

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2145–S2223

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2415–2425, and S. Res. 402. **Pages S2201–02**

Measures Passed:

National Asbestos Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 402, designating the first day of April 2006, as “National Asbestos Awareness Day.”

Pages S2222–23

Congressional Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2146–84**

Adopted:

Kyl/Cornyn Amendment No. 3068, to designate \$2 billion in immigration- and homeland security-related funding for interior enforcement purposes, including, but not limited to: federal detention bed spaces and personnel; implementation of an expanded and user-friendly Electronic Employment Verification System; and, additional worksite enforcement personnel, including additional immigration enforcement agents, forensics auditors, fraud agents, intelligence research assistants, employer outreach assistants, and others. **Pages S2146–48**

By 60 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 44), Santorum Amendment No. 3050, to increase funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

Pages S2153, S2154–58, S2173–74

By 90 yeas to 8 nays (Vote No. 46), McConnell Amendment No. 3061, to provide funding for maritime security, including the Container Security Initiative, improved data for targeted cargo searches, and full background checks and security threat assessments of personnel at our nation’s seaports.

Pages S2146, S2175–76

Chambliss (for Dayton) Amendment No. 3018, to restore funding for the Byrne/JAG grant program to the FY 2003 level of \$900 million, offset with an

across the board cut to administrative expenses, travel and consulting services. **Pages S2146, S2177**

By 76 yeas to 22 nays (Vote No. 48), Grassley Amendment No. 3073, to establish a reserve fund to allow for deficit-neutral legislation that would provide for an extension of the Medicare part D enrollment period. **Pages S2152–53, S2153–54, S2177–78**

By 54 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 50), Wyden (for Snowe/Wyden) Amendment No. 3004, to ensure that any savings associated with legislation that authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use the collective purchasing power of 40,000,000 Medicare beneficiaries to negotiate the best possible prices for prescription drugs provided through part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act in fall-back plans, by private drug plans (if asked) and in other circumstances, but not permitting a uniform formulary or price-setting, is reserved for deficit reduction or to improve the Medicare drug benefit.

Pages S2165–68, S2178–79

Rejected:

By 45 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 43), Murray Amendment No. 3063, to restore funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program to the fiscal 2004 level by closing tax loopholes previously slated for elimination in Senate-passed legislation. **Pages S2146, S2172–73**

By 43 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 45), Stabenow Amendment No. 3056, to provide \$5 billion for our emergency responders so that they can field effective and reliable interoperable communications equipment to respond to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and the public safety needs of America’s communities, and fully offset this by closing tax loopholes and collecting more from the tax gap.

Pages S2146, S2174–75

By 43 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 47), Menendez Amendment No. 3054, to provide an additional \$965 million to make our ports more secure by increasing port security grants, increasing inspections, improving existing programs, and increasing research and development, and to fully offset this additional funding by closing tax loopholes.

Pages S2146, S2176–77

By 49 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 49), Nelson Amendment No. 3009, to establish a deficit-neutral

reserve fund to protect Medicare beneficiaries who enroll in the prescription drug benefit during 2006.

Pages S2148–52, S2178

By 44 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 51), Byrd Amendment No. 3086, to preserve a national inter-city passenger rail system by providing adequate funding of \$1.45 billion for Amtrak in Fiscal Year 2007 and to fully offset this additional funding by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Pages S2168–70, S2179–80

By 39 yeas to 59 nays (Vote No. 52), Santorum/Specter Amendment No. 3015, to provide an additional \$550,000,000 for Amtrak for fiscal year 2007.

Pages S2170–72, S2180–84

Withdrawn:

Byrd Amendment No. 3062, to provide \$184 million over five years for the Mine Safety and Health Administration to hire additional mine safety inspectors, paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Pages S2146, S2171

Pending:

Specter Amendment No. 3048, to increase the advance appropriations allowance in order to fund health, education and training, and low-income programs.

Page S2146

Reid (for Clinton/Reid) Amendment No. 3115, to increase funding in fiscal year 2007 by \$347 million to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs and policies that support the delivery of contraceptive services and medically accurate information in order to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, including Title X of the Public Health Service Act, and to restore funding or provide increased funding over fiscal year 2006 for programs that help women have healthy pregnancies and healthy children, including the Child Care Development Block Grant, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Healthy Start, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes.

