

Friday, March 8, 1996

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Monday, March 11, 1996, at 12 noon.

### Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

#### VA REORGANIZATION

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies held hearings to examine the status of the reorganization of the Veterans Health Administration and related initiatives to improve VA health care delivery methods, receiving testimony from Kenneth Kizer, Under Secretary for Health, and William Merriman, Acting Inspector General, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs; David Baine, Associate Director, Human Resources Division, General Accounting Office; and Richard Schultz, Disabled American Veterans, Washington, D.C.

Subcommittee recessed subject to call.

#### GOVERNMENT TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

*Committee on Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management and the District of Columbia held oversight hearings to examine certain recommendations to improve travel management throughout the federal government, receiving testimony from Christopher W. Hoenig, Director, Edith A. Pyles, Assistant Director, and Shane D. Hartzler, Communications Analyst, all of the Information Resources Management, Policies and Issues, Accounting and Information Management Division,

General Accounting Office; John J. Hamre, Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller); G. Martin Wagner, Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, General Services Administration; Tony Musick, Chief Financial Officer, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Donald K. Charney, Director of Finance (Chief Financial Officer), U.S. Agency for International Development, on behalf of the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

#### AGE DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

*Committee on Labor and Human Resources:* Committee concluded hearings on S. 553 and H.R. 849, bills to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local firefighters and law enforcement officers, after receiving testimony from Senator Moseley-Braun; Terrance W. Gainer, Illinois State Police, Springfield, on behalf of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; Robert M. O'Neil, University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Christopher Mackaronis, Bell, Boyd, and Lloyd, Washington, D.C.; Thomas Miller, Indiana Fire Department, on behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters, and William H. Smith, Indiana State Police, on behalf of the American Association of Retired Persons, both of Indianapolis, Indiana; Frank J. Landy, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, on behalf of the American Psychological Association; and Loren G. Myhre, Biomedical Computer Systems, San Antonio, Texas.

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## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

Bills Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 3058-3059 were introduced.

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Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 2969, to eliminate the Board of Tea Experts by repealing the Tea Importation Act of 1967 (H. Rept. 104-467, Part II);

Conference report on H.R. 1561, to consolidate the foreign affairs agencies of the United States; to

authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1996 and 1997; to responsibly reduce the authorizations of appropriations for United States foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 1996 and 1997 (H. Rept. 104-478); and

H.R. 2202, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to improve deterrence of illegal immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigative personnel, by increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud, by reforming exclusion and deportation law and procedures, by improving the verification system for eligibility for employment, and through other measures, to reform the legal immigration system and facilitate legal entries into the United States (H. Rept. 104-469, Part I).

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**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designates Representative Nethercutt to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

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**Quorum Calls—Votes:** No quorum calls or votes developed during the proceedings of the House today.

**Adjournment:** Met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

## Committee Meetings

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-TRAVEL EXPENDITURES

*Committee on Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations continued hearings on the Department of Energy: Travel Expenditures and Related Issues. Testimony was heard from John C. Layton, Inspector General, Department of Commerce.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 1659, Patent and Trademark Office Corporation Act of 1995; and H.R. 2553, United States Intellectual Property Organization Act of 1995. Testimony was heard from Representatives Rohrabacher and Hunter; and public witnesses.

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

*Committee on National Security:* Continued hearings on fiscal year 1997 national defense authorization request. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Togo D. West, Jr., Secretary of the Army; John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy; and Sheila E. Widnall, Secretary of the Air Force.

Hearings continue March 13.

## Joint Meetings

### EMPLOYMENT—UNEMPLOYMENT

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee held hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for February, receiving testimony from Katharine G. Abraham, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

Committee recessed subject to call.

### NEW PUBLIC LAW

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D149)

H.R. 2196, to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development agreements. Signed March 7, 1996. (P.L. 104-113)

### CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of March 11 through 16, 1996

#### Senate Chamber

On *Monday*, Senate will consider H.R. 3019, Continuing Appropriations, 1996.

On *Tuesday*, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report on H.R. 2546, D.C. Appropriations, 1996 at 2:15 p.m., to be followed by a vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 227, Whitewater Committee Extension.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m., on *Tuesday*, March 12, 1996, for respective party conferences.)

#### Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

*Committee on Appropriations:* March 12, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, to hold hearings to examine international crime, terrorism, and narcotics, 10 a.m., SD-138.

March 13, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold closed hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1997 for intelligence programs, 8:30 a.m., SD-117.

*Committee on Armed Services:* March 12, to resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1997 for the Department of Defense, and the future years defense plan, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

March 13, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold closed and open hearings on the Department of Energy Atomic Energy Defense Programs (Nuclear Stockpile Stewardship and Management), 9:30 a.m., SR-232A.

March 13, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal