)

Record Votes: Twenty-five record votes were taken today. (Total—81) (See next issue.)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 11:48 p.m., until 4 p.m., on Monday, March 21, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in the next issue of the Record.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States, after receiving testimony from Porter J. Goss, Director of Central Intelligence; and Vice Admiral Lowell E. Jacoby, USN, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, James William Carr, of Arkansas, George M. Dennison, of Montana, and Kiron Kanina Skinner, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Member of the National Security Education Board, Anthony Joseph Principi, of California, to be a Member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, and 5,664 nominations in the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported an original

bill entitled “The Federal Public Transportation Act of 2005”.

COAST GUARD BUDGET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard concluded a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance, after receiving testimony from Admiral Thomas H. Collins, Commandant, and Master Chief Petty Officer Franklin A. Welch, both of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security; and Margaret T. Wrightson, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

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

S. 188, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2005 through 2011 to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program;

S. 589, to establish the Commission on Freedom of Information Act Processing Delays; and

The nominations of William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Paul A. Crotty, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and J. Michael Seabright, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

Also, committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts: Senators Sessions (Chairman), Specter, Grassley, Kyl, Schumer, Feinstein, and Feingold.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights: Senators DeWine (Chairman), Specter, Hatch, Grassley, Graham, Brownback, Kohl, Leahy, Biden, Feingold, and Schumer.

Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights: Senators Brownback (Chair), Specter, Graham, Cornyn, Coburn, Feingold, Kennedy, Feinstein, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Corrections and Rehabilitations: Senators Coburn (Chairman), Specter, Sessions, Cornyn, Brownback, Durbin, Leahy, Biden, and Feingold.

Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs: Senators Graham (Chairman), Grassley, Kyl, DeWine, Sessions, Coburn, Biden, Kohl, Feinstein, Feingold, and Schumer.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship: Senators Cornyn (Chairman), Grassley, Kyl, DeWine, Sessions, Brownback, Coburn, Kennedy, Biden, Feinstein, Feingold, Schumer, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property: Senators Hatch (Chairman), Kyl, DeWine, Graham, Cornyn, Brownback, Coburn, Leahy, Kennedy, Biden, Feinstein, Kohl, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security: Senators Kyl (Chairman), Hatch, Grassley, Cornyn, DeWine, Sessions, Graham, Feinstein, Kennedy, Biden, Kohl, Feingold and Durbin.

VETERANS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the report entitled, “Back from the Battlefield: Are we providing the proper care for America’s Wounded Warriors?”, after receiving testimony from Jonathan B. Perlin, Acting Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health; Major General Kenneth L. Farmer, Jr., Commanding General, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Walter Reed Army Medical Center, United States Army; Cynthia A. Bascetta, Director, Health Care—Veterans’, Health and Benefits Issues, Government Accountability Office; Major Tammy Duckworth, United States Army National Guard; Joseph J. Costello, Vista Vet Center, Vista, California; and David J. Hosking, Vet Center, Madison, Wisconsin.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 96 public bills, H.R. 1356–1451; and 34 resolutions, H.J. Res. 38–39; H. Con. Res. 103–120, and H. Res. 167–180, were introduced. **Pages H1690–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1696–97**

Reports Filed: Report were filed today as follows:

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 (H. Rept. 109–22);

H.R. 683, to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 with respect to dilution by blurring or tarnishment, amended (H. Rept. 109–23);

H.R. 1038, to amend title 28, United States Code, to allow a judge to whom a case is transferred to retain jurisdiction over certain multidistrict litigation cases for trial (H. Rept. 109–24);

H.R. 366, to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to strengthen and improve programs under that Act, amended (H. Rept. 109–25); and

H.R. 185, to require the review of Government programs at least once every 5 years for purposes of evaluating their performance (H. Rept. 109–26)

Page H1690

Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006: The House passed H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010, by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 88. The bill was also considered yesterday, March 16. **Pages H1627–40, H1641–74**

Agreed by unanimous consent that a final period of general debate be in order at the conclusion of consideration of amendments. **Pages H1640–41**

Yesterday it was agreed that during further consideration of the bill, the Hensarling amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–19) may be considered out of the specified order.

Rejected:

Obey amendment, No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–19, that increases \$15.8 billion in FY06 new BA and outlays for veterans, education, health care needs, homeland security, the environment and infrastructure; and reduces the FY06 tax benefit for those earning more than \$1 million; (by a recorded vote of 180 yeas to 242 noes, Roll No. 82);

Pages H1627–33

Debated Wednesday, March 16: Hensarling amendment in the nature of a substitute (Republican Study Committee), No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–19, that replaces the current 19 functional categories with four functions: Defense, Homeland Security, Non-Defense Discretionary and Mandatory Spending, and Interest; and accepts the Iraq Operations Reserve Fund and creates a new “rainy day” fund for non-military emergencies (by a recorded vote of 102 yeas to 320 noes, Roll No. 83).