Page S2180

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 1:30 p.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006, all time under the Act expire.

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the budget resolution at 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006; provided further, that the time from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., be equally divided between the Chairman and the Ranking Member; following which, Senate proceed to votes in relation to certain amendments proposed thereto; Senate then will continue debate on the budget resolution until 1:30 p.m., with the time equally divided; and that at 1:30 p.m., Senate begin a series of additional votes on certain amendments to be proposed thereto. **Page S2184**

Debt-Limit Extension: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of H.J. Res. 47, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, and the Senate then began consideration of the joint resolution, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2184–95**

Pending:

Baucus/Lincoln Amendment No. 3131, to require a study of debt held by foreigners. **Pages S2193–95**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution on Thursday, March 16, 2006, with a vote on or in relation to Baucus/Lincoln Amendment No. 3131 (listed above), followed by a vote on final passage of the joint resolution. **Page S2184**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Warren W. Tichenor, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Mark C. Minton, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Mongolia.

Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

John A. Rizzo, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Page S2223

Nominations Discharged: The following nominations were discharged from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and then placed on the Executive Calendar:

Marc L. Kesselman, of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on November 16, 2005, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Gale A. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, which was sent to the Senate on January 18, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Boyd Kevin Rutherford, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on January 27, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Linda Avery Strachan, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which was sent to the Senate on February 17, 2006, from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Pages S2222, S2223

Messages From the House:

Page S2200

Measures Referred:

Pages S2200–01

Executive Communications:	Page S2201
Executive Reports of Committees:	Page S2201
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S2202–04
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S2204–07
Additional Statements:	Page S2200
Amendments Submitted:	Pages S2207–21
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Page S2222
Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—52)	Pages S2173–80

Recess: Senate convened at 9 a.m., and recessed at 8:05 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Thursday, March 16, 2006. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2223.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of the Navy, after receiving testimony from David C. Winter, Secretary of the Navy; Admiral Michael G. Mullen, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and General Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

APPROPRIATIONS: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Secretary of the Senate, and Architect of the Capitol, including an update on the progress of the Capitol Visitor Center, after receiving testimony from Emily Reynolds, Secretary of the Senate; Alan Hantman, Architect, Steven Ayers, Acting Chief Operating Officer, and Robert C. Hixon, Jr., Capitol Visitor Center Project Executive, all of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol; and Bernard Ungar, Director, Physical Infrastructure, and Terrell Dorn, both of Government Accountability Office.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, focusing on ground forces readiness, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James J. Lovelace, Jr., USA, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, United States Army; Lieutenant General Jan C. Huly, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, United States Marine Corps; Lieutenant General John R. Vines, USA, Commanding General,

XVIII Airborne Corps; and Lieutenant General John F. Sattler, Commander, United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the proposed defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program, focusing on the Joint Strike Fighter F136 Alternate Engine Program, after receiving testimony from Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Admiral Robert F. Willard, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; General John D.W. Corley, USAF, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Air Force; General Robert Magnus, USMC, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Rear Admiral Steven L. Enewold, USN, Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter Program, United States Navy.

INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine proposed legislation to provide a national innovation initiative, and related proposals for assuring America's leadership and competitiveness in the 21st century, after receiving testimony from Senators Baucus and Lieberman; Deborah L. Wince-Smith, Council on Competitiveness, Washington, D.C.; Craig R. Barrett, Intel Corporation, Santa Clara, California; John E. Kelly III, IBM Corporation, Somers, New York; and Norman Augustine, Bethesda, Maryland.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 476, to authorize the Boy Scouts of America to exchange certain land in the State of Utah acquired under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1829, to repeal certain sections of the Act of May 26, 1936, pertaining to the Virgin Islands;

S. 1830, to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, with amendments;

H.R. 562, to authorize the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the man-made famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932–1933;

H.R. 3443, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain water distribution facilities to the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District; and

The nominations of Raymond L. Orbach, to be Under Secretary for Science, Alexander A. Karsner, to be Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Dennis R. Spurgeon, to be Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and David Longly Bernhardt, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Post-Palestinian election challenges in the Middle East, focusing on Hamas, a designated terrorist organization, which was victorious in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections in January 2006, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Keith W. Dayton, U.S. Security Coordinator, Department of State; and James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement, Dennis Ross, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and Robert Malley, International Crisis Group, all of Washington, D.C.

