

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1915–S2032

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2745–2753, S.J. Res. 29, and S. Res. 480. **Pages S1998–99**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 901, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide additional authorizations of appropriations for the health centers program under section 330 of such Act. (S. Rept. No. 110–274)

S. 980, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S1998**

Measures Passed:

Agricultural Programs Extension: Senate passed S. 2745, to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date. **Pages S1916–17**

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2008 and 2010 through 2013, taking action on the following amendments proposed there to: **Pages S1916, S1917–92, S2029–32**

Pending:

Baucus Amendment No. 4160, to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses, property tax relief to homeowners, relief to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and tax relief to America's troops and veterans. **Page S1916**

Graham Amendment No. 4170, to protect families, family farms and small businesses by extending the income tax rate structure, raising the death tax exemption to \$5,000,000 and reducing the maximum death tax rate to no more than 35 percent; to keep education affordable by extending the college tuition deduction; and to protect senior citizens from higher taxes on their retirement income, maintain U.S. financial market competitiveness, and promote

economic growth by extending the lower tax rates on dividends and capital gains. **Page S1916**

Bingaman Amendment No. 4173, to provide additional funding resources in fiscal year 2009 for investments in innovation and education in order to improve the competitiveness of the United States. **Pages S1917–21**

Gregg (for Specter/Craig) Amendment No. 4189, to repeal section 13203 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 by restoring the Alternative Minimum Tax rates that had been in effect prior thereto. **Pages S1921–22**

Conrad Amendment No. 4190, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 rate increase for the alternative minimum tax for individuals. **Page S1922**

Kyl Amendment No. 4191, to protect small businesses, family ranches and farms from the Death Tax by providing a \$5 million exemption, a low rate for smaller estates and a maximum rate no higher than 35%. **Pages S1922–26**

Conrad (for Salazar) Modified Amendment No. 4196, to reform the estate tax to avoid subjecting thousands of families, family businesses, and family farms and ranches to the estate tax. **Pages S1922–32, S1940–46**

Bunning Amendment No. 4192, to repeal the tax increase on Social Security benefits imposed by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. **Pages S1932–39**

Conrad Amendment No. 4204, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for repealing the 1993 increase in the income tax on Social Security benefits. **Page S1939**

Gregg (for Specter) Amendment No. 4203, to increase funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. **Page S1939**

Dorgan Amendment No. 4198, to increase the Indian Health Service by \$1,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2009. **Pages S1939–40**

Alexander Amendment No. 4207, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve energy efficiency and production. **Page S1940**

Kennedy Amendment No. 4151, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for increasing federal student

loan limits to protect students against disruptions in the private credit markets. **Page S1946–49**

Sununu Amendment No. 4221, to save lives, promote overall health care efficiency, and lower the cost for the delivery of health care services by facilitating the deployment and use of electronic prescribing technologies by physicians. **Pages S1949–50**

Murray (for Lincoln) Amendment No. 4194, to provide the Veterans Benefits Administration with additional resources to more effectively meet their increasing workload and to better address the unacceptably large claims backlog. **Pages S1950–53**

Alexander Amendment No. 4222, to take \$670,000 used by the EEOC in bringing actions against employers that require their employees to speak English, and instead use the money to teach English to adults through the Department of Education's English Literacy/Civics Education State Grant program. **Pages S1953–54**

Sessions Amendment No. 4231, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for border security, immigration enforcement, and criminal alien removal programs. **Pages S1955–59**

Cornyn Amendment No. 4242, to protect the family budget by providing for a budget point of order against legislation that increases income taxes on taxpayers, including hard-working middle-income families, entrepreneurs, and college students. **Pages S1961–62**

Conrad (for Pryor) Amendment No. 4181, to add a deficit-neutral reserve fund for Science Parks. **Pages S1962–66**

Allard Amendment No. 4246, to raise taxes by an unprecedented \$1.4 trillion for the purpose of fully funding 111 new or expanded federal spending programs. **Pages S1966–72**

