

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2723–S2778

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 522–526, and S. Res. 63–64. **Pages S2766–67**

Measures Considered:

Omnibus Appropriations Act: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2728–62**

Rejected:

By 38 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 77) Coburn Amendment No. 596, to require the use of competitive procedures to award contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements funded under this Act. **Pages S2728, S2734–35, S2748–51**

By 37 yeas to 58 nays (Vote No. 78) Coburn Amendment No. 608, to provide for the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act from funds already provided for the Weed and Seed Program. **Pages S2728, S2732–34, S2735–40, S2743–46, S2751–54**

By 34 yeas to 61 nays (Vote No. 79) Coburn Amendment No. 610, to prohibit funding for certain congressional earmarks. **Pages S2728, S2741, S2754–61**

By 43 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 80) Coburn Modified Amendment No. 623, to prohibit taxpayer dollars from being earmarked to 14 clients of a lobbying firm under Federal investigation for making campaign donations in exchange for political favors for the group's clients. **Pages S2728, S2741–43, S2746–48, S2761**

Pending:

Wicker Modified Amendment No. 607, to require that amounts appropriated for the United Nations Population Fund are not used by organizations which support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization. **Pages S2728, S2754**

Thune Modified Amendment No. 635, to provide funding for the Emergency Fund for Indian Safety and Health, with an offset. **Pages S2728, S2754**

Murkowski Amendment No. 599, to modify a provision relating to the repromulgation of final rules by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce. **Page S2728**

Cochran (for Kyl) Amendment No. 634, to prohibit the expenditure of amounts made available under this Act in a contract with any company that has a business presence in Iran's energy sector. **Page S2761**

Cochran (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 613, to provide that no funds may be made available to make any assessed contribution or voluntary payment of the United States to the United Nations if the United Nations implements or imposes any taxation on any United States persons. **Pages S2761–62**

Cochran (for Crapo (and others)) Amendment No. 638, to strike a provision relating to Federal Trade Commission authority over home mortgages. **Pages S2761–62**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, March 6, 2009. **Page S2760**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009. **Page S2778**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2009. **Page S2728**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice relative to the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM-10)

Pages S2764-65

Transmitting, pursuant to the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261), certification that the export of two environmental chambers to be used to test automotive parts is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry and will not measurably improve missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM-11)

Page S2765

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Ronald C. Sims, of Washington, to be Deputy Secretary of Department of Housing and Urban Development.

John Berry, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

Page S2778

Messages from the House: **Page S2765**

Measures Referred: **Page S2765**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2765, S2778**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2765-66**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S2767**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2767-75

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2775-78**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2778**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2778**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—80) **Pages S2750-51, S2753, S2760-61, S2761**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:06 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2009. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2778.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving nutrition for America's children in difficult economic times, after receiving testimony from Katie Wilson, Onalaska School District, Onalaska, Wisconsin; Susan Bartlett, Abt Associates Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts; Connie K. Boldt, Knoxville Community Schools, Knoxville, Iowa; David M. Page, The John Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; Lucy Nolan, End Hunger Connecticut!, Hartford; and Kenneth Hecht, California Food Policy Advocates, Oakland.

BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2010, after receiving testimony from Timothy F. Geithner, Secretary of the Treasury.

IRAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing to examine the Iran status report, focusing on nuclear and political issues, from national security briefers.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEMIC RISK AND BREAKDOWN

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine systemic risk and breakdown of financial governance, after receiving testimony from Robert E. Litan, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Kansas City, Missouri; Damon A. Silvers, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Washington, D.C.; and Robert C. Pozen, MFS Investment Management, Boston, Massachusetts.

TAX HAVEN BANKS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by United States clients, after receiving testimony from John DiCicco, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice; Doug Shulman, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Mark Branson, UBS Global Wealth Management and Swiss Bank, Zurich, Switzerland.

NONPARTISAN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a nonpartisan commission of inquiry, after receiving testimony from Thomas R. Pickering, Hills and Company, and David B. Rivkin, Jr., Baker Hostetler LLP, both of Washington, D.C.; Lee F. Gunn, Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.), Institute for Public Research, and Jeremy A. Rabkin, George Mason University School of Law, both of Arlington, Virginia; John J. Farmer, Jr., Arseneault, Whipple, Farmer, Fassett, and Azzarello, LLP, Chatham, New Jersey; and Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., New York University School of Law Brennan Center for Justice, New York.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health reform in an aging America, after receiving testimony from Thomas E. Hamilton, Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; Karen E. Timberlake, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Madison; Holly Benson, Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Tallahassee; Henry Claypool, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI), New York, New York; Melanie Bella, Center for Health Care Strategies, Hamilton, New Jersey; and Judith Feder, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 1292–1318; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 37; and H. Res. 206–210 were introduced.