GAO HIGH-RISK LIST

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 the progress of the programs on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list, including whether a proposal to create a Chief Management Officer at the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense would foster a culture of accountability necessary for improved high-risk program performance, 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.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1955, to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974 and the Public Health Service Act to expand health care access and reduce costs through the creation of small business health plans and through modernization of the health insurance marketplace, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

INDIAN CHILD PROTECTION AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 1899, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, after receiving testimony from William P. Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Robert McSwain, Deputy Director, and Jon Perez, Director, Division of Behav-

iorial Health, both of Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; James H. Burrus, Jr., Acting Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Ron Suppah, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Warm Springs; Terry L. Cross, National Indian Child Welfare Association, Portland, Oregon; and Paul D. Steele, Morehead State University Center for Justice Studies, Morehead, Kentucky.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee resumed markup of proposed legislation providing for comprehensive immigration reform, but did not complete action thereon, and will meet again on Thursday, March 16.

HOSPITAL GROUP PURCHASING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine hospital group purchasing, focusing on whether the industry's reforms are sufficient to ensure competition, after receiving testimony from Richard J. Bednar, Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative, and Mark B. Leahey, Medical Device Manufacturers Association, both of Washington, D.C.; S. Prakash Sethi, City University of New York Baruch College, New York, New York; and Mina Ubbing, Fairfield Medical Center, Lancaster, Ohio.

GENDER RETIREMENT DISPARITY

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine eliminating retirement income disparity for women, focusing on the financial security of America's women, after receiving testimony from Jean Chatzky, Money Magazine, Briarcliff Manor, New York; Cindy Hounsell, Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement, Barbara B. Kennelly, National Committee To Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Jack L. VanDerhei, Employee Benefit Research Institute, and Karyne Jones, The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., all of Washington, D.C.; Sara C. Hart, CNF Service Company, Portland, Oregon; and Lynn Rollins, New York, New York.

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

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 12 public bills, H.R. 4960–4971; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 358 and H. Res. 728, were introduced.

Pages H1058–59

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1059–60

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1176, to provide immunity for nonprofit athletic organizations in lawsuits arising from claims of ordinary negligence relating to the passage, adoption, or failure to adopt rules of play for athletic competitions and practices (H. Rept. 109–393); and

H.R. 1871, to provide liability protection to nonprofit volunteer pilot organizations flying for public benefit and to the pilots and staff of such organizations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–394).

Page H1058

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Larry R. Hayward, Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

Page H977

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, March 14th:

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards: H. Con. Res. 190, to express the sense of the Congress that the Russian Federation should fully protect the freedoms of all religious communities without distinction, whether registered and unregistered, as stipulated by the Russian Constitution and international standards, by a yea-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 1 nay with 1 voting “present”, Roll No. 42; and

Pages H991–92

Amending the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws: H.R. 4944, to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify temporarily certain rates of duty, to make other technical amendments to the trade laws, by a yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 44.

Pages H1008–09

Recess: The House recessed at 12:49 p.m. for the purpose of receiving Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. The

House reconvened at 3:44 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. The House will resume consideration of H.R. 4939 following the Joint Meeting.

Pages H995, H998

Joint Meeting to receive Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. She was escorted into the Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Boehner, Putnam, Boozman, Fortenberry, Leach, Ros-Lehtinen, Royce, Smith of New Jersey, Wilson of South Carolina, Flake, Pelosi, Clyburn, Lewis of Georgia, Payne, Waters, Watt, Kennedy, Kilpatrick, Lee and Watson; and Senators Frist, Stevens, Lugar, Martinez, Durbin, Feingold, and Reed.

Pages H995–98

Recess: The House recessed at 3:45 p.m., and reconvened at 4:44 p.m.

Page H998

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006: The House began consideration of H.R. 4939, to make emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006. Further consideration will continue tomorrow, March 16th.

