

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 306, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 66, Adjournment Resolution.

House Committees ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005; and H.R. 841, Continuity of Representation Act of 2005.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1581–S1701*

**Measures Introduced:** Forty-four bills and eleven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 413–456, S.J. Res. 6, S. Res. 58–66, and S. Con. Res. 14.

**Pages S1622–24**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 256, to amend title II of the United States Code, with amendments. **Page S1620**

#### Measures Passed:

**Honoring Howard Baker:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 58, commending the Honorable Howard Henry Baker, Jr., formerly a Senator of Tennessee, for a lifetime of distinguished service. **Pages S1591–94**

**Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act:** By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 11), Senate passed S. 306, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment. **Pages S1594–97**

**Adjournment Resolution:** Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 66, providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses. **Pages S1686–87**

**Government of Moldova:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 60, supporting democratic reform in Moldova and urging the Government of Moldova to ensure a democratic and fair election process for the March 6, 2005, parliamentary elections. **Pages S1689–92**

**National Ready Mixed Concrete Association:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 61, recognizing the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association on its 75th anniversary and its members' vital contributions to the infrastructure of the United States. **Pages S1689–92**

**Rotary International Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 62, supporting the goals and ideals of a "Rotary International Day" and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. **Pages S1689–92**

**Assassination of Prime Minister Hariri:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 63, calling for an investigation into the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and urging steps to pressure the Government of Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. **Pages S1689–92**

**Year of Foreign Language Study:** Committee on Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 28, to designating the year 2005 as the "Year of Foreign Language Study", and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S1692–93**

**Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse:** Senate passed S. 125, to designate the courthouse located at 501 I Street in Sacramento, California, as the "Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse." **Page S1693**

**Committee Funding Resolution:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 50, authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2005, through September 30, 2005, October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006, and October 1, 2006, through February 28, 2007. **Pages S1694–99**

**Bankruptcy Reform Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Monday, February 28, at 2 p.m., Senate begin consideration of S. 256, a bill to amend title II of the United States Code, provided that consideration of the bill during Monday's session be for the purpose of debate only. **Page S1686**

**Bill Referral:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Armed

Services be discharged from further consideration of S.70, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the restriction that a clinical psychologist or a clinical social worker provide services in a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility to a patient only under the care of a physician, and the bill then be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Page S1689

**Bill Referral:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 69, for the relief of Donald C. Pence, and the bill be referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Page S1689

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

Page S1693

**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, February 23, 2005, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

Page S1693

**Messages from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President dated February 2005 with the Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers for 2005; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee. (PM-6)

Page S1610

#### Appointments:

**Senate National Security Working Group:** The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 105 (adopted April 13, 1989), as amended by S. Res. 149 (adopted October 5, 1993), as amended by Public Law 105-275, further amended by S. Res. 75 (adopted March 25, 1999), amended by S. Res. 383 (adopted October 27, 2000), and amended by S. Res. 355 (adopted November 13, 2002), and further amended by S. Res. 480 (adopted November 20, 2004), the appointment of the following Senators to serve as members of the Senate National Security Working Group for the 109th Congress:

Senator Stevens, Cochran (Majority Co-Chairman), Kyl (Majority Co-Chairman), Lugar, Warner, Sessions, Lott (Majority Co-Chairman), Smith, and Chafee.

Pages S1693-94

**U.S.-Russia Interparliamentary Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to

Section 154 of Public Law 108-199, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the U.S.-Russia Interparliamentary Group conference during the 109th Congress:

Senator Lott.

Pages S1693-94

**Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 109th Congress:

Senator Crapo.

Pages S1693-94

**Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928a-1928d, as amended, appointed the following Senator as Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during the 109th Congress:

Senator Smith.

Pages S1693-94

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Buddie J. Penn, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

21 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

22 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

4 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy.

Pages S1687-89, S1700-01

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Anthony Jerome Jenkins, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years.

Stephen Joseph Murphy III, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Pages S1699-1700

**Messages From the House:**

Pages S1610-11

**Measures Referred:**

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**Measures Placed on Calendar:**

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**Measures Read First Time:**

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**Enrolled Bills Presented:**

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**Executive Communications:**

Pages S1611-12

**Petitions and Memorials:**

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**Executive Reports of Committees:**

Pages S1620-22

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages S1624-25

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

Pages S1625-86

**Additional Statements:**

Page S1609

**Authority for Committees to Meet:**

Page S1686

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—11) **Page S1595**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 6:56 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Friday, February 18, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1699.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: BUDGET

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Science Foundation, after receiving testimony from John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; and Arden L. Bement, Jr., Director National Science Foundation, and Warren M. Washington, Chair, both of the National Science Board.

### EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL

*Committee on Appropriations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, after receiving testimony from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2006 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary, and Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary, Comptroller, both of the Department of Defense; and General Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Buddie J. Penn, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, to be Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and 2,598 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

### MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee held a hearing to examine rising health care costs and the impact on future generations relating to Medicare and Medicaid, receiving testimony from Thomas R. Saving, Public Trustee, Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, Department of Health and Human Services; Jeffrey

R. Brown, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana; and Lois E. Quam, UnitedHealth Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota

### FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OVERSIGHT

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks concluded an oversight hearing to examine the National Park Service's implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Public Law 108-447), after receiving testimony from P. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget; Jill Nicoll, National Park Foundation, Washington, D.C.; and Stephanie M. Clement, Friends of Acadia, Bar Harbor, Maine.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, and Harold Damelin, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, both of the Department of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### RUSSIA

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine democracy in retreat in Russia, after receiving testimony from Steven Theede, YUKOS Oil Company, Moscow, Russia; Tim Osborne, Group MENATEP, London, United Kingdom; Anders Aslund, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Bruce P. Jackson, Project on Transitional Democracies, Stephen Nix, International Republican Institute, Nelson Ledsky, National Democratic Institute, Mary McClymont, Interaction, and Nancy Lindborg, Mercy Corps, all of Washington, D.C.; and Daniel Toole, UNICEF, New York, New York.

### FEDERAL PROGRAMS

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce and the District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine an overview of the Government Accountability Office high-risk list, focusing on ensuring Congressional oversight by bringing attention to government-wide management challenges and high-risk program areas, after receiving testimony from David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Clay Johnson III,

Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

#### **DRUG IMPORTATION**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the price of drug reimportation, focusing on implications for United States consumers, pricing, research and development, and innovation, after receiving testimony from Grant D. Aldonas, Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Robert M. Goldberg, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research Center for Medical Progress, New York, New York; Benjamin Zycher, Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, San Francisco, California; Stephen Pollard, Centre for the New Europe, Brussels, Belgium; and Kevin Outterson, West Virginia University College of Law, Morgantown.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported S. 256, to amend title 11 of the United States Code, with amendments.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Presi-

dent's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Small Business Administration, after receiving testimony from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration; David Coit, North Atlantic Capital, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies; Daniel Betancourt, Association For Enterprise Opportunity, on behalf of the Community First Fund, and Patricia Sands, SpillGuard, on behalf of the Women's Business Center of Northern Virginia, both of Arlington; John R. Massaua, Maine Small Business Development Center, Portland, on behalf of the Association of Small Business Development Centers; and Edward Tuvin, Community South Bank, Adamsville, Tennessee, on behalf of the National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders, Inc.

#### **INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to call.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Measures Introduced:** 117 public bills, H.R. 8, 873–988; 5 private bills, H.R. 989–993; and 19 resolutions, H.J. Res. 22–26; H. Con. Res. 70–78, and H. Res. 119–123, were introduced. **Pages H790–97**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H797–98**

**Reports Filed:** No reports were filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Capito to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H721**

**Class Action Fairness Act of 2005:** The House passed S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, by a yea-and-nay vote of 279 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 38. **Pages H723–55**

Rejected the Brown (OH) motion to commit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 175 yeas to 249 noes, Roll No. 37. **Pages H752–54**

Rejected the Conyers amendment in the nature of a substitute by a yea-and-nay vote of 178 yeas to 247 nays, Roll No. 36. **Pages H743–52**

H. Res. 96, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to yesterday, February 16.

**Suspension:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, February 16:

***Honoring the life and legacy for former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri:*** H. Res. 91, amended, honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 39. **Pages H755–56**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: condemning the terrorist bombing attack that occurred on February 14, 2005, in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and killed and wounded others. **Page H756**

**Late Report:** Agreed that the Committee on House Administration have until midnight on Thursday, February 24 to file a report to accompany H.R. 841, to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances. **Page H756**

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 21, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 66, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution. **Page H756**

**Calendar Wednesday:** Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 2. **Page H756**

**Honoring the soldiers of the Army’s Black Corps of Engineers during WWII:** By unanimous consent, the House agreed to H. Con. Res. 67, honoring the soldiers of the Army’s Black Corps of Engineers for their contributions in constructing the Alaska-Canada highway during World War II and recognizing the importance of these contributions to the subsequent integration of the military. **Pages H756–57**

**Speaker pro tempore:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Tom Davis (VA) to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, March 1. **Page H757**

**Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representatives Cardin, Slaughter, Hastings (FL), and McIntyre. **Page H757**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the 2005 Economic Report of the President—referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–1). **Pages H758–59**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H721.

