

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 256, Bankruptcy Reform Act.

The House passed H.R. 3, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2405–S2503

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 587–602, S. Res. 79–81, and S. Con. Res. 17. **Pages S2482–83**

Measures Reported:

S. 99, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, for the storage of the city's water in the Kendrick Project, Wyoming. (S. Rept. No. 109–27)

S. 152, to enhance ecosystem protection and the range of outdoor opportunities protected by statute in the Skykomish River valley of the State of Washington by designating certain lower-elevation Federal lands as wilderness, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 109–28)

S. 176, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alaska. (S. Rept. No. 109–29)

S. 231, to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon. (S. Rept. No. 109–30)

S. 232, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the implementation of fish passage and screening facilities at non-Federal water projects. (S. Rept. No. 109–31)

S. 244, to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Wyoming. (S. Rept. No. 109–32)

S. 264, to amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to authorize certain projects in the State of Hawaii. (S. Rept. No. 109–33)

S. 272, to designate certain National Forest System land in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as

components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 109–34)

S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. (S. Rept. No. 109–35) **Page S2482**

Measures Passed:

Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act Amendment: By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 43), Senate passed S. 250, to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S2428–59, S2462**

Bankruptcy Reform Act: By 74 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 44), Senate passed S. 256, a bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2416–17, S2459–74**

Adopted:

By a unanimous vote of 99 yeas (Vote No. 40), Durbin Amendment No. 112, to protect disabled veterans from means testing in bankruptcy under certain circumstances. **Pages S2426–27**

By 73 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. 42), Talent Amendment No. 121, to deter corporate fraud and prevent the abuse of State self-settled trust law. **Page S2428**

Feingold Modified Amendment No. 92, to amend the credit counseling provision. **Page S2463**

Rejected:

By 41 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 36), 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. **Page S2416**

By 41 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 37), Dodd (for Kennedy) Amendment No. 69, to amend the definition of current monthly income. **Pages S2416–17**

By 38 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 38), Akaka Amendment No. 105, to limit claims in bankruptcy by certain unsecured creditors. **Page S2417**

By 44 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 39), Kennedy (for Leahy/Sarbanes) Amendment No. 83, to modify the definition of disinterested person in the Bankruptcy Code. **Pages S2424–26**

By 43 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 41), Schumer Amendment No. 129 (to Amendment No. 121), to limit the exemption for asset protection trusts. **Pages S2427–28**

Withdrawn:

Feingold Amendment No. 90, to amend the provision relating to fair notice given to creditors. **Pages S2462–63**

Feingold Amendment No. 93, to modify the disclosure requirements for debt relief agencies providing bankruptcy assistance. **Page S2463**

Feingold Amendment No. 95, to amend the provisions relating to the discharge of taxes under chapter 13. **Page S2463**

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. **Page S2463**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

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, previously agreed to on Wednesday, March 9, 2005, was modified by unanimous consent. **Page S2463**

Regarding Georgia and Moldova: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 69, expressing the sense of the Senate about the actions of Russia regarding Georgia and Moldova, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2500–01**

National Safe Place Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 71, designating the week beginning March 13, 2005 as “National Safe Place Week”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S2501**

McConnell (for Craig) Amendment No. 139, to strike the request for a Presidential proclamation. **Page S2501**

Yad Vashem Complex: Senate agreed to S. Res. 79, expressing the sense of the Senate in marking the dedication on March 15, 2005, of the expanded museum complex at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority in Israel, in furtherance of Yad Vashem’s mission to document the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, to preserve the memory and story of each of the victims, impart the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations, and recognize the Righteous Among the Nations. **Pages S2501–02**

Honoring Fern Holland: Senate agreed to S. Res. 80, honoring the life of Fern Holland and expressing the deepest condolences of the Senate to her family on their loss. **Page S2502**

Honoring Chris LeDoux: Senate agreed to S. Res. 81, recognizing the contribution of Chris LeDoux to country music. **Page S2502–03**