Pages H992–95, H999–H1008, H1009–25, H1026–47

Agreed to:

Millender-McDonald amendment that decreases and increases funding relating to the Defense Health Program;

Page H1013

Shays amendment that designates funding for the Community Action Program;

Pages H1016–17

Kirk amendment that increases funding for the DEA;

Page H1022

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment which pertains to section 3013, regarding funds appropriated relating to the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season as pertains to expenses as a result of legally voting in any officially designated election of the Gulf Coast region.

Page H1046

Rejected:

Gilchrest amendment that strikes section 3011 (by a recorded vote of 38 yeas to 377 noes, Roll No. 43); and

Pages H1002–05, H1008

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that strikes and inserts certain language regarding the disallowance of requirement waivers as it relates to low and moderate incomes;

Pages H1044–45

Withdrawn:

Souder amendment (no. 1 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to change language in the following areas relating to “Drug Interdiction and Counter-Drug Activities, Defense”, after the dollar amount, reduce funding. In the item relating to “International Narcotics and Law Enforcement”, after the dollar amount, increase funding;

Pages H1013–14

Engel amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase funding to the Bilateral Economic Assistance; **Pages H1014–16**

Garrett amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to strike lines relating to Department of State’s Democracy Fund, reduces funding for the Diplomatic and Consular Programs, and strikes language in the bill relating to Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs;

Page H1017

Hinojosa amendment (no. 3 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to designate funding for the United States Section of the International Boundary Water Commission, United States and Mexico;

Page H1024

Melancon amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn which sought to insert a new title, entitled, “Title IV—Louisiana Hurricanes Agricultural Disaster Relief”;

Pages H1039–43

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to increase reconstruction funding; and

Pages H1043–44

Jackson-Lee of Texas amendment that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that sought to insert language regarding disaster loans and the SBA.

Pages H1046–47

Point of Order sustained against:

Sabo amendment that sought to amend the Defense Production Act by inserting a new section 3011A;

Pages H1005–08

Salazar amendment (no. 2 printed in the Congressional Record of March 14) that sought to increase funding for Department of Veterans Affairs, Departmental Administration, General Operating Expenses;

Pages H1021–22

Brady amendment that sought to insert language pertaining to data used be the most timely and accurate data available relating to damages from such hurricanes;

Page H1036

Brady amendment that sought to increase funding for the long-term recovery of areas that are housing victims of Hurricane Katrina;

Pages H1036–37

Brady amendment that sought to increase funding for the recovery, rebuilding, and relief of the State

of Texas from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes;

Pages H1037–38

Brady amendment that sought funding under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development” Community Development Fund; and

Pages H1038–39

Conaway amendment that sought to insert language regarding the funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Page H1047

Agreed by unanimous consent that no amendments may be in order during further consideration of H.R. 4939 except those contained in a list which was submitted to the desk. Agreed to without objection.

Page H1025

H. Res. 725, providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to by a recorded vote of 218 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 41, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 40.

Pages H980–91

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House completed debate on the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further consideration of the measure will resume tomorrow, March 16th:

Making available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006: S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006.

Pages H1047–51

Tax Relief Act of 2005—Motion to Instruct Conferees: The House began consideration of the Tanner motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006. Further consideration will resume tomorrow, March 16th.

Pages H1051–55

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H990, H990–91, H991, H1008, and H1008–09. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVIEW FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing to review the Federal Crop Insurance System. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Keith Collins, Chief Economist and

Chairman, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; and Eldon Gould, Administrator, Risk Management Agency; 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 Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Chuck Lambert, Acting Under Secretary; and Jeremy Stump, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, both with Marketing and Regulatory Programs; Lloyd C. Day, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; W. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; James E. Link, Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration; and W. Scott Steele, Budget Officer.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing on DOE, Nuclear Waste Disposal. Testimony was heard from Paul Golan, Acting Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Defense.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

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

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 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testimony was heard from Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

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 SBA. Testimony was heard from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, SBA.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Central Command. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: GEN John Abizaid, USA, Combatant Commander, U.S. Central Command; and Eric S. Edelman, Under Secretary (Policy).