**Senate Referral:** S. 384 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform. **Page H789**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H752, H754, H755, and H755–56. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and at 5:15 p.m., stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 21, unless it sooner receives a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence with H. Con. Res. 66, in which case the House shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

## Committee Meetings

### AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Office of the Inspector General, Agriculture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Agriculture: Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General; Joyce Fleischman, Deputy Inspector General; Robert Young, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; Mark Woods, Assistant Inspector General, Investigations; Walt Kowal, Director, Business Management and Procurement; and Dennis Kaplan, Deputy Director, Budget, Legislation and Regulatory Systems.

### DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on the Secretary of Defense. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary; GEN Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary, Comptroller.

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on Department of Homeland Security Management and Operations. Testimony was heard from Adm. James Loy, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

### LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Testimony was heard from Kathleen Cox, President and CEO, Corporation for Public Broadcasting; Pat Mitchell, President and CEO, Public Broadcasting Service; and Kevin Klose, President and CEO, National Public Radio.

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

*Committee on Armed Services:* Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense budget request for the Department of the Navy. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Gordon R. England, Secretary; ADM Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and GEN Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

### DOMESTIC ENTITLEMENTS

*Committee on the Budget:* Held a hearing on Domestic Entitlements: Meeting the Needs. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005.

### HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2006

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Held a hearing entitled: "A Review of the Administration's FY 2006 Health Care Priorities." Testimony was heard from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

### DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "The Role of Technology in Achieving a Hard Deadline for the DTV Transition." Testimony was heard from Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

### MONETARY POLICY

*Committee on Financial Services:* Held a hearing on Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy. Testimony was heard from Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.

Prior to the hearing, the Committee met to consider pending Committee business.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; WOUNDED ARMY GUARD RESERVE FORCES

*Committee on Government Reform:* Ordered reported 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.

The Committee approved Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

The Committee also held a hearing entitled "Wounded Army Guard Reserve Forces: Increasing the Capacity to Care." Testimony was heard from Gregory D. Kutz, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Ellen Embrey, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment Health; Daniel Denning, Acting Assistant Secretary, Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs; LTG Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1; LTG

Kevin C. Kiley, M.D., USA, Army Surgeon General; MG Charles Wilson, USA, Deputy Commander, Army Reserve Command, Philip E. Sakowitz, Jr., Deputy Director, Army Installations Management Agency; BG Raymond C. Byrne, Jr., USA, Acting State Adjutant General, Oregon; SFC John Allen, USA, B/3/20th Special Forces Group, National Guard, North Carolina; SFC Joseph Perez, USA, 72nd Military Police Company, National Guard, Nevada; CWO Officer Rodger L. Shuttleworth, USA, Chief, Reserve Component Personnel Support Services Branch, Army Human Resources Command, National Guardsman, Maryland; and MSG Daniel Forney, USA, Reserve Component Liaison, Medical Hold, Walter Reed Medical Center, Army Reservist, Pennsylvania.

#### CONTINUITY OF REPRESENTATION ACT OF 2005

*Committee on House Administration:* Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 841, Continuity of Representation Act of 2005.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2006

*Committee on International Relations:* Held a hearing on the International Relations Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Testimony was heard from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

#### NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR CHALLENGE

*Committee on International Relations:* Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation held a joint hearing on the North Korean Nuclear Challenge: Is There a Way Forward? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### TRADEMARK DILUTION REVISION ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held a hearing on H.R. 683, Trademark Dilution Revision Act of 2005. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### OVERSIGHT—HEALTHY FORESTS IMPLEMENTATION

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held an oversight hearing on GAO Five Year Update on Wildland Fire and Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management Accomplishments in Implementing the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Testimony was heard from Robin M. Nazzaro, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; Mark Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; Rebecca Watson, Assistant

Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

#### NASA'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FISCAL YEAR 2006

*Committee on Science:* Held a hearing on NASA's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Proposal. Testimony was heard from Fred Gregory, Acting Administrator, NASA.

#### MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

*Committee on Small Business:* Held a hearing entitled "Medical Liability Reform: Stopping the Skyrocketing Price of Health Care." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Began consideration of Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

#### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2006—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Held a hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services. Testimony was heard from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Committee approved Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

#### COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Trade met for organizational purposes.

#### BRIEFING—GLOBAL UPDATES

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

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#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

##### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

##### House

*Committee on Government Reform,* hearing entitled "The Capital Region's Critical Link: Ensuring Metrorail's Future As a Safe, Reliable and Affordable Transportation Option," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, February 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, March 1

Senate Chamber

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Senator Burr will perform the traditional reading of Washington's Farewell Address.

Program for Tuesday, March 1: to be announced.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

### HOUSE

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