Menendez Amendment No. 4259, to establish a reserve fund for immigration reform and enforcement. **Pages S1976–80**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the resolution at approximately 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2008, following the moment of silence, and that all statutory time be yielded back except for 30 minutes to be equally divided and controlled between the Chair and Ranking Member of the Committee on Budget for their use when Senate resumes consideration of the resolution. **Pages S1981, S2029**

Moment of Silence—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10:15 a.m., on Thursday, March 13, 2008, there be a moment of silence to honor the 5 years of service and sacrifice of our troops and their families for the war in Iraq and also to remember those who are serving our nation in Afghanistan and throughout the world. **Page S2029**

Messages from the House: **Page S1998**

Measures Referred: **Page S1998**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1998**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1999–S2000**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2000–09**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1996–98**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2009–28**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S2028**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2028–29**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2029**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m., until 10:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2029.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Secretary, and General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff, both of the United States Air Force, Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the federal judiciary, after receiving testimony from Julia S. Gibbons, Judge, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and Chair, Committee on the Budget, Judicial Conference of the United States; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

CURRENT READINESS OF U.S. ARMED FORCES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support met to discuss the current readiness of the armed forces of the United States, receiving testimony from Lieutenant General James D. Thurman, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, Vice Admiral Michael K. Loose, USN, Deputy Chief, Naval Operations Fleet Readiness and

Logistics, and Lieutenant General Daniel J. Darnell, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine strategic forces programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 and the future years defense program, after receiving testimony from General Kevin P. Chilton, USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command, Michael G. Vickers, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Major General Richard Webber, USAF, Assistant Deputy Chief, Operations, Plans and Requirements Headquarters, United States Air Force, and Rear Admiral Stephen Johnson, USN, Director, Strategic Systems Programs, United States Navy, all of the Department of Defense; and Thomas P. D'Agostino, Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine technologies to combat weapons of mass destruction, after receiving testimony from James A. Tegnalia, Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and Major General Stephen V. Reeves, USA, Joint Program Executive Officer, Chemical and Biological Defense, both of the Department of Defense; and T. Jan Cerveny, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Nonproliferation Research and Development, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009, the future years defense program, and military installation, environmental, and base closure programs, after receiving testimony from Wayne Army, Deputy Under Secretary for Installations and Environment, Keith E. Eastin, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, B.J. Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, and William C. Anderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower concluded a hearing to examine the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2009 for the strategic lift programs, and the future years defense program, after receiving testimony from Sue Payton, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, and General Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, Commander, United States Transportation Command, both of the Department of Defense.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Michael Kelly, District of Columbia Housing Authority, and Hector Pinero, Related Management Company LLC, on behalf of the National Leased Housing Association, National Multi Housing Council, and National Apartment Association, both of Washington, D.C.; Diane Randall, Partnership for Strong Communities, West Hartford, Connecticut; Edgar O. Olsen, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; and Barbara Sard, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Brookline, Massachusetts.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism concluded a hearing to examine the gross domestic product as a measurement of national strength, after receiving testimony from J. Steven Landefeld, Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce; Robert H. Frank, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Karen Davis, Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York; Katharine G. Abraham, University of Maryland, College Park; and Jonathan Rowe, West Marin Commons, Point Reyes Station, California.

HARDROCK MINING

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine hardrock mining, focusing on issues relating to abandoned mine lands and uranium mining, including federal funds spent to clean up abandoned hardrock mine sites since 1998, number of abandoned hardrock mine sites and hazards, and the value and coverage of financial assurances operators use to guarantee reclamation costs on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, after

receiving testimony from Robin M. Nazzaro, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Government Accountability Office; Tony L. Ferguson, Director, Minerals and Geology Management, National Forest System, United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Henri Bisson, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; David W. Geiser, Deputy Director for Legacy Management, Department of Energy; Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water, Environmental Protection Agency; Charles L. Miller, Director, Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental, Management Programs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Bill Brancard, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Santa Fe, on behalf of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission; former Representative Pat Williams, Western Progress, Missoula, Montana; Debra Struhsacker, Northwest Mining Association, Reno, Nevada; Joe Shirley, Jr., Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; David Ulibarri, Cibola County, Grants, New Mexico; and Fletcher T. Newton, Uranium One, Inc., Denver, Colorado, on behalf of the National Mining Association.

