

Monday, April 14, 1997

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3067-S3133*

**Measures Introduced:** Nine bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 563-571 and S. Res. 71. Page S3117

**Nuclear Waste Policy Act:** Senate continued consideration of S. 104, to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S3077-S3113

Adopted:

Reid (for Wellstone) Amendment No. 29 (to Amendment No. 26), to ensure that emergency response personnel in all jurisdictions on primary and alternative shipping routes have received training and have been determined to meet standards set by the Secretary before shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste. Pages S3077-82

Reid (for Wellstone) Amendment No. 30 (to Amendment No. 26), to express the sense of the Senate regarding Federal assistance for elderly and disabled legal immigrants. Pages S3077, S3082-84

Murkowski (for Lott) Amendment No. 44 (to Amendment No. 30), regarding assistance for elderly and disabled legal immigrants. Page S3084

Pending:

Murkowski Amendment No. 26, in the nature of a substitute. Pages S3077-S3113

Lott (for Domenici) Amendment No. 42, (to Amendment No. 26), to provide that no points of order, which require 60 votes in order to adopt a motion to waive such point of order, shall be considered to be waived during the consideration of a joint resolution under section 401 of this Act.

Pages S3077, S3084-86, S3090-92

Lott (for Murkowski) Amendment No. 43 (to Amendment No. 42), to establish the level of annual fee for each civilian nuclear power reactor.

Pages S3077, S3084-86, S3090-92

Bingaman Amendment No. 31 (to Amendment No. 26), to provide for the case in which the Yucca Mountain site proves to be unsuitable or cannot be licensed and to strike the automatic default to a site in Nevada.

Pages S3086, S3092-S3113

Senate will continue consideration of the bill on Tuesday, April 15, 1997, with a vote on final passage to occur thereon.

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Eric H. Holder, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

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**Communications:**

Pages S3116-17

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

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**Statements on Introduced Bills:**

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**Additional Cosponsors:**

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**Amendments Submitted:**

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**Notices of Hearings:**

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**Authority for Committees:**

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**Additional Statements:**

Pages S3127-33

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m., and adjourned at 6:11 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Tuesday, April 15, 1997. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3133.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### TAX FREEDOM

*Committee on Finance:* Committee held hearings to review the Tax Foundation's report entitled "Tax Freedom Day 1997", detailing the computation of the number of days Americans must work before they have paid their tax bill, receiving testimony from J.D. Foster and Patrick Fleenor, both of the Tax Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.

#### CONSUMER CREDIT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* On Friday, April 11, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts concluded hearings to examine the increase of personal bankruptcies and the crisis in consumer credit, after receiving testimony from Kim

Kowalewski, Chief, Financial and General Macroeconomic Analysis Unit, Congressional Budget Office; Michael E. Staten, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; Ian Domowitz, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois; Edward Bankole, Moody's Investors Service, New York, New York; Michael McEnaney, Morrison and Foerster, Washington, D.C.; Donald Banks, Dayton Hudson, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Ken Crone, Visa USA Inc., Fluster City, California; Gerald P. Wixted, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jean Ryan, Miami, Florida.

### FDA REFORM

*Committee on Labor and Human Resources:* On Friday, April 11, committee concluded hearings on proposals to reform the performance, efficiency, and use of resources of the Food and Drug Administration, after

receiving testimony from Gordon Binder, Amgen Incorporated, Thousand Oaks, California, on behalf of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the Biotechnology Industry Association; Roger L. Foster, Mylan Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, Morgantown, West Virginia, on behalf of the National Pharmaceutical Alliance; Stephen L. Ferguson, Cook Group Incorporated, Bloomington, Indiana, on behalf of the Health Industry Manufacturers Association, the Medical Device Manufacturers Association, and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association; Sidney M. Wolfe, Public Citizen, and Cynthia A. Pearson, National Women's Health Network, on behalf of the Patient Coalition, both of Washington, D.C.; and Adolph S. Clausi, Cos Cob, Connecticut, on behalf of the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the National Food Processors Association.

## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Bills Introduced:** 6 public bills, H.R. 1315–1320 were introduced. Page H1456

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 1001, to extend the term of appointment of certain members of the prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission (H. Rept. 105–49 Part II);

H.R. 1226, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the unauthorized inspection of tax returns or tax return information, amended (H. Rept. 105–51);

H.R. 1090, to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error (H. Rept. 105–52);

H. Res. 112, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 105–53); and

H. Res. 113, providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 62, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to tax limitations (H. Rept. 105–54). Page H1456

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Pease to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1443

**Bipartisan Task Force on Reform of the Ethics Process:** Agreed by unanimous consent that the order of the House of February 12, 1997 be extended through April 16, 1997. On February 12, in

furtherance of the understanding concerning the establishment of the ethics task force, it was made in order that during the period beginning immediately and ending on April 11, 1997: (1) the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct may not receive, renew, initiate, or investigate a complaint against the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House; (2) the Committee on Standard of Official Conduct may issue advisory opinions and perform other non-investigative functions; and (3) a resolution addressing the official conduct of a member, officer, or employee of the House that is proposed to be offered from the floor by a member other than the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader as a question of the privileges of the House shall once noticed pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of Rule IX, have precedence of all other questions except motions to adjourn only at a time or place designated by the chair in the legislative schedule within two legislative days after April 11, 1997. Page H1443

**Recess:** The House recessed at 4:04 p.m. and reconvened at 6:28 p.m. Page H1455

**Referrals of Senate Passed Measures:** S. Con. Res. 20, expressing the sense of Congress regarding the status of the investigation of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires in 1992 was referred to the Committee on International Relations. Page H1455

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1443.

