

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House passed H.R. 1268, Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2759–S2874

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 632–645, S.J. Res. 10–11, and S. Res. 83. **Page S2846**

Measures Reported:

S. 161, to provide for a land exchange in the State of Arizona between the Secretary of Agriculture and Yavapai Ranch Limited Partnership. (S. Rept. No. 109–40) **Page S2845**

Concurrent Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of 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, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2759–S2841**

Adopted:

By 96 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 54), Ensign Amendment No. 171, to increase veterans medical care by \$410,000,000 in fiscal year 2006. **Pages S2759, S2787–93, S2806–07**

By 63 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. 56), Specter/Harkin Amendment No. 173, to increase discretionary health and education funding by \$2,000,000,000. **Pages S2762–68, S2808**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 51), Byrd Amendment No. 158, to provide adequate funding of \$1.4 billion in fiscal year 2006 to preserve a national intercity passenger rail system. **Pages S2759, S2793–95**

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 52) Cantwell Amendment No. 168, to strike section 201(a)(4) relative to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. **Pages S2759, S2768–87, S2795**

By 50 yeas to 50 nays (Vote No. 53), Feingold Amendment No. 186, to fully reinstate the pay-as-you-go requirement. **Pages S2795–S2806**

By 47 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 55), Akaka Amendment No. 149, to increase veterans medical care by \$2.8 billion in 2006. **Pages S2759, S2787–93, S2807**

Pending:

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 S2808–17**

Carper Amendment No. 207, to provide for full consideration of tax cuts in the Senate under regular order. **Pages S2718–21**

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 S2821–25**

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 S2825–27**

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 S2827–29**

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 S2829–31

Salazar/Conrad Amendment No. 215, to provide additional funding for rural education, rural health access, and rural health outreach programs.

Pages S2831–32

Conrad (for Dorgan) Amendment No. 210, to repeal the tax subsidy for certain domestic companies which move manufacturing operations and American jobs offshore.

Pages S2832–33

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 S2833–35

Vitter Amendment No. 223, to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should provide dedicated funding for port security enhancements.

Pages S2835–36

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

Page S2836

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 S2836–41

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2005; that certain Senators be recognized to offer amendments; and that at approximately 1:20 p.m., Senate begin a series of votes on certain amendments.

Pages S2873–74

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Ronald Rosenfeld, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for the remainder of the term expiring February 27, 2009.

Raymond Thomas Wagner, Jr., of Missouri, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term expiring September 14, 2009.

Routine lists in the Coast Guard, Foreign Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Pages S2873, S2874

Messages From the House: **Page S2845**

Measures Referred: **Page S2845**

Executive Communications: **Page S2845**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2845**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2846–47**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2847–60**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2843–45**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2860–72**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2872–73**

Privilege of the Floor: **Page S2873**

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today. (Total—56) **Pages S2794–95, S2806–08**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and adjourned at 9:48 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 17, 2005. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2874.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Navy, after receiving testimony from Gordon R. England, Secretary of the Navy, Admiral Vern Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, and General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of Marine Corps, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY AND AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Army and Air Force, after receiving testimony from Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Installations and Environment, Major General Geoffrey D. Miller, Assistant Chief of Staff, Installation Management, Major General Walter F. Pudlowski, Special Assistant to the Director, Army National Guard, and Brigadier General Gary M. Profit, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve, all of the Department of the Army;

and Fred W. Kuhn, Acting Assistant Secretary for Installations, Logistics, and Environment, and Major General L. Dean Fox, The Air Force Civil Engineer, Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics, both of the Department of the Air Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION: ARMY TRANSFORMATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Army Transformation and the Future Combat System in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; General Richard A. Cody, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; Paul L. Francis, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, Government Accountability Office; David R. Graham, Institute for Defense Analyses, Alexandria, Virginia; and Kenneth F. Boehm, National Legal and Policy Center, Falls Church, Virginia.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST: NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE POLICY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine national security space policy and programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Peter B. Teets, Acting Secretary of the Air Force; General James E. Cartwright, USMC, Commander, United States Strategic Command; General Lance W. Lord, USAF, Commander, United States Air Force Space Command; Lieutenant General Larry J. Dodgen, USA, Commanding General, United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and United States Army Forces Strategic Command; and Vice Admiral Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Warfare Requirements and Programs.

IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Committee on Armed Services: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and the evolving IED threat and the Department of Defense's approach to addressing this issue from General Richard A. Cody, USA, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, Brigadier General Joseph L. Votel, USA, Director, Joint IED Task Force, and Robert Buhrkuhi, Director, Joint Rapid Acquisition Cell, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics).

IDENTITY THEFT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: On March 15, 2005, Committee concluded hearings to examine identity theft, focusing on recent develop-

ments involving the security of sensitive consumer information, after receiving testimony from Don McGuffey, ChoicePoint, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia; Evan Hendricks, Privacy Times, Cabin John, Maryland; and Barbara J. Desoer, Bank of America Corporate Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jeffrey Clay Sell, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, and Patricia Lynn Scarlett, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 606, to amend the Clean Air Act to eliminate methyl tertiary butyl ether from the United States fuel supply, to increase production and use of renewable fuel, and to increase the Nation's energy independence, with amendments; and

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005, with amendments.

EXPIRING TAX PROVISIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee held hearings to examine expiring tax provisions, focusing on the Administration's proposals to extend expiring tax provisions, receiving testimony from Robert J. Carroll, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Analysis; Hy L. Dubowsky, New York State Department of Labor, Albany; Daniel L. Doctoroff, New York Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, New York; Donald C. Alexander, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld LLP, Washington, D.C.; David E. Martin, M-CAM, Charlottesville, Virginia; David Hernandez, EDS, Plano, Texas, on behalf of the R&D Credit Coalition; and Dale Giovengo, Giant Eagle Markets, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Hearings recessed subject to the call of the Chair.

ARMS EMBARGO ON CHINA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the lifting of the European Union (EU) arms embargo on China, focusing on United States-EU-China relations, trans-Atlantic differences, the emergence of China as a more powerful global and regional player, Chinese military modernization, and the future security and stability in East Asia, after receiving testimony from Richard F. Grimmett, Specialist in National Defense, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Peter T.R. Brookes, Heritage Foundation, and Bates Gill,

Center for Strategic and International Studies, both of Washington, D.C.

OBSCENITY PROSECUTION AND THE CONSTITUTION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights concluded a hearing to examine obscenity prosecution and the constitution, focusing on prostitution, child prostitution, and human trafficking, after receiving testimony from Robert A. Destro, Catholic Univer-

sity of America Columbus School of Law, and Patrick A. Trueman, Family Research Council, both of Washington, D.C.; and Frederick Schauer, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

INTELLIGENCE

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

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 1329–1355; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 100–102 and H. Res. 159–161, 164–166, were introduced. **Pages H1620–22**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1622–23**

Reports Filed: Report were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 162, providing for consideration of H.R. 1334, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the removal to Federal court of certain State court cases involving the rights of incapacitated persons (H. Rept. 109–20); and

H. Res. 163, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to the same day consideration of certain resolutions reported by the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 109–21). **Page H1620**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Bradley to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1511**

Chaplain The prayer was offered today by Rev. James P. Campbell, Pastor, Christ Life Church in Woodstock, Illinois. **Page H1511**

Journal: Agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H1511, H1604**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 147, electing the following Members to the following Committees: Joint Committee on Printing: Representatives Doolittle, Reynolds, Millender-McDonald, and Brady (PA); and **Page H1514**

Joint Committee on the Library: Representatives Ehlers, Miller (MI), Millender-McDonald, and Zoe Lofgren (CA). **Page H1514**

Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act: The House passed H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal

year ending September 30, 2005, by a yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 43 nays, Roll No. 77. The bill was also considered yesterday, March 15.

Pages H1514–26

Rejected the Hooley motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 200 yeas to 229 noes, Roll No. 76. **Pages H1524–25**

Yesterday it was agreed by unanimous consent to limit further amendments offered and the time for debate on such amendments.