Concurrent Budget Resolution—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for the consideration of an original resolution setting forth the fiscal year 2006 budget for the Federal Government, at 10 a.m., on Monday, March 14, 2005, and that there be a total of 45 hours remaining on the resolution, with 22 hours controlled by the Majority and 23 hours controlled by the Minority. **Page S2499**

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

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency with respect to Iran; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–9) **Page S2481**

Appointments:

NATO Parliamentary Assembly: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, in accordance with 22 U.S.C. 1928–1928d, as amended, appointed Senator Biden as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly during the 109th Congress. **Page S2500**

Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group: The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h–276k, as amended, appointed Senator Dodd as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group conference during the 109th Congress. **Page S2500**

Public Interest Declassification Board: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–567, as amended by Public Law 108–458 (Section 1102), appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board:

Joan Vail Grimson of Virginia. **Page S2500**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:
 Michael Jackson, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security. **Pages S2500, S2503**

Messages From the House: **Page S2481**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Pages S2481–82**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2482**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2483–84**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2484–98**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2480–81**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2499**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S2499**

Record Votes: Nine record votes were taken today. (Total—44) **Pages S2416, S2417, S2426, S2427, S2428**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:53 p.m., until 9:30 a.m., on Friday, March 11, 2005. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S2503.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded hearings to examine the reauthorization of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey C. Sprecher, Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia; Robert G. Pickel, International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc., New York, New York; Daniel J. Roth, National Futures Association, Chicago, Illinois; and Oliver I. Ireland, Morrison and Forester, LLP, on behalf of Huntsman Corporation, John G. Gaine, Managed Funds Association, and Micah S. Green, The Bond Market Association, all of Washington, D.C.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from Gale A. Norton, Secretary of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Environmental Management and Radioactive Waste Management in the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Paul M. Golan, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, and Theodore J. Garrish, Deputy Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, both of the Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS: FOSTER CARE INITIATIVES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on District of Columbia concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for funding for Federal foster care initiatives in the District of Columbia, after receiving testimony from Brenda Donald Walker, District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency; Martha B. Knisley, District of Columbia Department of Mental Health; Lee F. Sattelfield, Family Court of District of Columbia Superior Court; Judith Metzler, Center for the Study of Social Policy, and Margie Chalofsky, Foster and Adoptive Family Advocacy Center, both of Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DETENTION OPERATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the review of Department of Defense detention operations and detainee interrogation techniques, after receiving testimony from Vice Admiral Albert T. Church III, USN, Director of the Navy Staff.

IDENTITY THEFT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee held hearings to examine recent developments involving the security of sensitive consumer information relating to identity theft, focusing on laws currently applicable to resellers of consumer information, receiving testimony from Senator Leahy; Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; Larry Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigative Division, United States Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security; Amy S. Friend, Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury.

Hearings recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

2006 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee ordered favorably reported an original concurrent resolution setting forth the fiscal year 2006 budget for the Federal Government.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

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, with an amendment;

S. 50, to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

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, with amendments; and Nominations in the Coast Guard and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Also, Committee adopted its rules of procedures for the 109th Congress.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 1212–1266; 1 private bill, H.R. 1267; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 91–94, and H. Res. 146–150 were introduced. **Pages H1368–71**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1371–72**

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 365 yeas to 39 nays, with one voting "present", Roll No. 61. **Pages H1267–68**

Member Sworn—Fifth Congressional District of California: Representative-elect Doris O. Matsui presented herself in the well of the House and was administered the Oath of Office by the Speaker. Earlier the Clerk of the House transmitted a facsimile copy of the semi-final official returns of the Special Election held on March 8, 2005 from the Honorable Cathy Mitchell, Acting Secretary of State, State of California. **Page H1268**

Privileged Report Filing: Agreed that the Committee on Appropriations have until midnight on March 11 to file a report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. **Page H1269**

Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users: The House passed H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, by a yea-and-nay vote of 417 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 65. The measure was also debated on Wednesday, March 9. **Pages H1272–H1324**