MILITARY FAMILY PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee in Military Personnel held a hearing on the Military Resale and Morale, Welfare Morale, Welfare and Recreation Overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Leslye A. Arshnt, Deputy Under Secretary, Military Community and Family Policy; MG Paul Essex, USAF, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service; RADM Robert E. Crowley III, USN, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; BG John A. Macdonald, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center; RADM Wayne G. Shear, Jr., USN, Vice Commander, Navy Installations Command; Patrick B. Nixon, Acting Director and Chief Executive Officer, Defense Commissary Agency; Michael P. Downs, Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and Arthur J. Myers, Director, Air Force Services; and public witnesses.

NAVY SHIPBUILDING/FLEET PLAN

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Projection Forces held a hearing on evolving Navy missions and the role of surface and subsurface combatants. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: VADM Lewis W. Crenshaw, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Resources, Requirements, and Assessments (N8), MG Gordon C. Nash, USMC, Director, Expeditionary Warfare Division (N75), U.S. Marine Corps; RADM Bernard J. McCullough, USN, Director, Surface Warfare (N76); RADM Thomas J. Kileline, Jr., USN, Director, Air Warfare Division (N78), and RADM Joseph A. Walsh, USN, Director, Submarine Warfare Division (N77), all with the Department of the Navy; and Ronald O'Rourke, Specialist in National Defense, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

WAR ON TERROR: INTERAGENCY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on Implementing the Global War on Terror Strategy: Overcoming Interagency Problems. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT STATUS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled "Status of the Yucca Mountain Project." Testimony was heard from Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy.

HEALTHCARE SERVICE COSTS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "What's the Cost? Proposals To Provide Consumers With Better Information About Healthcare Service Costs." Testimony was heard from Representatives Lipinski and Emanuel; former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich of Georgia; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 4411, amended, Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2005; H.R. 4916, To authorize United States participation in, and appropriations for, the United States contribution to the first replenishment of the resources of the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund; and H.R. 4912, Rural Health Care Capital Access Act of 2006.

Will continue tomorrow.

NATION'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held a hearing entitled "Strengthening the Nation's Water Infrastructure: The Army Corps of Engineers' Planning Priorities." Testimony was heard from Douglas W. Lamont, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Project Planning, Department of the Army; Anu Mittal, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and public witnesses.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES HEALTH CARE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce and Agency Organization held a hearing entitled "Improving the Quality of Healthcare in the FEHBP." Testimony was heard from David Powner, Director, IT Management Issues, GAO; and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich of Georgia; and public witnesses.

OMB'S LINE OF BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Government Management, Finance and Accountability held a hearing entitled "OMB's Financial Management Line of Business Initiative: Too Much Too Soon?" Testimony was heard from Linda Combs, Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, OMB; and public witnesses.

PARK SERVICE WATERCRAFT RULES

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled "Taking on Water: The National Park Service's Stalled Rule-making Effort on Personal Watercraft." Testimony was heard from Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Associate Director, Visitor Resource Protection, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 4942, Promoting Antiterrorism Capabilities Through International Cooperation Act; and H.R. 4941, amended, Homeland Security Science and Technology Enhancement Act of 2006.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight, approved for full Committee action, as amended, the Department of Homeland Security Management and Operations Improvement Act of 2006.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

Committee on International Relations: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 282, Iran Freedom Support Act.

The Committee approved a motion directing the Chairman to request that the following resolutions be considered on the Suspension Calendar: H. Con. Res. 90, Conveying the sympathy of Congress to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes; H. Con. Res. 320, amended, Calling on the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to immediately and unconditionally release Dr. Pham Hong Son and other political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; H. Res. 578, Concerning the Government of Romania's ban on intercountry adoptions and the welfare of orphaned or abandoned children in Romania; and H.R. 658, Supporting the goals and ideals of Work Water Day.

NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations and the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats held a joint hearing on the Northern Ireland Peace Process: Policing Advances and Remaining Challenges. Testimony was heard

from Mitchell B. Reiss, Special Envoy of the President and the Secretary of State for the Northern Ireland Peace Process, Department of State; and public witnesses.