Agreed to:

Velázquez amendment (No. 8 printed in the Congressional Record of March 15) that prohibits the use of funds for any contract in contravention of section 15(g)(2) of the Small Business Act;

Pages H1517–18

Markey amendment (debated yesterday, March 15) that reaffirms the U.S. commitment to the U.N. Convention Against Torture (by a recorded vote of 420 yeas to 2 noes and 3 voting "present", Roll No. 75). **Page H1518**

Withdrawn:

Obeys amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds provided for national intelligence programs until the President submits a proposal on how to inform Congressional committees of clandestine military activities in terrorist-sponsored countries. **Page H1515**

Point of Order sustained against:

Filner amendment that sought to guarantee that companies receiving contracts from the bill make every effort to hire veterans. **Pages H1515–17**

Pursuant to sec. 2 of the H. Res. 151, the text of H.R. 418, to establish and rapidly implement

regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, was appended to the engrossment of H.R. 1268; and the title of H.R. 1268 was conformed to reflect the addition of the text of H.R. 418. Conformed so as to read: making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence. **Page H1526**

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

Amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986: H.R. 1270, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund financing rate, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 431 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 80;

Pages H1526–27, H1545–46

Expressing concern regarding the recent passage of the anti-secession law in the People's Republic of China: H. Con. Res. 98, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the recent passage of the anti-secession law by the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 424 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 81; and

Pages H1527–29, H1546

Protection of Incapacitated Persons Act of 2005: H.R. 1332, amended, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for the removal to Federal court of certain State court cases involving the rights of incapacitated persons. **Pages H1599–H1604**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further consideration of the measures will resume tomorrow, March 17:

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; and

Pages H1529–32

Expressing concern regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Re-

public: H. Con. Res. 32, amended, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic. **Pages H1532–36**

Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006: The House began consideration of 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. Further consideration will resume tomorrow, March 17.

Pages H1547–59, H1559–98

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. **Page H1559**

Began consideration of the 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. Further consideration will resume tomorrow, March 17. **Pages H1587–98**

H. Res. 154, the rule providing for consideration of the measure was agreed to by a yeas-and-nay vote of 228 yeas to 196 noes, Roll No. 79, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yeas-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 202 nays, Roll No. 78. **Pages H1536–45**

Committee Election: The House agreed to H. Res. 161, electing Representative Matsui to the Committee on Rules. **Page H1547**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate appears on page H1511.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yeas-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1518, H1524–25, H1525–26, H1544, H1545, H1545–46, and H1546. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12 midnight.

Committee Meetings

U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE WITH CUBA

Committee on Agriculture: Held a hearing to Review United States Agricultural Trade with Cuba. Testimony was heard from Robert W. Werner, Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury; and public witnesses.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Testimony was heard from William T. Hawks, Under Secretary, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, USDA.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Energy—Nuclear Waste Disposal and Environmental Management. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: Theodore J. Garrish, Deputy Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; and Paul Golan, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Environmental Management.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Department of Energy—Fossil Energy. Testimony was heard from Mark Maddox, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Fossil Energy, Department of Energy.

SCIENCE, THE 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 the DEA. Testimony was heard from Karen P. Tandy, Administrator, DEA, Department of Justice.

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

MILITARY RECRUITING/PERSONNEL NEEDS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on Recruiting, Retention and Military Personnel Policy, and Benefits and Compensation Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Charles S. Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness; LTG F. L. Hagenbeck, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, G-1, Department of the Army; VADM Gerald Hoewing, USN,

Chief of Naval Personnel, Department of the Navy; LTG Roger A. Brady, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, Department of the Air Force; LTG H. P. Osman, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, U.S. Marine Corps.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Future Combat Systems, Modularity, and Force Protection Initiatives. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GAO: Paul L. Francis, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management; Sharon Pickup, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management; and Janet St. Laurent, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Department of the Army; LTG David F. Melcher, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G8 (Programming, Materiel Integration, and Management) LTG James J. Lovelace, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G3 (Operations and Requirements); and LTG James N. Mattis, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Combat Development, U.S. Marine Corps.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported H.R. 525, Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005.

E-RATE PROBLEMS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on Problems with the E-rate Program: GAO Review of FCC Management and Oversight. Testimony was heard from Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and the following officials of the FCC: Jeffrey Carlisle, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau; and Thomas Bennett, Assistant Inspector General for USF Oversight.