Rejected the Higgins motion to recommit the bill to the Committees on Transportation & Infrastructure and Ways & Means with instructions to report the bill back to the House promptly with amendments, by a recorded vote of 190 yeas to 235 noes, Roll No. 64. **Pages H1322–24**

It was agreed during consideration of the bill that the final period of general debate be in order before the disposition of amendments. **Page H1314**

Accepted:

Young of Alaska manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that makes a number of adjustments and technical changes (it was later agreed by unanimous consent to modify the amendment); **Pages H1277–H1300, H1313–14**

Issa amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that expresses the Sense of Congress that the Department of Transportation and the States should provide additional incentives to encourage the purchase and use of hybrid and other fuel efficient vehicles; **Pages H1303–05**

Burgess amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that changes the current calculation to a

pro rata calculation, reflecting a state's level of investment in a toll facility (a requested recorded vote was later vacated and the amendment was agreed to by voice vote); **Pages H1302–03, H1305**

Pascrell amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that allows states to enact anti-corruption laws curbing the practice of “pay-to-play” contracting without losing their federal-aid highway dollars; **Pages H1305–06**

Rogers (MI) amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that prohibits the sale or use of a traffic signal preemption transmitter by a non-government approved user; **Page H1306**

Honda amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides that basic grant funds authorized under the Alcohol-Impaired Driving Countermeasures section can be used for Driving While Intoxicated Courts that seek to change the behavior of alcohol or drug dependent offenders arrested while driving while impaired; and **Pages H1307–08**

Barton amendment (No. 10 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides that assessments of risks to human health or the environment pursuant to research or studies under the surface transportation environment and planning and cooperative research program, and subsequent use of such studies, follow sound and objective scientific practices and describe the weight of the scientific evidence (a requested recorded vote was later vacated and the amendment was agreed to by voice vote). **Pages H1308–10, H1313**

Tom Davis of Virginia amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that removes the requirement that toll rates on high occupancy toll lanes be differentiated for low income drivers (by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 201 noes, Roll No. 62); and **Pages H1300–02, H1321–22**

Pitts amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that provides small transit systems with additional time to find alternative solutions to address the financial crisis they face when losing flexibility in the use of Section 5307, federal transit funds (by a recorded vote of 228 ayes, to 97 noes, Roll No. 63). **Pages H1306–07, H1322**

Withdrawn:

Burgess amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have eliminated some federal restrictions on state procurement procedures for “design-build contracts,” in which contractors both design and construct facilities; **Pages H1303–04**

Shadegg amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have revised the formula by which funds are allocated under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program to include

areas in non-attainment or maintenance for fine and coarse particulate matter; and **Pages H1310–11**

Flake amendment (No. 12 printed in H. Rept. 109–15) that subtracts the amount that states receive in earmarks from their formula totals in the Surface Transportation Program. **Pages H1311–13**

The Clerk was authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes, as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House, in the engrossment of the bill. **Page H1325**

H. Res. 144, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill was agreed to by voice vote. **Pages H1272–76**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14 for Morning Hour debate; and further that when it adjourn on Monday, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15 for Morning Hour debate as though after May 16, 2005, thereafter to resume its session at 10 a.m. **Page H1326**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 16. **Page H1326**

Condolences of the House to the families of victims of the terrorist attacks in Madrid on March 11, 2004: The House agreed to H. Res. 99, expressing the 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. **Page H1326**

Agreed to the McCotter amendment that replaces the preamble of the resolution. **Pages H1326–27**

Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Representative LaHood to the Board of Trustees of Gallaudet University. **Page H1327**

Privileged Report Filing: Agreed that the Committee on the Budget have until 4 p.m. on March 12 to file a report on a bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005. **Page H1327**

Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Representatives Regula, Sam Johnson (TX), and Becerra. **Page H1352**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to

Iran—referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–15).