UNREST IN SOUTH ASIA

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held a hearing on Unrest in South Asia: Recent Developments in Nepal and Sri Lanka. Testimony was heard from Donald A. Camp, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, South Asian Affairs, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 4698, amended, Disaster Relief Volunteer Protection Act of 2006; H.R. 4742, To amend title 35, United States Code, to allow the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to waive statutory provisions governing patents and trademarks in certain emergencies; and H. Con. Res. 319, Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the successful and substantial contributions of the amendments to the patent and trademark laws that were enacted in 1980 (Public Law 96–517); commonly known as the Bayh-Dole Act, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of its enactment; H.R. 3127, Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2005; and H. Res. 724, Honoring Leonidas Ralph Mecham, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts and Secretary of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

The Committee also approved pending Committee business.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Resources: Ordered reported H.R. 4882, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

The Committee also began markup of H.R. 4200, Forest Emergency Recovery and Research Act.

INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT AMENDMENTS TO RESTRICT OFF- RESERVATION GAMING

Committee on Resources: Held a hearing on H.R. 4893, To amend section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to restrict off-reservation gaming. Testimony was heard from James Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior; and Philip N. Hogen, Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission.

ONLINE FREEDOM OF SPEECH ACT

Committee on Rules: Testimony was heard from Chairman Ehlers and Representatives Shays, Bass,

Hensarling, Millender-McDonald and Allen, but action was deferred on H.R. 1606, Online Freedom of Speech Act.

LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT

Committee on Rules: Subcommittee on the Legislative and Budget Process held a hearing on H.R. 4890, Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ryan of Wisconsin and Lewis of California; Joel D. Kaplan, Deputy Director, OMB; and Donald B. Marron, Acting Director, CBO.

UNDERGRAD SCIENCE-MATH ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Research held a hearing on Undergraduate Science, Math and Engineering Education: What's Working? Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SBA BUDGET AND REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on the issues confronting the Small Business Administration in the upcoming fiscal years. Testimony was heard from Hector V. Barreto, Administrator, SBA.

MISSOURI RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Enterprise, Agriculture and Technology held a hearing entitled "The Missouri River and Its Spring Rise: Science or Science Fiction?" Testimony was heard from Senator Talent; BG Gregg F. Martin, USA, Commander and Division Engineer, Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mitch King, Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Mike Wells, Deputy Director, and Chief of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, State of Missouri; and public witnesses.

RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN PROGRAM

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Railroads held a hearing on Implementation of the Recently Expanded Rail Infrastructure Loan Program. Testimony was heard from Joseph H. Boardman, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation.

OVERSIGHT—EDUCATION BENEFITS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Held an oversight hearing on education benefits for the total military force. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: T. F. Hall, Assistant Secretary, Reserve Affairs; Bill Carr, Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Military Personnel Policy; LTG James R. Helmly, USA, U.S. Army Reserves; LTG

John A. Bradley, USAF, U.S. Air Force Reserves; LTG John W. Bergman, USMC, U.S. Marine Corps Reserves; MG Ronald Young, USA, Acting Director, U.S. National Guard Bureau Joint Staff; RADM Craig McDonald, USN, U.S. Navy Reserves; and RADM Sally Brice-O'Hara, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Reserves, Department of Homeland Security.

LONG-TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals. Testimony was heard from Herb B. Kuhn, Director, Center for Medicare Management, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Mark E. Miller, Executive Director, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and public witnesses.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OVERSIGHT

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Human Resources held a hearing Regarding New Research on Unemployment Benefit Recipients. Testimony was heard from Sigurd Nilsen, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security Issues, GAO.

Joint Meetings

TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT

Conferees met to resolve the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006, but did not complete action thereon, and recessed subject to the call.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D225)

H.R. 4515, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4422 West Sciota Street in Scio, New York, as the "Corporal Jason L. Dunham Post Office". Signed on March 14, 2006. (Public Law 109-180)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Forest Service, 9:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2007 for the Department of Transportation and Amtrak, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, to hold hearings to examine an overview of democracy programs, 2 p.m., SD-138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future years defense program; to be followed by a closed session in SH-219, 8:30 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Global Strike Plans and programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007, 3:30 p.m., SR-222.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Disaster Prevention and Prediction, to hold hearings to examine impacts on aviation regarding volcanic hazards, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 3 p.m., S-128, Capitol.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes, 10 a.m., SD-628.