Pages H2978–80

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2980–81

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 205, providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability (H. Rept. 111–23). **Page H2978**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Jackson-Lee (TX) to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H2927**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Chaplain Cherita Potter, National Chaplain, American Legion Auxiliary, Seaside, Oregon. **Page H2927**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:05 a.m. for the purpose of receiving the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The House reconvened at 12:45 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. **Page H2928**

Joint Meeting to receive the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: The House and Senate met in a joint session to receive the Right Honorable Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He was escorted into the

Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Hoyer, Clyburn, Larson (CT), Becerra, DeLauro, Skelton, Berman, Neal (MA), McIntyre, Watson, Chandler, Boehner, Cantor, Pence, McCotter, McMorris Rodgers, Carter, McCarthy (CA), Ros-Lehtinen, King (NY), McHugh, and Petri; and Senators Reid, Durbin, Kerry, Dodd, Feingold, Boxer, Cardin, Webb, Shaheen, Kaufman, McConnell, Kyl, Lugar, Corker, Isakson, Risch, Barrasso, and Wicker.

Pages H2928–31

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

Recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks: H. Res. 201, to recognize Beverly Eckert's service to the Nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 419 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 94; **Pages H2934–36, H2946**

Recognizing and honoring the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe: H. Res. 195, to recognize and honor the employees of the Department of Homeland Security on its sixth anniversary for their continuous efforts to keep the Nation safe, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 418 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 95; **Pages H2936–38, H2946–47**

Raising awareness and promoting education on the criminal justice system by establishing March as "National Criminal Justice Month": H. Res. 45, to raise awareness and promote education on the

criminal justice system by establishing March as “National Criminal Justice Month”, by a 2/3 yeand-nay vote of 415 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 96; and **Pages H2940–42, H2947–48**

Extending certain immigration programs: H.R. 1127, to extend certain immigration programs.

Pages H2942–45

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

Supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week: H. Con. Res. 14, to support the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week.

Pages H2938–40

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President certifying that export of certain items to the People’s Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Rept. 111–21) and **Page H2957**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of the continuation beyond March 6, 2009 of the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Rept. 111–22). **Page H2957**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yeand-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2946, H2946–47, H2947–48. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Place of NOAA Science in the Overall Science Enterprise. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies held a hearing on Department of Energy: Project Management Oversight. Testimony was heard from a public witness.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on EPA Oversight. Testimony was heard from John Stephenson, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, GAO; and Bill A. Roderick, Acting Inspector General, EPA.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 1256: Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act; H.R. 1259, Dextromethorphan Distribution Act of 2009; H.R. 1246, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2009; H.R. 1253, Health Insurance Restrictions and Limitations Clarification Act of 2009; H.R. 20, as amended, Melanie Blocker Stokes Mom’s Opportunity to Access Health Education, Research, and Support for Postpartum Depression Act; H.R. 479, as amended, Wakefield Act; H.R. 577, as amended, Vision Care for Kids Act of 2009; H.R. 756, National Pain Care Policy Act of 2009; H.R. 914, Physician Workforce Enhancement Act of 2009; and H.R. 307, Christopher and Dana Reeve Paralysis Act.

TARP OVERSIGHT

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing entitled “TARP Oversight: Is TARP Working for Main Street?” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

IMMIGRATION IMMIGRANT LAW

Committee on Homeland Security: Held hearing entitled “Examining 287(g): The Role of State and Local Law Enforcement in Immigration Law.” Testimony was heard from William Riley, Acting Chairman, Office of State and Local Coordination, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Richard Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, GAO; from the following officials of the State of Maryland: Chief J. Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Police Department; Sheriff Chuck Jenkins, Fairfax County and a public witness.