CURRENT FEDERAL ESTATE TAX SYSTEM

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine alternatives to the current federal estate tax system, after receiving testimony from Lily L. Batchelder, New York University School of Law, New York, New York; Joseph M. Dodge, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee; and David G. Duff, University of Toronto Faculty of Law, Toronto, Canada.

U.S. AND VIETNAM BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs concluded a hearing to examine the United States and Vietnam, focusing on the bilateral relationship, after receiving testimony from Christopher Hill, Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Janet Nguyen, Board of Supervisors, Santa Ana, California; Do Hoang Diem, Vietnam Reform Party, San Jose, California; Sophie Richardson, Human Rights Watch, and Matthew P. Daley, US-ASEAN Business Council, both of Washington, D.C.; and Ann Mills Griffiths, National League of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Families, Arlington, Virginia.

PROTECTING FEDERAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services,

and International Security concluded a hearing to examine agencies in peril, focusing on protecting federal information technology and securing sensitive information, including the status of agency performance of information security control activities as reported by major agencies and their inspectors general (IG), the effectiveness of information security at federal agencies, and opportunities to improve federal information security, after receiving testimony from Karen S. Evans, Administrator of E-Government and Information Technology, Office of Management and Budget; Gregory C. Wilshusen, Director, Information Security Issues, Government Accountability Office; Susan H. Swart, Chief Information Officer, Bureau of Information Resource Management, Department of State; Philip M. Heneghan, Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Privacy Officer, Bureau for Management, United States Agency for International Development; Darren B. Ash, Chief Information Officer, Deputy Executive Director for Information Services, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Robert T. Howard, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Information and Technology; and Tim Bennett, Cyber Security Industry Alliance, Arlington, Virginia.

OVER-THE-COUNTER AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs concluded a joint hearing with the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control to examine the 51 million Americans born between 1965 and 1976, also known as "Generation X", focusing on the abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including S. 2274, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prevent the abuse of dextromethorphan, after receiving testimony from Leonard J. Paulozzi, Medical Epidemiologist, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, both of the Department of Health and Human Services; Stephen J. Pasierb, Partnership for a Drug-Free America, New York, New York; Derek Clark, Clinton Substance Abuse Council, Clinton, Iowa; and Misty Fetko, New Albany, Ohio.

VOTER FRAUD AND DISENFRANCHISEMENT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded a hearing to examine issues relative to in-person voter fraud and voter disenfranchisement, after receiving testimony from Senators Leahy and Bond; Robin Carnahan, Missouri Secretary of State, Jefferson City; Robert A. Simms, Georgia Deputy

Secretary of State, Atlanta; David C. Iglesias, former United States Attorney for the District of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Jeffrey Milyo, University of Missouri-Columbia; and Justin Levitt, New York University School of Law Brennan Center for Justice, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

DOCTORS AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG INFORMATION AND REVIEWS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine doctors and prescription drug information and reviews, and pharmaceutical industry marketing, after receiving testimony from Nora Dowd Eisenhower, Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Harrisburg; Jerry Avorn, Harvard Medical School, and Allan Coukell, Prescription Project, both of Boston, Massachusetts; Ambrose Carrejo, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Livermore, California, on behalf of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program; and Shahram Ahari, El Cerrito, California.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 7 public bills, H.R. 5595–5601; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 77; H. Con. Res. 316; and H. Res. 1039–1040, 1042–1044 were introduced. **Pages H1617–18**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1618–19**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 1041, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3773) to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to establish a procedure for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence (H. Rept. 110–549). **Pages H1580, H1617**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Tierney to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H1541**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. W. James Thomas, II, Shiloh Church of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee. **Page H1541**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H1541, H1573**

Calendar Wednesday: On a call of committees pursuant to the Calendar Wednesday rule, no bills were called up for consideration. **Page H1542**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Dreier motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 5 yeas to 375 nays, Roll No. 124. **Pages H1542–43**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 1039, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 125. **Pages H1543–44**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the Shadegg motion to adjourn by a recorded vote of 14 yeas to 384 noes, Roll No. 126. **Pages H1545–46**

Point of Personal Privilege: Representative Hastings (WA) rose to a point of personal privilege and was recognized. **Pages H1546–52**

Motion to Adjourn: Rejected the LaHood motion to adjourn by a yea-and-nay vote of 3 yeas to 382 nays, Roll No. 127. **Page H1552**

Privileged Resolution: The House agreed to table H. Res. 1040, raising a question of the privileges of the House, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 128. **Pages H1552–53**

Suspension—Failed: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated on Tuesday, March 11th:

Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act: H.R. 5563, to reauthorize and reform the national service laws, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 277 yeas to 140 nays, Roll No. 131. **Pages H1560–61**

Adjournment Resolution: The House agreed to H. Con. Res. 316, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate, by a yea-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 132. **Pages H1573–74**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures which were debated on Tuesday, March 11th:

Honoring the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals: H. Res. 936, amended, to honor the 200th anniversary of the Gallatin Report on Roads and Canals, to celebrate the national unity the Gallatin Report engendered, and to recognize the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the United States, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 411 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 133 and

Page H1574

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “Re-affirming the goals and ideals that formed the impetus for Albert Gallatin’s national plan for transportation improvements 200 years ago, and for other purposes.”.

Page H1574

Temporarily extending the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965: S. 2733, to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 134—clearing the measure for the President.

Pages H1574–75

Revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013: The House began consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013. Further consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 13th.

Pages H1561–73, H1575–80, H1580–97

H. Res. 1036, the rule providing for consideration of the concurrent resolution, was agreed to by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 223 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 130, after agreeing to order the previous question by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 222 yeas to 196 nays, Roll No. 129.

Pages H1553–60

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

Extending agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008 and suspending permanent price support authorities beyond that date: S. 2745, to extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008 and to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date—clearing the measure for the President;

Pages H1597–98

Pension Protection Technical Corrections Act of 2007: H.R. 3361, amended, to make technical corrections related to the Pension Protection Act of 2006; and

Pages H1598–H1606

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad: H. Res. 953, amended, to express the sense of the House of Representatives that all Americans should participate in a moment of silence to reflect upon the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces both at home and abroad.

Pages H1608–09

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed:

Recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in support of the Global War on Terror: H. Res. 991, recognizing the exceptional sacrifice of the 69th Infantry Regiment, known as the Fighting 69th, in support of the Global War on Terror.

Pages H1606–08

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation of the national emergency declared with respect to Iran—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 110–101).

Pages H1609–10

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H1541, H1543.

Senate Referrals: S. 2516 and S. 2745 were held at the desk.

Pages H1541, H1543

Quorum Calls—Votes: Ten ye-a-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1542–43, H1544, H1545–46, H1552, H1553, H1559–60, H1560, H1560–61, H1573, H1574, and H1574–75. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10:00 a.m. and adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies held a hearing on DEA, and on the Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshals, and Detention Trustee. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Justice: Michele Leonhart, Acting Administrator, DEA; Harley G. Lappin, Director, Bureau of Prisons; Stacia A. Hylton, Federal Detention Trustee, Office of the Federal Detention Trustee; and John F. Clark, Director, U.S. Marshals Service.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on Army Posture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Pete Geren, Secretary; and GEN George W. Casey, Jr., USA, Chief of Staff.

The Subcommittee also met in executive session to hold a hearing on Army Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Dean G. Popps, Acting Secretary, Acquisition; LTG Ross Thompson, II, USA, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

FINANCIAL SERVICES, GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services, and General Government held a hearing on The Judiciary. Testimony was heard from Julia Gibbons, Chair, Budget Committee of the Judiciary Conference; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Investing in Science and Technology. Testimony was heard from Jay M. Cohen, Under Secretary, Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security, and public witnesses.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on Native American. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Status of the World Trade Center 9/11 Health Monitoring and Treatment Program. Testimony was heard from John Howard, M.D., Director, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a hearing on Office of Compliance, Congressional Budget Office, Open World Leadership Center and on Capitol Visitor Center. Testimony was heard from Tamara Chrisler, Executive Director, Office of Compliance; Peter Orszag, Direc-

tor, CBO; Ambassador John O'Keefe, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Capitol Visitors Center. Testimony was heard from Stephen Ayers, Acting Architect of the Capitol; Bernard Ungar, CVC Project Executive; Terrie Rouse, CEO, Visitors Services; and Terrell Dorn, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Pacific Command. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: ADM Timothy Keating, USN, Commander, U.S., Pacific Command; and GEN B. B. Bell, USAF, Commander, Republic of Korea-United States Combined Forces Command and Commander, United States Forces Korea.