Page H1337

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay vote and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1267–68, H1321–22, H1322, H1323–24, and H1324. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Committee Meetings

METHYL BROMIDE USE EXEMPTION

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research held a hearing to access the Methyl Bromide Critical Use Exemption (CUE) process under the Montreal Protocol. Testimony was heard from Claudia McMurray, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Environment, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

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 the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services. Testimony was heard from Eric Bost, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, USDA.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Posture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Gordon R. England, Secretary; ADM. Vernon Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and Gen. Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Navy/Marine Corps Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: John J. Young, Assistant Secretary; and VADM Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief, Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs (N6/N7); and BG William Catto, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command.

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 Education. Testimony was heard from Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies met in executive session to hold a hearing on Department of Energy—National Nuclear Security Administration. Testimony was heard from Linton F. Brooks, Under Secretary, Nuclear Security and Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administrator, Department of Energy.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard. Testimony was heard from ADM Thomas Collin, USCG, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Testimony was heard from Michael Garcia, Secretary, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts. Testimony was heard from Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Humanities. Testimony was heard from Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities.

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 the European Command Gen. James L. Jones, Jr., USMC, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Commander, U.S. European Command, Department of Defense.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Pacific Command. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: ADM William J. Fallon, USN, Commander, U.S.

Pacific Command; and Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, Commander, Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command, and Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.

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

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Science, The Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies held a hearing on NOAA. Testimony was heard from VADM. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., USN (Ret), Under Secretary, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Continued hearings on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Donald R. Rumsfeld, Secretary; and GEN Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Projection Forces held a 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. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Research, Development and Acquisition; VADM Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs; VADM Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Resources, Requirements and Assessments; LTG Robert Magnus, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Programs and Resources, U.S. Marine Corps; and LTG James N. Mattis, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; and Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in National Defense, CRS, Library of Congress.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST 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—Defense Science and Technology in support of the War on Terrorism, and Beyond. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Ronald M. Sega, Director, Defense Research and Engineering; James A. Tegnalia, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency; Anthony J. Tether, Director, De-

fense Advanced Research Projects Agency; Thomas H. Killion, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Research and Technology; RADM Jay M. Cohen, USN, Chief of Naval Research; and James B. Engle, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Science, Technology and Engineering.

RECREATIONAL MARINE EMPLOYMENT ACT OF 2005

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections approved for full Committee action H.R. 940, Recreational Marine Employment Act of 2005.

STEROIDS IN SPORTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection and the Subcommittee on Health held a joint hearing entitled "Steroids in Sports: Cheating the System and Gambling Your Health." Testimony was heard from Representative Ryun (KS); and public witnesses.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN REPOSITORY

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled "Funding Options for the Yucca Mountain Repository Program." Testimony was heard from Representatives Berkley and Porter; Theodore J. Garrish, Deputy Director, Office of Strategy and Program Development, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy; and a public witness.

DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled "Preparing Consumers for the End of the Digital Television Transition." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held an oversight hearing of the Rural Housing Service, including the Service's budget request for fiscal year 2006." Testimony was heard from Russell T. Davis, Administrator, Rural Housing Service, USDA; and William B. Shear, Director, GAO.

FANNIE MAE MORTGAGE REPURCHASES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Due Diligence in Mortgage Repurchases and Fannie: The First Beneficial Case." Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: Kenneth M. Donohue, Sr., Inspector General; John P. Kennedy,

Associate General Counsel, Office of Finance and Regulatory Compliance; and Alfred M. Pollard, General Counsel, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported 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.

DRUG CONTROL BUDGET

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a 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?” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Tracy A. Henke, Associate Deputy Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs; and Catherine M. O’Neil, Associate Deputy Attorney General and Director of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces; John Horton, Associate Deputy Director, State and Local Affairs, Office of National Drug Control Policy; and public witnesses.

COMMITTEE FUNDING

Committee on House Administration: Met to consider funding requests for the following Committees: International Relations; Judiciary; Budget; Financial Services; Small Business; Rules; Agriculture; and Armed Services.