Pages H1633–40

Watt amendment in the nature of a substitute (Congressional Black Caucus), No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–19, that calls for an additional \$36.3 billion in spending and a \$4 billion deficit reduction for FY 2006 (by a recorded vote of 134 yeas to 292 noes and 3 voting “present”, Roll No. 85);

Pages H1641–53

Spratt amendment in the nature of a substitute, No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 109–19, that projects spending and revenue levels that would eliminate deficits and result in a balanced budget by FY 2012 (by a recorded vote of 165 yeas to 264 noes with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 87); **Pages H1654–65**

Motion to rise: Rejected the Blumenauer motion that the Committee rise by a recorded vote of 101 yeas, to 313 noes and 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 86. **Pages H1653–54**

H. Res. 154, the rule providing for consideration of the measure was agreed to yesterday, March 16.

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated yesterday, March 16:

Expressing concern regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic: H. Con. Res. 32, amended, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 419 yeas to 1 nay and 4 voting “present”, Roll No. 84; and

Page H1640

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: concurrent resolution expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Lebanese Republic by the Syrian Arab Republic. **Page H1640**

Expressing concern regarding the continued violations of human rights and civil liberties of the Syrian and Lebanese people by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic: H. Con. Res. 18, amended, 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, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ ye-a-and-nay vote of 402 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 89. **Pages H1674–75**

Spring District Work Period: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 103, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate. **Page H1675**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, April 6. **Page H1675**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 21, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 103, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution. **Page H1675**

Speaker Pro Tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Wolf, or if not able to perform this duty, Representative Tom Davis (VA) to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through April 5. **Page H1675**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three ye-a-and-nay votes and five recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1632, H1639–40, H1640, H1653, H1654, H1664–65, H1674, and H1674–75. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 6:15 p.m., pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 103, it stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 21, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of the concurrent resolution, in which case the House shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2005.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Under Secretary for Rural Development. Testimony was heard from Gilbert Gonzalez, Acting Under Secretary, Rural Development, USDA.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Air Force Posture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department

of the Air Force: Peter B. Teets, Acting Secretary; and GEN John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Air Force Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Air Force: Peter B. Teets, Acting Secretary; and LTG John D. W. Corley, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Acquisitions.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on Citizenship and Immigration Services. Testimony was heard from Eduardo Aguirro, Jr., Director, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Secretary of Labor. Testimony was heard from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary of Labor.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, AND HUD, JUDICIARY, D.C., AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Testimony was heard from Alphonso R. Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Bureau of Indian Affairs. Testimony was heard from James Casen, Assistant Deputy Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

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

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Science, the Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the SBA. Testimony was heard from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, SBA.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Federal Prison System. Testimony was heard from Harley G. Lappin, Director, Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice.

IRAQ—CURRENT OPERATIONS AND POLITICAL TRANSITION

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on current operations and the political transition in Iraq. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—United States Special Operations Command policy and programs. Testimony was heard from officials of the Department of Defense: Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary, Special Operations/Low Intensity Conflict; and GEN Bryan D. Brown, USA, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command.

HIGHER EDUCATION—TRACKING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness and the Subcommittee on Select Education held a joint hearing entitled "Tracking International Students in Higher Education: A Progress Report." Testimony was heard from Victor X. Cerda, Counsel to the Assistant Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Stephen A. Edson, Managing Director, Visa Services Directorate, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State; Randolph C. Hite, Director, Information Technology Architecture and Systems Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

NIH PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "Setting the Path for Reauthorization: Improving Portfolio Management at the NIH." Testimony was heard from Elias Zerhouni, M.D., Director, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services.

SECURITIES ARBITRATION SYSTEM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "A Review of the Securities Arbitration System." Testimony was heard from William Francis Galvin, Secretary, MA; and public witnesses.

DEPOSIT INSURANCE REFORM ACT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing on H.R. 1185, Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005. Testimony was heard from Donald E. Powell, Chairman, FDIC.

STEROID USE IN BASEBALL

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing entitled "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use." Testimony was heard from Senator Bunning; Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH, Department of Health and Human Services; the following officials of Major League Baseball: Allan H. Selig, Commissioner; and Elliott J. Pellman, M.D., Medical Advisor for Major League Baseball, Office of the Commissioner; Sandy Alderson, Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations, Major League Baseball; the following Major League Baseball baseball players: Curt Schilling, Frank Thomas, Sammy Sosa, and Rafael Palmeiro; and the following former Major League baseball players: Jose Canseco and Mark McGuire.