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN: UNDERSTANDING A COMPLEX THREAT ENVIRONMENT

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs held a hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan: Understanding a Complex Threat Environment. Testimony

was heard from Paul R. Pillar, former National Intelligence Officer for the Near East and South Asia; and public witnesses.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR HOMES ACT OF 2009

Committee on Rules: Committee granted, by non-record vote, a rule providing for further consideration of H.R. 1106, Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009. The rule provides that amendment number 1 printed in House report 111–21 to be offered by Representative John Conyers or his designee shall be perfected by the modification printed in the report of the Committee on Rules.

21st CENTURY WATER PLANNING

Committee on Science and Technology: Held a hearing on 21st Century Water Planning: the Importance of a Coordinated Federal Approach. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CURRENT ECONOMY—STATE OF RENEWABLE FUELS

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing entitled “The State of the Renewable Fuels Industry in the Current Economy.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

WATER QUALITY INVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment approved for full Committee action H.R. 1262 “Water Quality Investment Act of 2009.”

VA LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 147, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their income tax payment to provide assistance to homeless veterans; H.R. 228, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a scholarship program for students seeking a degree or certificate in the areas of visual impairment and orientation and mobility; H.R. 297, Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Subsistence Allowance Improvement Act of 2009; H.R. 466, Wounded Veteran Job Security Act; H.R. 929, To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of training to provide eligible veterans with skills relevant to the job market; H.R. 942, Veterans Self-Employment Act of 2009; H.R. 950, To amend chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code, to increase educational assistance for certain veterans pursuing a program of education offered through distance learn-

ing; H.R. 1088, Mandatory Veterans Specialist Training Act of 2009; H.R. 1089, Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009; and other draft legislation. Testimony was heard from Representatives Doggett, Israel, Welch, and Alexander; Keith M. Wilson, Director, Office of Education Service, Department of Veterans Affairs; Patrick H. Boulay, Chief, USERRA Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; representatives of veterans organizations; and public witnesses.

PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2010 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Committee on Ways and Means: Concluded hearings on the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Overview. Testimony was heard from Pete R. Orszag, Director, OMB.

PREPARING FOR COPENHAGEN: HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Select Committee on Energy Independence: Held a hearing entitled “Preparing for Copenhagen: How Developing Countries Are Fighting Climate Change.” Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine American International Group, focusing on government intervention and implications for future regulation, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine draft legislative proposals on energy research and development, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine United States strategy regarding Iran, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine transparency and accountability for recovery and reinvestment spending, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security, to hold hearings to examine how the Obama Administration can achieve an accurate and cost-effective 2010 census, 2:30 p.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 386, to improve enforcement of mortgage fraud, securities fraud, financial institution fraud, and other frauds related to federal assistance and relief programs, for the recovery of funds lost to these frauds, S. 49, to help Federal prosecutors and investigators combat public corruption by strengthening and clarifying the law, S. 146, to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded

coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads, S. 256, to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine, and the nominations of Elena Kagan, of Massachusetts, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Thomas John Perrelli, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, and David S. Kris, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, on Science Education, 10 a.m., and on Where Are We Today: Today's Assessment of "The Gathering Storm," 2 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee Defense, executive, on Global Mobility, 10 a.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs, on The Role of Civilian and Military Agencies in the Advancement of America's Diplomatic and Development Objectives, 10 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on combating piracy on the high seas, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on Can DOD Travelers Book a Trip? Defense Travel System Update, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, hearing on Treasury Department Fiscal Year 2010 Budget, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, hearing on Consumer Protection in the Used and Subprime Car Market, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Environment, hearing on the role of offsets in climate legislation, 9:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enter-

prises, hearing entitled "Perspectives on Systemic Risk," 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, hearing on the Role for Congress and the President in War: The Recommendations of the National War Powers Commission, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Management, Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled "Putting People First: A Way Forward for the Homeland Security Workforce," 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security and International Law, to adopt Rules of Procedure and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration bills; Adopt rules of Procedure for Private Claims bills; Continue the Subcommittee's Policy on the Granting of Federal Charters; and to request Department of Homeland Security Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of certain private Immigration bills 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, oversight hearing entitled "Energy Outlooks, and the Role of Federal Onshore and Offshore Resources in Meeting Future Energy Demand," 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, hearing on Status of 2010 Census Operations, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing on Cost Management Issues in NASA's Acquisitions and Programs, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 915, FAA Reauthorization Act; and 1262, Water Quality Investment Act, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis and Counterintelligence, executive briefing entitled "Hot Spots Update," 1 p.m. H-304 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 5

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, March 5

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 1105, Omnibus Appropriations Act.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 1106—Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

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