KOREAN PENINSULA: SIX PARTY TALKS AND THE NUCLEAR ISSUE

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on The Korean Peninsula: Six Party Talks and the Nuclear Issue. Testimony was heard from the following former officials of the Department of State: William J. Perry, Secretary of Defense; and James R. Lilley, Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following measures: H.R. 972, Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005; and H. Con. Res. 88, Remembering the victims of the genocide that occurred in 1994 in Rwanda and pledging to work to ensure that such an atrocity does not take place again.

INDONESIA IN TRANSITION

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on Indonesia in Transition: Recent Developments and Implications for U.S. Policy. Testimony was heard from Marie Huhtala, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

ELIMINATING TERRORIST SANCTUARIES

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation held a hearing on Eliminating Terrorist Sanctuaries: The Role of Security Assistance. Testimony was heard from William P. Pope, Acting Coordinator, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State; and RADM Hamlin B. Tallent, USN, Director of Operations, U.S. European Command, Department of Defense.

OVERSIGHT—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE—CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution held an 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. Testimony was heard from Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

OVERSIGHT—INTERIOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims held an oversight hearing entitled “Interior Immigration Enforcement Resources.” Testimony was heard from Paul Martin, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—INTERIOR BUDGET FY 2006—ENERGY AND MINERAL PROGRAMS

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing entitled “The Interior Budget for FY 2006 in Energy and Mineral Programs.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Interior: Johnnie Burton, Director, Minerals Management Service; Jeff Jarret, Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement; Charles G. Groat, Director, U.S. Geological Survey; and Jim Hughes, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management.

OVERSIGHT—FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND NOAA BUDGET REQUEST FY 2006

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans held an oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year

2006 Budget Request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and NOAA. Testimony was heard from VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., (Ret.), Under Secretary, Oceans and Atmosphere, NOAA, Department of Commerce; and Steven A. Williams, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

OVERSIGHT—AGENCY BUDGET BUDGETS AND PRIORITIES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held an 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. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: John Paul Woodley, Jr., Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary (Civil Works); and LTG Carl A. Strock, USA, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Glenn L. McCullough, Jr., Chairman, TVA; Albert S. Jacquez, Administrator, Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation; and a public witness.

BUDGET BRIEFING AND HEARING

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

Prior to the hearing, the Committee met in executive session to receive a briefing on the Budget. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

MIDDLE EAST DEMOCRACY

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): On Wednesday, March 9, 2005, Commission concluded a hearing to examine the Russian-Syrian connection and threats to democracy in the Middle East and the great OSCE region, after receiving testimony from Senator Sam Brownback; Representatives Christopher H. Smith and Benjamin

L. Cardin; Walid Phares, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, on behalf of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies; Farid N. Ghadry, Reform Party of Syria, Ilan Berman, American Foreign Policy Council, and Steven Emerson, The Investigative Project, all of Washington, D.C.; and Entifadh K. Qanbar, United Iraqi Alliance, Baghdad, Iraq.

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs concluded joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine legislative presentations of certain veterans organizations, after receiving testimony from Robert N. Lichtenberger, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Springfield, Virginia; Randy L. Pleva, Sr., Paralyzed Veterans of America, Louis Abramson, Jewish War Veterans, and Neil Appleby, Blinded Veterans Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and H. Gene Overstreet, Non-Commissioned Officers Association, San Antonio, Texas.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of R. Nicholas Burns, of Massachusetts, to be an Under Secretary of State, C. David Welch, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State, and John B. Bellinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Science, The Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce, and Related Agencies, on the NSF; National Science Board; and Office of Science and Technology Policy, 10 a.m., and on the SEC, 12 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, hearing entitled "Getting the Lead Out: The Ongoing Quest for Safe Drinking Water in the Nation's Capital," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, March 11

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12:30 p.m., Monday, March 14

Senate Chamber

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

House Chamber

Program for Monday: To be announced.

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