AFGHANISTAN—U.S. COUNTERNARCOTICS POLICY

Committee on International Relations: Held an oversight hearing on U.S. Counternarcotics Policy in Afghanistan: Time for Leadership. Testimony was heard from Maureen E. Quinn, Coordinator on Afghanistan, Department of State; Mary Beth Long, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Counternarcotics, Department of Defense, and Michael A. Braun, Special Agent, Chief of Operations, DEA, Department of Justice.

HUMAN RIGHTS—GLOBAL VIEW

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held an oversight hearing on A Global Review of Human Rights: Examining the State Department's 2004 Annual Report. Testimony was heard from Michael G. Kozak, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—U.N. AND THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation held an oversight hearing on the United Nations and the Fight Against Terrorism. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

The Subcommittee also held a briefing on this subject. Testimony was heard from Stephen J. Stedman, Special Advisor to Secretary-General United Nations.

OVERSIGHT—U.N. OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held an oversight hearing on The United Nations Oil-for-Food Program: The Cotecna and Saybolt Inspection Firms. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT; OVERSIGHT—U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 748, Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act.

The Subcommittee also held an oversight hearing on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the U.S. Commission Civil Rights: Russell Redenbaugh, and Michael Yaki, both Commissioners; Kenneth Marcus, Staff Director; and George Harbison, Director, Human Resources and Active Chief of Budget and Finance.

OVERSIGHT—PATENT APPEALS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on Holmes Group, the Federal Circuit, and the State of Patent Appeals. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

STOP COUNTERFEITING IN MANUFACTURED GOODS ACT; ORGANIZED CRIME

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action H.R. 32, Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act.

The Subcommittee also held an oversight hearing on Responding to Organized Crimes Against Manufacturers and Retailers. Testimony was heard from Chris Swecker, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, FBI, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—OFF RESERVATION GAMING RESTRICTIONS

Committee on Resources: Held an oversight hearing on a measure to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE BUDGET

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks held an oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Park Service Budget. Testimony was heard from Fran Mainella, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 1023, Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act; H.R. 1158, To reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988; H.R. 28, amended, High-Performance Computing Revitalization Act of 2005; H. Con. Res. 96, amended, Recognizing the significance of African American

women in the United States scientific community; and H.R. 798, amended, Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005.

NATURAL GAS PRICES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Enterprise, Agriculture and Technology held a hearing entitled "The High Price of Natural Gas and its Impact on Small Businesses: Issues and Short Term Solutions," Testimony was heard from Representative Terry; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management held an oversight hearing on The Administration's "Strengthening America's Communities" Initiative and its impact on economic development. Testimony was heard from David A. Sampson, Assistant Secretary, Economic Development, Department of Commerce; and public witnesses.

MEDICAL IMAGING SERVICES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Managing the Use of Imaging Services. Testimony was heard from Mark Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

GLOBAL UPDATES; BUDGET HEARING

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

The Committee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on the Budget. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
MARCH 18, 2005**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing on Quality Teachers, Principals and High Schools, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia and Independent Agencies, on Secretary of Transportation, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "A Review of Security Initiatives at DOE Nuclear Facilities," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

4 p.m., Monday, March 21

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Monday, March 21

Senate Chamber

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Program for Monday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

HOUSE

Ackerman, Gary L., N.Y., E463
 Baird, Brian, Wash., E477
 Brady, Robert A., Pa., E466
 Brown-Waite, Ginny, Fla., E474
 Burgess, Michael C., Tex., E464, E462, E471
 Castle, Michael N., Del., E461, E462, E463, E466, E468
 Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E464
 Cox, Christopher, Calif., E471
 Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E461, E462, E463, E465, E466,
 E468, E469, E471, E473, E475
 Doyle, Michael F., Pa., E474

Emanuel, Rahm, Ill., E473
 Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E465, E467
 Farr, Sam, Calif., E474
 Frank, Barney, Mass., E469
 Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E464, E465, E470
 Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E476
 Israel, Steve, N.Y., E474
 Jenkins, William L., Tenn., E465
 Kanjorski, Paul E., Pa., E461, E463, E466, E469
 Langevin, James R., R.I., E474
 Lantos, Tom, Calif., E476
 McCollum, Betty, Minn., E473
 Menendez, Robert, N.J., E477

Moran, James P., Va., E470
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E472
 Oberstar, James L., Minn., E475
 Portman, Rob, Ohio, E469
 Sessions, Pete, Tex., E467
 Shuster, Bill, Pa., E471
 Stark, Fortney Pete, Calif., E462
 Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E462
 Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E461, E463, E466, E468
 Udall, Mark, Colo., E473
 Walsh, James T., N.Y., E477
 Wolf, Frank R., Va., E472



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