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing entitled “How Internet Protocol-Enabled Services Are Changing the Face of Communications: A Look at the Voice Marketplace.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 458, Military Personnel

Financial Services Protection Act; H.R. 749, amended, Expanded Access to Financial Services Act of 2005; H.R. 280, Brownfields Redevelopment Enhancement Act; H.R. 804, to exclude from consideration as income certain payments under the national flood insurance program; H.R. 1057, amended, True American Heroes Act; and H.R. 902, amended, Presidential \$1 Coin Act.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; OVERSIGHT PLAN; GSA STREAMLINING

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measures: H. Res. 142, Supporting the goals and ideals of a “Rotary International Day” and celebrating and honoring Rotary International on the occasion of its centennial anniversary; and H. Res. 148, Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

The Committee also approved an Oversight Plan for the 109th Congress.

The Committee also held a hearing entitled “Service Oriented Streamlining: Rethinking the Way GSA Does Business.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the GSA: Stephen A. Perry, Administrator; and Eugene Waszily, Assistant Inspector General, Auditing; Deidre Lee, Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—ENERGY DEMANDS

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held an oversight hearing entitled “Energy Demands in the 21st Century: Are Congress and the Executive Branch Meeting the Challenge?” Testimony was heard from Jim Wells, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; Guy Caruso, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; and a public witness.

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance, and Accountability held a hearing entitled “Strengthening Travel Reimbursement Procedures for Army National Guard Soldiers.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Patrick T. Shine, Director, Military and Civilian Pay Services, Defense Finance and Accounting Service; Roy Wallace, Director, Plans and Resources, Department of the Army; and John Argodale, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Financial Operations, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller; and Gregory D. Kutz, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO.

COMMITTEE FUNDING

Committee on House Administration: Met to consider funding requests for the following Committees: Transportation and Infrastructure; Science; Veterans Affairs; Government Reform; House Administration; Homeland Security, Education and the Workforce; Energy and Commerce; Standards of Official Conduct; Ways and Means; Resources; and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

U.S. LIBYAN RELATIONS

Committee on International Relations: Held a hearing on Libya: Progress on the Path Toward Cautious Re-engagement. Testimony was heard from William J. Burns, Acting Under Secretary, Political Affairs, Department of State.

OVERSIGHT—NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations held an oversight hearing on Northern Ireland Human Rights: Update on the Cory Collusion Inquiry Reports. Testimony was heard from Mitchell Reiss, Special Envoy of the President and The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Department of State; and public witnesses.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM; JEFF GANNON INVESTIGATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported S. 256, Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

The Committee adversely reported H. Res. 136, Directing the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of those officials relating to the security investigations and background checks relating to granting access to the White House of James D. Guckert (also known as Jeff Gannon).

OVERSIGHT—U.S. ENERGY AND MINERAL NEEDS SECURITY AND POLICY

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held an oversight hearing on U.S. Energy and Mineral Needs Security and Policy: Impacts of Sustained Increases in Global Energy and Mineral Consumption by Emerging Economics Such as China and India. Testimony was heard from Guy F. Caruso, Administrator, Energy Information Administration, Department of Energy; Dave Menzie, Chief, International Minerals Section, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; Jeffrey Logan, China Program Manager, International Energy Agency; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 410, Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership act of 2005; H.R. 599, Federal Lands Restoration Enhancement, Public Education, and Information Resources Act of 2005, and H.R. 975, Trail Responsibility and Accountability for the Improvement of Lands Act. Testimony was heard from Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Forest Service, USDA; Kim Thorsen, Assistant Director, Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Department of the Interior; Joe Donandson, Mayor, Flagstaff, Arizona; and public witnesses.

PROTECTION OF INCAPACITATED PERSONS ACT OF 2005

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a closed rule providing one hour of debate in the House on H.R. 1334, Protection of Incapacitated Persons Act of 2005, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit.

SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of March 17, 2005, providing for consideration of a bill relating to the rights of an incapacitated person or persons.

FUTURE OF AERONAUTICS AT NASA

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing on the Future of Aeronautics at NASA. Testimony was heard from J. Victor LeBacqz, Associate Administrator, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, NASA; and public witnesses.

REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled "The RFA at 25: Needed Improvements for Small Business Regulatory Relief." Testimony was heard from Thomas Sullivan, Chief Counsel for Advocacy, SBA; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—MEMBER PROJECTS REQUESTS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held an oversight hearing on Member Project Requests for the Water Resources Development Act of 2005. Testimony was heard from Representatives Kanjorski, Shays, Pallone, Rohrabacher, Castle, Foley, McGovern, Hinojosa, Allen, Wilson of New Mexico, Holt, Miller of Michigan, Carnahan, Westmoreland, Jindal and Stupak.

PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET FOR DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Ways and Means: Held a hearing on the President's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget for the Department of Labor. Testimony was heard from Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor.

BUDGET HEARING

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

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine current and future worldwide threats to the national security of the United States; to be followed by a closed hearing in SH-219, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Subcommittee on SeaPower, to hold hearings to examine posture of the U.S. Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006, 3 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to markup The Federal Public Transportation Act of 2005, 11 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2006 for the Coast Guard Operational Readiness/Mission Balance, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the report entitled, "Back from the Battlefield: Are we providing the proper care for America's Wounded Warriors?", 10 a.m., SR-418.

House

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

Subcommittee on Defense, on Air Force Posture, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn, and executive, on Air Force Acquisition, 1:30 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security, on Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

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

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, on Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2 p.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Science, The Departments of State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies, on SBA, 10 a.m., and on Federal Prison System, 2 p.m., H-309 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on current operations and the political transition in Iraq, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—United States Special Operations Command policy and programs, 3 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness and the Subcommittee on Select Education, joint hearing entitled “Tracking International Students in Higher Education: A Progress Report,” 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Setting the Path for Reauthorization: Improving Portfolio Management at the NIH,” 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “A Review of Security Initiatives at DOE Nuclear Facilities,” 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance, and Government Sponsored Enterprises, hearing entitled “A Review of the Securities Arbitration System,” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing on H.R. 1185, Deposit Insurance Reform Act of 2005, 9:30 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, hearing entitled “Restoring Faith in America’s Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball’s Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, oversight hearing on U.S. Counternarcotics Policy in Afghanistan: Time for Leadership, 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, oversight hearing on A Global Review of Human Rights: Examining the State Department’s 2004 Annual Report, 1:30 p.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-proliferation, oversight hearing on the United Nations and the Fight Against Terrorism, 2:30 p.m., 2255 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, oversight hearing on The United Nations Oil-for-Food Program: The Cotecna and Saybolt Inspection Firms, 1:30 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, oversight hearing on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, oversight hearing on Holmes Group, the Federal Circuit, and the State of Patent Appeals, 3:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, oversight hearing on Responding to Organized Crimes Against Manufacturers and Retailers; followed by mark up of H.R. 32, Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act, 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, oversight hearing on a measure to amend the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Park Service Budget, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, to mark up 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, High-Performance Computing Revitalization Act of 2005; H.R. 1215, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2005; H. Con. Res. 96, Recognizing the significance of African American women in the United States scientific community; and H.R. 798, Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2005, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Rural Enterprise, Agriculture and Technology, hearing entitled “The High Price of Natural Gas and its Impact on Small Businesses: Issues and Short Term Solutions,” 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management, oversight hearing on The Administration’s “Strengthening America’s Communities” Initiative and its impact on economic development, 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on Managing the Use of Imaging Services, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, on hearing on Global Updates, 9 a.m., and executive, hearing on the Budget, 1:30 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Thursday, March 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of S. Con. Res. 18, Concurrent Budget Resolution, certain Senators will offer amendments, and at approximately 1:20 p.m., the Senate will vote on, or in relation to, certain amendments.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Continue consideration of H. Con. Res. 95, Budget Resolution for FY 06 (structured rule).

Rolled vote on Hensarling amendment to H. Con. Res. 95, Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006.

Rolled votes on Suspensions:

(1) 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; and

(2) H. Con. Res. 32, amended, expressing the grave concern of Congress regarding the occupation of the Republic of Lebanon by the Syrian Arab Republic.

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