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, to hold hearings to examine Cuno and competitiveness, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act relating to enhancing public health and medical preparedness, 10:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine understanding the obligation of Funds Transparency Act, focusing on the need for earmark reform and legislation that would be an important step toward achieving such reform, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Patrick Joseph Schiltz, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Norman Randy Smith, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Steven G. Bradbury, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, and John F. Clark, of Virginia, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, both of the Department of Justice, David F. Kustoff, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, proposed comprehensive immigration reform, S. 1768, to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings, S. 829, to allow media coverage of court proceedings, S. 489, to amend chapter 111 of title 28, United States Code, to limit the duration of Federal consent decrees to which State and local governments are a party, S. 2039, to provide for loan repayment for prosecutors and public defenders, S. 2292, to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges, S.J. Res. 1, proposing an

amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage, and S. Res. 398, relating to the censure of George W. Bush, 9 a.m., SD-226. Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights, business meeting to consider S.J. Res. 12, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, 1:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold hearings to examine the homeless programs administered by the VA, 10 a.m., SR-418.

House

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Southern Command, 9 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing on Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for space activities, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2007 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of the Navy and the Department of the Air Force Aviation Acquisition Programs, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on the Key Budget Process Reforms, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Mine Safety and Health: A Congressional Perspective," 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Legislative Proposals To Promote Electronic Health Records and a Smarter Health Information System," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to mark up the following: H.R. 3997, Financial Data Protection Act of 2005; the Flood Insurance Modernization and Reform Act of 2006; H.R. 2990, Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act of 2005; and S. 2141, To make improvements to the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, hearing entitled "Leave No Computer System Behind: A Review of the 2006 Federal Computer Security Scorecards," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Economic Security, Infrastructure Protection, and Cybersecurity, to continue markup of H.R. 4439, Transportation Security Administration Reorganization Act of 2005, 10 a.m., followed by a hearing on H.R. 4954, Security and Accountability for Every Port Act, 10:30 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on International Relations, hearing on the Status of Reform and Fraud Investigations at the United Nations, 10:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Human Rights and International Operations, hearing on Monitoring Respect for Human Rights Around the World: A Review of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, oversight hearing on United States v. Booker: One Year Later—Chaos or Status Quo? 10:30 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, hearing on H.R. 4857, To better inform consumers regarding costs associated with compliance for protecting endangered and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 3 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, oversight hearing on the Department of the Interior and United States Forest Service Budgets for Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Mineral Programs, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the National Wildlife Refuge System, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on National Parks, oversight hearing entitled "National Park Service business strategies, including the development and implementation of National Park Service business plans," 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth

Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards, hearing on EPA's Fiscal Year 2007 Science and Technology Budget Proposal, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight, hearing on the State of Small Business Security in a Cyber Economy, 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines, oversight hearing on Pipeline Safety, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, oversight hearing on the accuracy of benefits information provided to, and the quality of service received by, individuals calling into the Veterans Benefits Administration, 2 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing on the Use of Tax-Preferred Bond Financing, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Social Security, to continue hearings on Social Security Number High-Risk Issues, 10 a.m., B-318 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on Global/Updates, 9 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina, to consider the Select Committee's Supplemental Report and Document Annex, 1:15 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Thursday, March 16

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of S. Con. Res. 83, Congressional Budget Resolution, with votes on certain amendments to occur thereon. At 10:30 a.m., Senate will vote on Baucus Amendment No. 3131 to H.J. Res. 47, Debt-Limit Extension, followed by a vote on final passage of the joint resolution; following which, Senate will then vote on certain amendments to be proposed to S. Con. Res. 83 (listed above), relating to avian flu. At 1:30 p.m., Senate will proceed to a series of additional votes in relation to certain amendments to S. Con. Res. 83.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Continue consideration of H.R. 4939—Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Open Rule, Complete Consideration); and consider H.R. 1606—Online Freedom of Speech Act (Subject to a Rule).

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