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request for International Affairs. Testimony was heard from Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State.

PACIFIC COMMAND/U.S. FORCES; KOREAN BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. Pacific Command and U.S. Forces Korea. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: ADM Timothy J. Keating, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; and GEN Burwell B. Bell, III, USAF, Commander, United Nations Command, Commander, Republic of Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea.

MILITARY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM OUTLOOK

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on the Future of the Military Healthcare System. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: S. Ward Cassells, M.D., Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; Gail R. Wilensky, Co-Chairman, Future of Military Health Care Task Force, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; and a public witness.

ENERGY'S NATIONAL SECURITY PROGRAM BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of Energy National Security Programs. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Energy: GEN Robert Smolen, USAF, (Ret.), Deputy Administrator, Defense Programs; Will Tobey, Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation; and Glenn Podonsky, Director, Office of Health, Safety, and Security, all with the National Nuclear Security Administration; and James Rispoli, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Management.

COMBUSTIBLE DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Committee on Education and Labor: Held a hearing on H.R. 5522, Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act of 2008. Testimony was heard from Representatives Barrow and Kingston; Edwin Foulke, Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor; Bill Wright, Interim Chair, U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board; and public witnesses.

NATURAL GAS PIPELINES SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality held a hearing entitled "The Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006: Implementation Review and Discussion of Safety Reassessment Intervals for Natural Gas Pipelines." Testimony was heard from Carl T. Johnson, Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Regulatory Failure: Must America Live with Unsafe Food?" Testimony was heard from Stephen F. Sundlof, D.V.M., Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services; Richard A. Raymond, M.D., Under Secretary, Food Safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA; and public witnesses.

MUNICIPAL BOND TURMOIL

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled "Municipal Bond Turmoil: Impact on Cities, Towns, and States." Testimony was heard from Erik R. Sirri, Director, Division of Trading and Markets, SEC; Eric R. Dinallo, Superintendent of Insurance, Department of Insurance, New York; Richard

Blumenthal, Attorney General, Connecticut; Bill Lockyer, Treasurer, California; Robin L. Wiessmann, Treasurer, Pennsylvania; Tate Reeves, Treasurer, Mississippi; and public witnesses.

BALKANS AND NATO ENLARGEMENT

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Held a hearing on the Balkans after the Independence of Kosova and on the Eve of NATO Enlargement. Testimony was heard from Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State.

ISRAEL'S DISENGAGEMENT FROM GAZA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia held a hearing on 853 Days: From Gaza Disengagement to De Facto Power? Testimony was heard from C. David Welch, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY PARTNERSHIPS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled "Partnerships in Securing Critical Infrastructure." Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections held an oversight hearing on the Election Assistance Commission. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Election Assistance Commission: Curtis Crider, Inspector General; Rosemary Rodriguez, Chairwoman; Caroline Hunter, Vice Chair; Gracia Hillman and Donetta Davidson, both Commissioners.

IMMIGRATION MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law approved for full Committee action the following bills: H.R. 5571, To extend for 5 years the program relating to waiver of the foreign country residence requirement with respect to international medical graduates; H.R. 5569, To extend for 5 years the EB-5 regional center pilot program; H.R. 5570, amended, Religious Worker Visa Extension Act of 2008; and H.R. 5060, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow athletes admitted as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(P) of such Act to renew their period of authorized admission in 5-year increments.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 2016, amended, National

Landscape Conservation System Act; H.R. 4933, Captive Wildlife Safety Technical Amendments Act of 2008; H.R. 2342, amended, National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation Act of 2007; H.R. 1187, amended, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act; H.R. 3352, amended, Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007; H.R. 3891, To amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act to increase the number of Directors on the Board of Directors of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; H.R. 2515, amended, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Act; H.R. 2675, amended, HALE Scouts Act; and H.R. 3651, amended, Utah National Guard Readiness Act.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Domestic Policy held a hearing on Priorities and Accountability at ONDCP. Testimony was heard from John P. Walters, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; and public witnesses.

HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3773—FISA AMENDMENTS ACT of 2008

Committee on Rules: Granted, by voice vote, a rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 3773, the “FISA Amendments Act of 2008.” The rule provides that it is in order for the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary to make a motion that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 3773 with the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the rule.

The rule waives all points of order against the motion except those arising under clause 10 of rule XXI. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. It further provides that the motion shall be debatable for one hour, with 40 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary and 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Finally, the rule provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the motion to a time designated by the Speaker. Testimony was heard from Chairman Conyers and Chairman Reyes and Representatives Smith of Texas and Hoekstra.

TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

Committee on Science and Technology: Held a hearing on Competitiveness and Innovation on the Committee’s 50th Anniversary. Testimony was heard from William H. Gates, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation.

VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Urban and Rural Entrepreneurship held a hearing on the Oversight of the Entrepreneurial Development Programs Implemented by the Small Business Administration and National Veterans Business Development Corporation. Testimony was heard from Anoop Prakash, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, SBA; and public witnesses.

INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence met in executive session to hold a hearing on Intelligence Operations. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

NUCLEAR POWER IN WARMING WORLD

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming: Held a hearing entitled “Nuclear Power in a Warming World: Solution or Illusion?” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D273)

S. 2272, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service known as the Southpark Station in Alexandria, Louisiana, as the John “Marty” Thiels Southpark Station, in honor and memory of Thiels, a Louisiana postal worker who was killed in the line of duty on October 4, 2007. Signed on March 12, 2008. (Public Law 110–195)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2009 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold a hearing to examine the nomination of John J. Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, 2 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests, to hold hearings to examine old-growth forest science, focusing on policy and management in the Pacific Northwest region, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine customs reauthorization, focusing on strengthening United States economic interests and security, 9:15 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider S. 2731, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide assistance to foreign countries to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and the nominations of William Raymond Steiger, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mozambique, and Mark Kimmitt, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, both of the Department of State, and a promotion list in the foreign service, 10:15 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on FNCS Budget, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

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

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, on DOE—Science Research, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services, and General Government, on Supreme Court, 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, on Federal Emergency Management Agency—Is the agency on the right track? 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, on Public Witnesses—Other Issues, 9:30 a.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on Public Witnesses, 10 a.m., and 2 p.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, on Budget Hearing—U.S. House of Representatives, 10:30 a.m., H-144 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on Air Force Budget, 10:30 a.m., and on Outside Witnesses, 1:30 p.m., H-143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the U.S. European Command, Southern Command and Africa Command, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing on Department of Defense Energy Posture, 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request—Department of Defense Science and Technology: Responding to the 21st

Century Irregular Warfare Threat Environment, 10:30 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, hearing on America's Black Colleges and Universities: Models of Excellence and Challenges for the Future, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, hearing entitled "Department of Commerce Budget for Fiscal Year 2009," 9 a.m., and to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3754, To authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to accept, as part of a settlement, diesel emission reduction Supplemental Environmental Projects, and for other purposes; H.R. 1108, Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act; H.R. 1198, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2007; H.R. 2464, Wakefield Act; H.R. 1237, Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 3701, Keeping Seniors Safe From Falls Act of 2007; H.R. 2063, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Management Act of 2007; H.R. 3825, Newborn Screening Saves Lives Act of 2007; and H.R. 1418, Reauthorization of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act; 12:30 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, hearing on The Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights: Providing New Protections for Consumers, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, hearing on Child Survival: The Unfinished Agenda to Reduce Global Child Mortality, 10:30 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight, hearing on War Powers for the 21st Century: The Congressional Perspective, 9:30 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing and Terrorism Risk Assessment, hearing entitled "Making Homeland Security Intelligence Work for State, Local, and Tribal Partners: An Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG) Progress Report," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, hearing on Promoting the Use of Orphan Works: Balancing the Interests of Copyright Owners and Users, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, oversight hearing on the Impacts of Unmanaged Off-Road Vehicles on Federal Land, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water and Power, hearing on the following bills: H.R. 317, Arkansas Valley Conduit Act; H.R. 4841, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Settlement Act; and H.R. 5293, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement Act, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to consider the following measures: S. 550, To preserve existing judgeships on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; H.R. 5551, To amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to implement the increase provided under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2008, in the amount of funds made available for the