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

**Adjournment:** Met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MEDICARE PREVENTIVE BENEFITS AND QUALITY STANDARDS

*Committee on Commerce:* On April 11, the Subcommittee on Health and Environment held a hearing on Medicare Preventive Benefits and Quality Standards. Testimony was heard from Speaker Gingrich; Representative Nethercutt; Bernice Steinhardt, Director, Health Services Quality and Public Health Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

### IRS MISMANAGEMENT—IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

*Committee on Government Reform and Oversight:* Subcommittee on Government Management, Information, and Technology held a hearing on IRS Mismanagement and Ideas for Improvement. Testimony was heard from Lynda D. Willis, Director, Tax Policy and Administration, General Government Division, GAO; Michael Dolan, Deputy Commissioner, IRS, Department of the Treasury; Jeffrey Trinca, Chief of Staff, National Commission on Restructuring the IRS; and public witnesses.

### TAX LIMITATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

*Committee on Rules:* The Committee granted by voice vote a modified closed rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 62, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to tax limitation in the House. The rule provides that the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, modified by the amendment specified in the report of the Committee on Rules, will be considered as adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except as specified.

The rule provides for three hours of debate. The rule further provides for an amendment if offered by the Minority Leader or his designee, which will be considered as read, and which will be debatable for 1 hour equally divided between the proponent and an opponent. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives McCollum, Canady, Barton of Texas, Shadegg, Scott and Watt of North Carolina.

## SUSPENSIONS

*Committee on Rules:* Granted by voice vote a resolution providing that suspensions will be in order on Wednesday, April 16, 1997. The resolution provides that the Speaker or his designee will consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on any suspension considered under this resolution.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1997 SENATE

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government, to hold hearings to examine alleged Internal Revenue Service employees' misuse of taxpayers files, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on the costs that will be incurred relating to the Bonneville Power Administration, 2 p.m., SD-124.

*Committee on Armed Services,* Subcommittee on Acquisition and Technology, to resume hearings on S. 450, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999, focusing on the trends in the industrial and technology base supporting national defense, 2 p.m., SR-232A.

Subcommittee on Readiness, to resume hearings on S. 450, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999, and S. 451, the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, focusing on environmental and military construction issues, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

*Committee on Foreign Relations,* Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, to hold hearings to review the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship, 9 a.m., SD-419.

Full Committee, to resume hearings on the ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Treaty Doc. 103-21), 2 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Immigration, to hold hearings to examine issues affecting immigrant entrepreneurs, 10:30 a.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Labor and Human Resources,* Subcommittee on Employment and Training, to hold hearings to examine innovations in adult training, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Rules and Administration,* to resume hearings concerning petitions filed in connection with a contested U.S. Senate election held in Louisiana in November 1996, 9:30 a.m., SR-301.

## NOTICE

For a listing of Senate Committee meetings scheduled ahead, see pages E650–51 in today's Record.

## House

*Committee on Agriculture*, Subcommittee on Risk Management and Specialty Crops, hearing on reform of the Commodity Exchange Act and provisions of H.R. 467, Commodity Exchange Act Amendments of 1997, 9 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations*, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, on Office of Justice Programs; on Office of Community Oriented Policing; and on Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2 p.m., H-309, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Interior, on Bureau of Indian Affairs/Office of Special Trustee, 10 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and to mark up a Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1997, 1:30 p.m., B-308 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, on Congressional and public witnesses, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies, on EPA, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Banking and Financial Services*, to mark up H.R. 2, Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act of 1997, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on National Security*, Subcommittee on Military Procurement, hearing on the sale or transfer of supercomputers to foreign entities or governments engaged in nuclear weapons research and its impact on the national security interests of the United States, 1:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Resources*, Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, joint oversight hearing on implementation of the 1964 Wilderness Act on BLM and Forest Service lands, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Small Business*, Subcommittee on Government Programs and Oversight and Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Paperwork Reduction, joint hearing on Federal Agency Compliance with the Regulatory Flexibility Act: Are Federal Agencies Using "Good Science" In Their Making?, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, hearing on the Impact on Individuals and Families of Replacing the Federal Income Tax, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, executive, Budget hearing on Personnel and Legislative Issues, 2 p.m., H-405 Capitol.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

9 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of S. 104, Nuclear Waste Policy Act, with final disposition to occur thereon.

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

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 15

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of 4 Suspensions:

1. H.R. 1226, Taxpayer Browsing Protection Act;
2. H. Res. 109, Sense of Congress on Family Tax Relief;
3. H.R. 1001, Extending Term of Appointment of Prospective Payment Assessment Commission and the Physician Payment Review Commission;
4. H.R. 1225, Technical Correction Relating to Jurisdiction for Lawsuits Against Terrorist States; and Consideration of H.J. Res. 62, Tax Limitation Amendment (modified closed rule, 3 hours of debate).

*Note: No votes are expected before 4 p.m.*

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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