compensation of attorneys representing indigent defendants in the District of Columbia courts; H.R. 4106, Telework Improvements Act of 2007; H.R. 2780, to amend section 8339(p) of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the method for computing certain annuities under the Civil Service Retirement System which are based on part-time service; H.R. 4881, Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2007; H.R. 3033, Contractors and Federal Spending Accountability Act of 2007; H.R. 3928, Government Contractor Accountability Act of 2007; H.R. 3548, Plain Language in Government Communications Act of 2007; H.R. 752, Federal Electronic Equipment Donation Act of 2007; H. Con. Res. 310, Expressing support for a national day of remembrance for Harriet Ross Tubman; H. Res. 578, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Watermelon Month; H. Res. 892, Expressing support for designation of March 11, 2008, as “National Funeral Directors and Mortician Recognition Day”; H. Res. 952, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States; H. Res. 994, Expressing support for the designation of a National Glanzmann’s Thrombasthenia Awareness Day; H. Res. 1002, Expressing support for designation of April 2008 as “Public Radio Recognition Month”; H. Res. 1005, Supporting the goals and ideals of Borderline Personality Awareness Month; H. Res. 1021, Supporting the goals, ideals, and history of National Women’s History Month; H.R. 4185, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11151 Valley Boulevard in El Monte, California, as the “Marisol Heredia Post Office Building”; H.R. 5395, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11001 Dunklin Drive in St. Louis, Missouri, as the “William ‘Bill’ Clay Post Office Building”; H.R. 5472, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the “Julia M. Carson Post Office Building”; H.R. 5479, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 117 North Kidd Street in Ionia, Michigan, as the “Alonzo Woodruff Post Office Building”; H.R. 5483, To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10449 White Granite Drive in Oakton, Virginia, as the “Private First Class Davis H. Sharrett II Post Office Building”; H.R. 5489, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6892 Main Street in Gloucester, Virginia, as the “Congresswoman Jo Ann S. Davis Post Office”; H.R. 5517, to designate the facility of the

United States Postal Service located at 7231 FM 1960 in Humble, Texas, as the “Texas Military Veterans Post Office;” and H.R. 5528, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 Commercial Street in Brockton, Massachusetts, as the “Rocky Marciano Post Office Building,” 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, hearing on Is USDA Accounting for Costs to Farmers Caused by Contamination from Genetically Engineered Plants? 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Services and the District of Columbia, hearing on H.R. 3268, Government Accountability Office Act of 2007, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing on EPA Library Closures: Better Access for a Broader Audience? 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on NASA’s Science Programs: Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request and Issues, 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, hearing entitled “Legislation to Reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program,” 10 a.m., 1539 Longworth.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing on U.S. Paralympic Military Program, 1 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Care of Seriously Wounded After In-Patient Care, 10 a.m., 340 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on 2008 tax return filing season, IRS operations the fiscal Year 2009 budget proposals, and National Taxpayer Advocate’s Annual Report, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on Overhead Architecture, 9:30 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive, briefing on Hot Spots, 1:30 p.m., and executive, briefing on Southwest Border Security, 3 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, hearing entitled “Massachusetts v* U.S. EPA Part II: Implications of the Supreme Court Decision,” 9:30 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine Poland’s Museum of the History of Polish Jews, 2:30 p.m., B-318, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:15 a.m., Thursday, March 13

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After a moment of silence, Senate will continue consideration of S. Con. Res. 70, Budget Resolution.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Further consideration of H. Con. Res. 312, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2009, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

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